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Police charge three youths over baseball attack on police dog Article from: **Herald Sun**

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Antonia Magee
June 09, 2009 08:28am

THREE men have been charged after a vicious attack on a police dog last night.

Police were called to the Newport Railyards at 7.30pm last night to search for four male teenagers seen jumping a fence into the yards.

Police from Altona North, Williamstown and Laverton cordoned off the area before a canine unit and a mobile police unit conducted a search of the railyards.

A police spokeswoman said four youths were found spraying graffiti on a train carriage.

"The youths took off on foot and a foot chase ensued," she said.

"The police dog was able to subdue the four youths before being struck with a baseball bat by one of the males."



Police dog Salem receiving a Victoria Police service medal.

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Another footchase ensued before the police dog, 10-year-old German Shepherd Salem, overpowered the youths.

Capsicum spray was also used.

An 18-year-old Tullamarine man was remanded in custody in relation to the incident.

Zar Hunt was arrested at the scene and faced an out of sessions hearing at the Williamstown Police Station early this morning.

Mr Hunt was charged with criminal damage, possession of a controlled weapon, trespassing, possession of a graffiti implement and beating an animal under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

He was remanded in custody to face the Melbourne Magistrate's Court later today.

A 19-year-old from Craigieburn, was also charged with criminal damage, possession of a controlled weapon, trespassing, possession of a graffiti implement and beating an animal under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

And an 18-year-old from Craigieburn was charged for trespassing and possessing a graffiti implement.

The two Craigieburn men were granted bail and will face the Sunshine Magistrate's Court on September 1.

Another man, 19, is in hospital being treated for a serious bite wound.

Police spokeswoman Sen-Constable Mia Paterson said Salem was taken to the vet for treatment but is expected to make a full recovery.

Salem has been with the Dog squad for eight years and was recently recognised with a Victoria Police service medal.

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