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**'THEY WOULDN'T LET ME HELP HER':** Benny Josephs and witnesses said police refused to allow him to comfort his mortally wounded dog Teri after she was shot. A city animal control officer said the pit bull died on the way to a clinic.

## Police Shooting of Dog Sparks Anger

LAPD says the pit bull, licensed to a man living off an alley, menaced a bike patrol. Those who knew the animal say she was not aggressive.

By BOB POOL  
Times Staff Writer

Slow-moving and heavy-set, Teri the pit bull was the pride of animal lovers who find homes for stray dogs roaming the streets of downtown Los Angeles.

Leaders of the Downtown Dog Rescue would take those curious about their organization to an alley off 7th Place, where Teri lived with her master, Benny Josephs. Teri's photo even appears with Josephs' in the group's 2005 calendar, representing April. But Teri won't be around to

see the calendar page when it's flipped over at Josephs' alley alcove. On Wednesday, a Los Angeles police officer shot the animal in front of the gate to the pair's makeshift home. A city animal control officer said Teri died on the way to a clinic.

Police assert that the 70-pound dog attacked a column of four bicycle patrol officers riding through the alley west of Mateo Street.

The last officer in line, 10-year-veteran Gina Iglesias, fired the fatal shot "fearing for her safety," police said Friday.

"The apparently startled dog bared its teeth and attacked," officials said in a statement. None of the officers was injured; Iglesias, who is assigned to the Newton station, has been temporarily taken off field duty while a routine investigation into the shooting takes place, police said.

Angry dog-rescue volunteers  
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**RESCUED:** Josephs and Teri, the dog shot by police, posed for the April page of Downtown Dog Rescue's 2005 calendar.