

26/11 survivor Sheru dies of cardiac arrest

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Mumbai: One of the first enclosures that greets you when you enter Parel's animal hospital is missing its lively occupant. All that remains is a black board which says: Sheru, injured in 26/11 terrorist attack.



An animal hospital staff member at Parel pays tribute to Sheru on Saturday. —Swapnil Sakhare/dna

Sheru, a stray dog who survived bullet injuries in the back, neck and leg in one of the deadliest terror attacks the city has seen, passed away after a cardiac arrest on Saturday morning. His funeral was attended by several of the hospital's doctors, ward staff and volunteers.

"He was a brave dog. Even after being

hit by three bullets, he was a little stressed, but he fought on," said Thrity Gazdar, a member of the working committee of Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals, Parel.

Sheru, who used to live in CST, got shot near the station's parcel office when Ajmal Qasab and his team of terrorists opened fire on commuters. While the firing was going on, passersby called photographer Shripad Naik to the spot where the dog had collapsed. "I saw him writhing in pain. I carried him to an ambulance and was with him through the night. He was such a brave and loving dog. I cannot believe he is gone," said Shripad.

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Sheru who survived 26/11 bullets dies

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Dr Yuvraj Kaginkar, who treated Sheru that fateful night, said, "Sheru was brought to me at 2 am. Both he and the photographer who was carrying him were drenched in blood. The bullets had gone so deep. A lot of muscle and nerves had been damaged. I operated on him

immediately. We thought he would not survive, but he did. He was a miracle dog."

One bullet was still lodged in his respiratory tract, which was not removed as it could have caused more damage. "While he was otherwise healthy, doctors had advised limited movement," said Dr Mayur Dangar of the Bombay Society for Prevention of Cru-

elty to Animals, adding that Sheru had a sponsor looking out for him.

"He was happy. I would never pass his kennel without giving him a biscuit. He always made sure he grabbed your attention. When an animal dies, you feel they take a part of you with them, and that is how I'm feeling today," said Thrity.