

Massachusetts State Police K9 “Vlk” helps capture suspect after fleeing traffic stop, car and foot pursuit

CORRECTION: The initial article stated the K9's name as “Volk.” The Massachusetts State Police K9's name is actually “Vlk.”

“Monday, July 5, just after 8:30 a.m. Trooper Gerald Murphy, assigned to the Massachusetts State Police-Charlton Barracks was on patrol on Route 90 in Charlton. While traveling eastbound, Trooper Murphy's attention was drawn to a red BMW SUV.

Trooper Murphy conducted a random electronic inquiry of the vehicle's registration. Trooper Murphy was able to determine that the license plates on the vehicle were expired and belonged to a gray Infinity sedan. Trooper Murphy activated his blue lights and siren as he attempted to initiate a motor vehicle stop. Upon attempting to stop the red SUV, the vehicle accelerated and refused to pull over.

As Trooper Murphy continued to try to affect the stop, the red SUV accelerated to speeds well over 100 miles per hour weaving between travel lanes attempting to evade Trooper Murphy. As the vehicle approached the interchange of Route 90 and Routes 12 and 290, Trooper Murphy terminated the pursuit in order to mitigate danger to the public from the erratic operation and high speeds of the red SUV.

Moments later, Trooper Murphy received a radio transmission

that a red SUV was involved in a single-vehicle crash in Auburn on Route 12 at West Street. A description of the operator and the clothing they were wearing was broadcast to responding units. Multiple Auburn and State Police cruisers quickly responded and established a perimeter. The State Police Air Wing provided overwatch and K-9 Vlk, and his handler Lieutenant Erik Ramsland began a track with the assistance of Auburn Officer Tod Kuchnicki.

Vlk was able to locate a fanny pack, jacket, hat, and shirt abandoned in a thickly wooded and swampy area adjacent to 780 Southbridge Street. Minutes later, Lieutenant Ramsland, Officer Kuchnicki, and Vlk located JERMAINE DAVIS, 32, of Springfield, hiding in a dumpster behind 780 Southbridge Street with the keys to the red SUV clipped to his belt loop.

Trooper Murphy then made his way to that location and placed DAVIS under arrest and transported him back to the Charlton Barracks for booking.

DAVIS was released on \$200 bail with a \$40 fee and scheduled to appear in Dudley District Court on the following charges:

1. Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle;
2. Failure to Stop for Police;
3. Reckless Operation;
4. Leaving the Scene of a Property Damage Crash;
5. Unregistered Motor Vehicle;
6. Uninsured Motor Vehicle;
7. Attaching Plates;
8. Speeding;
9. Marked Lanes Violation; and
10. No Inspection Sticker.



Massachusetts State Police photo.