

In late 2006 a Shar-Pei rescue dog named Lydia found a new home with Theresa and Thomas Kanan in the posh Denver neighborhood of Cherry Creek. Only a few months after Lydia came to her new home, a supporter of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) decided that the residents of Cherry Creek should be punished for choosing to own gas guzzling SUV's. He set upon the task of teaching the residents the error of their ways. Late at night he would target the SUV's that were in the Cherry Creek neighborhood by setting them on fire using fire bombs. Over several days he managed to destroy 30-40 vehicles with firebombs, many of which were completely gutted.

On the night of March 23, 2007, the terrorist made a terrible mistake in judgment, because he came under the sights of Miss Lydia. The Kanan's had retired for the night, but like any good Shar-Pei with guard dog instincts, Lydia was still on duty. Using her best guard dog instincts, she went to the window to investigate when she heard a noise outside. She knew that something was amiss with the man outside messing with their family vehicle. She took it upon herself to scare the man away with her barking from the window. When that didn't work, she ran upstairs to wake the family. Theresa realized that something was wrong, because Lydia kept barking and trying to lead Theresa downstairs. When Theresa followed Lydia to the window, it was apparent that a man was trying to set their SUV on fire. Theresa quickly called for Thomas' help, and Lydia ran to get him too. As Tom assessed the situation, the eco-terrorist made his escape. Tom grabbed the car keys, and ran to move the vehicle from the fire that the arsonist had started under the gas tank. Quickly Theresa was on the phone to the police. The police were able to catch and apprehend the terrorist as he was trying to escape. A search of his vehicle uncovered enough material for setting off seven more fire bombs. It appeared that he had plans to escalate his attacks by putting the fire bombs under the gas tanks to cause larger explosions, instead of just burning up the vehicles.

Who knows how long it would have taken to catch this eco-terrorist if Lydia hadn't been on duty. In July, 2007 the fire bomber, 24, pleaded guilty to one count of using an incendiary device and one count of second-degree arson, and will be serving 12 years behind bars in prison. There is no way to estimate how many thousands of dollars Lydia was able to save Cherry Creek residents or their insurance companies. Who knows what property damage, or how many more vehicles would have been lost without Lydia's help on that March night, when the terrorist tried to target the vehicle owned by Lydia's family. It could easily mount up to several hundred-thousand dollars.

Lydia was a rescue dog that was placed in her home by the Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club Rescue program.