

Dog stolen at knifepoint returned to 79-year-old good Samaritan (1:26 p.m.)

Sun-News report

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LAS CRUCES - A 79-year-old good Samaritan has been reunited with his Boston terrier, taken from him at knifepoint two weeks ago. Las Cruces police report that Otto, the purloined pup, was taken from a Las Cruces man as he tried to help a motorist jump-start a vehicle on North Main on Aug. 31.

Tuesday, police reported the pooch was spotted by a Las Cruces woman who wishes to remain anonymous. The dog was being cared for by a man she thought was homeless. Police say the woman contacted the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley and they confirmed the dog's ownership.

The dog appeared to be in good condition and was subsequently returned to its rightful owner.

Detectives report that the dog was given to the homeless man by three young men. Those men are believed to be the same suspects who confronted the 79-year-old owner of the dog as he was helping the stranded motorist.

The 79-year-old man told detectives that one of the suspects, armed with a knife, lunged toward him and slashed his shirt while another suspect took the dog that was inside his pickup.

The victim was not physically injured during the incident.