

Canine Courier

A German Shepherd dog is standing in profile, facing left. It has a black and tan coat and is wearing a black collar. A police officer in a dark uniform is standing next to it, holding a black leash. The background is blurred, showing an outdoor setting with other people and vehicles.

THE UNITED STATES POLICE
CANINE ASSOCIATION, INC.

MARCH • APRIL • MAY 2018
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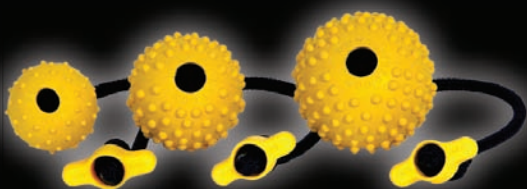
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FROM THE EDITOR

For the first quarter of 2018 the Canine Courier continues to remain self-sufficient in funding through our advertisers. Without their support the Courier would have to survive off of members' dues alone. So when you or your agency is considering purchases, please take into account those within these pages who are staunch supporters of the police K9 community. The Courier picked up two new advertisers this quarter and welcomes **Eden K9 Consulting & Training Corp** and **Odortrace**. Two of the Courier's longest term advertisers **Ace K9** and **Boston Leather** continue their support. **Police Service Dogs (PSD)** continues to support the Courier and the USPCA with a

host of others. Please refer to our Advertisers Index and support them as well.

There are several conferences upcoming in 2018. **HITS in Washington D.C**, **Working Dog Conference hosted by Working Dog Magazine in St. Louis** and **K9 Cop in Nashville**. Please try to get to a conference this year to keep up to date on the latest information about our industry. In this quarter's publication we are highlighting the **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Enforcement K9 Unit**. Please think about highlighting your own agency's K9 unit in the Courier. A recent trip by **USPCA representatives to Mexico** was successful and I am

sure we will be hearing more about that trip over the next few months.

The **USPCA Challenge Coin** is for sale to support those who protect and serve which can be purchased through the USPCA Store.

The National Detector Trials are coming up in May at Stockton University in New Jersey.

Finally a reminder that the Canine Courier is better when members participate in its' success by contributing the successes of their K9 teams on the street, sending in stories and photos of events or training experiences that can benefit the entire membership. Be safe, take care of your partner 2*.

Bob Dougherty - Editor



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Members,

I hope all is well with all of you. As you read this we are gearing up for the National Detector Trials in Stockton, NJ. I hope to see as many of you there as possible. I know Tracey Stuart and Tom Conroy have been working hard to make sure we have a great event.

Look for some new tests coming soon. There is a whole bunch of things going to the Rules committee in May. Reach out to your National VP for any questions. If you have anything to bring forward, reach out to your representative.

As we prepare for the busy season make sure that you and your partner

are ready for anything that gets thrown at you. Now is the time to train for "that day".

Stay Safe and take your dog out of the car!

Jason Brodt
National President
United State Police
Canine Association

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Greetings to all!

Hope that everyone is doing well. We are looking forward to an exciting year for the USPCA. We have a LOT of things coming up and I think you are going to be impressed with some of the changes that we have coming in our Association. The Rules Committee will be meeting at the National Detector Trial and we have a lot of things to look out. We have been working on a few rules changes to existing rules, nothing big, but a minor change to the measurements on the A 'frame as well as a rule concern-

ing collars that are SO tight that they are restricting the normal breathing of a dog and we have asked to open up the types of guns that can be used during PDI testing. There is also a minor change asking that we allow "special" members to do the Evidence Detection Testing. (EDD)

Then, we have some brand-new tests that we hope to have out this year. You probably already heard about the FIREARMS test that should be passed in the next meeting. This would be for the detection of firearms and ammunition. Next, we have a CONTRABAND test. This is mainly going to be for folks that work in correctional environments to test the K9's ability to locate electronic devices and tobacco products. This one needs to be read and printed, so probably won't be up for voting until fall. I'm also looking for folks that want to run it as a "test run", let me know. And, we are nearly done with a HUMAN SCENT Certification. This is basically like what the Border Patrol folks do: Locating people that are hidden in cars, etc. We must do some beta testing on that one yet, but its looking promising. And finally, we have some hashing to do with it yet, but with the popularity of "vapor wake" type dogs, we are introducing a new test for people



Secretary Melinda Ruopp

born explosive detection. Not sure what its final name is yet.

So, as you can see, we have a big year ahead of us. We have been working hard on a vision for this Association! What I mean by that is that we must look toward the future. Law Enforcement is changing so much. I have been in LE for 30 years and it is sometimes hard to believe how much things have changed from when I was first hired to now. Equipment, tactics, safety, you name it – it's all changed...and so have the challenges that we face every day. And quite frankly, the "bad guys" have changed too. We MUST adapt or perish. Bad guys are getting better and better at what they do, and we must get better at what we do likewise. The USPCA MUST follow suite. If we don't adapt to this changing world, we will perish as an Association. Our Founding members could hardly have imagined that the use of Police K9's would evolve into what we see today. But the wheels keep turning. We must

See Secretary on page 9

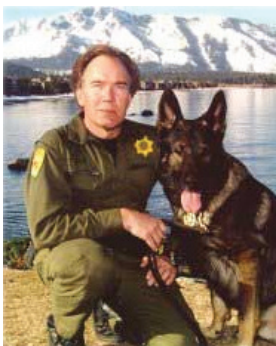
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Coming in June!

The latest trends and areas in K-9 case law

Terry Fleck



Director's Report

**Report from the Executive Director
Dr. David "Lou" Ferland**

Bite Ratios-Examining K-9 Use of Force

There has been some talk lately about K-9 Bite Ratio's and how they need to be managed. Since 1989 when the U.S. Court of Appeals (11th Circuit) opined in the Kerr vs. City of West Palm Beach case that bite ratios should be less than 20%, there has been much made of a K-9 Team that might have higher ratio's. Civil Suit plaintiffs or adverse media reporters try to paint a K-9 Team or Department of fostering a culture of violence or abuse by presenting high bite ratios.

First, a K-9 Bite Ratio is a number placed upon a K-9 Team of apprehensions that

result in a physical K-9 bite compared (divided by) to the total number of calls for service that the K-9 Team might have. A team that has 100 calls for service of which three (3) calls resulted in a physical apprehension would have a K-9 Bite Ratio of 3%. Comparisons are also made of entire K-9 Units showing one cities' K-9 Unit higher than others or even a individual K-9 Team within a Department Unit being higher than other K-9 Teams within the same Department K-9 Unit.

While it is risky to simply view K-9 bite ratios without taking into account the types of calls which they are deployed, it does serve as a rough barometer in evaluating a K-9 Unit. For example, there may be a K-9 Team that is only deployed during high risk felony deployments (SWAT

teams or gun related calls) which would increase the likelihood of a physical apprehension compared to a dog team that is only used for search and rescue. Generally the courts have addressed a K-9 Units Bite Ratio as being inappropriate when the ratios reach 40-50%, no matter the deployments.

I recommend that the Department Internal Affairs Division or similar internal review investigators review all individual cases involving the K-9's use of force for policy and legal compliance. Do not rely upon general legally acceptable bite ratios, instead take it one step further by reviewing ALL physical K-9 apprehensions.

See Director on page 9



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Director — from page 7

This helps to determine if INDIVIDUAL K-9 Use of Force was appropriate and helps to protect the K-9 Team and Department later if someone tries to combine all the use of force cases to show a high K-9 Bite Ratio. For example, if a K-9 Team has had ALL its previous Use of Force reviewed for policy and legal compliance AND all were determined justified, it would then be hard to show a pattern or culture of K-9 misuse unless they could also showed the individual

internal investigations were flawed and biased.

Police work is sometime violent and deadly. For every K-9 Use of Force case there are probably a number of cases that avoided force because of the mere presence of the K-9. These cases should also be tracked to show how the dog has had a deterrence effect upon violence. I once conducted a study of a K-9 Unit that was under review for a K-9 Bite Case only to find dozens of historical instances where their K-9's deployment prevented poten-

tial Deadly Force Use. This proved to be an important positive mitigating factor in the K-9 Units public opinion value.

There is more that could be explained, including other K-9 use of force bite ratio cases, but space limits the depth of this advice. Use this article to seek out your K-9 Legal Counsel and periodically attend a K-9 Legal Update Seminar in your region. This will help to insure you are staying within legal and ethical boundaries while training and deploying your police service dog.

Secretary — from page 6

turn with them and push forward with new ideas and training. Folks, we have EVERYTHING to lose. We must start being proactive with our testing, training and ideas. I believe that the foundation of our Association is the key to our success. We will use that strong foundation to start building upward again, changing to the times and offering our members everything they could possibly need. I also believe we do not

need to be afraid of ANYONE... What I mean by that is that we must start opening ourselves up to helping with the general safety and protection of all citizens - that may even include allowing some qualified civilians an opportunity to certify a dog, ONLY if they meet our standards. I'm not sure why we are so afraid of that, but I think we need to consider offering our PRODUCT to the best of the best with testing.

As always, I try to answer emails within 2 days if possible. If you need anything or have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to the coming year with all the exciting recent changes and additions to the USPCA.

Stay safe and take great care!

Melinda Ruopp
USPCA National Secretary
Melinda Ruopp
National Secretary

FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARY PROPOSED RULE CHANGE - GUNS

Page 15: rule 2, C


Current rule wording:

C. All guns used in this phase must be capable of firing 38-caliber blanks. Guns will be loaded with two live blanks and will be checked by a judge or steward before and after this phase.

Proposed Rule Wording Change:

C. All guns used in this phase must be capable of firing 38-caliber blanks. In lieu of 38-caliber, (if a 38-caliber weapon or 38-caliber blanks are unavailable), a starter gun, or another caliber handgun capable of firing blanks may be used with the prior approval of the Chief Judge of the Certification. Guns will be loaded with two live blanks and will be checked by a judge or steward before and after this phase.

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Region 3**Deputy FC Ryan Costin & K9 Jango****Anne Arundel County Sheriff, MD****Patrol: Evidence recovery**

On December 12, 2017 at 1133, DFC. Ryan Costin and K9 Jango responded to 92 Mary Lane, Glen Burnie for a report of a man with a gun. While responding to the scene, patrol officers located the suspect and a foot pursuit ensued. During the foot

chase, the suspect was able to discard the handgun that he had. The suspect was later apprehended. DFC. Costin along with CPL. Sanchez of the Anne Arundel County Police K9 unit developed a plan and they each conducted an article search for the handgun.

DFC. Costin deployed K9 Jango on a long line to the rear of the complex. Once K9 Jango began his search, DFC. Ryan observed a behavior change in K9 Jango along a wood line. Jango continued to pull

deeper into the wood line and came to a chain link fence that led to the rear of a residential house.

Once in the rear yard, Jango gave another noticeable behavior change. Jango was searching in heavy vegetation behind a shed and the fence. K9 Jango then went into a down position. Located in front of K9 Jango, a loaded 9mm semi-auto handgun was recovered. The handgun was later determined to be stolen out of Stafford County VA.

REGION 5**OHIO • KENTUCKY • INDIANA****Region 5****Devon Maloney & K-9 Jax****Kettering Police Department****Patrol: Track, Arrest**

In the evening of Thursday November 2, 2017, Kettering Officers were dispatched to a location on the east side of the city in regard to a disturbance. A subject, later identified as William D. Zale, was on scene causing a family problem. Mr. Zale

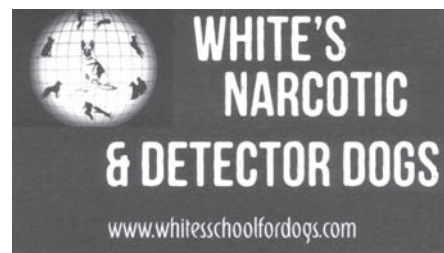
was instructed to stand by as Officers made contact with the Complainant, but instead he jumped in his vehicle and left the scene. It was learned this vehicle was taken without the permission of the owner. In addition, it was learned that Mr. Zale had an entered felony warrant, through Florida, with full extradition. As a result, Officers began searching for Mr. Zale in regard to the felony warrant and three misdemeanor charges through the City of Kettering for Driving Without Consent, Obstructing Official Business and Fleeing and Eluding.

During the early morning hours of Friday November 3rd, Kettering Officers learned of Mr. Zale's cell phone number and received word of possible injury to him. A call to the cell company was initiated and the resulting ping found Mr. Zale to be in the New Carlisle area. Clark County Sheriffs Office was contacted, and a Deputy located Mr. Zale still inside the stolen vehicle. A pursuit ensued, resulting in Mr. Zale crashing the vehicle in the area of 5803 Scarff Road in Bethel Township. Mr. Zale was able to elude capture on foot, so Ptl. Maloney and K9 Jax of the Kettering Police Department were called for a track.

At the time of the track it was raining and had been for some time, which made the

track complicated, even though it was in a sparse area of housing with large properties. K9 Jax was deployed on a track, which led through some wooded areas, lasting almost an hour. During the track, K9 Jax ended up in the back and side yards of 5807 Scarff Road multiple times, showing a lot of interest and not wanting to go anywhere else. Ptl. Maloney and Clark County SO Deputies were attempting to gain entry into a barn structure when one Deputy observed Mr. Zale lying in a flowerbed approximately 20 yards away.

Mr. Zale was in obvious medical need due to a drug overdose. In addition, he had a bleeding head injury as a result of the vehicle crash. Mr. Zale was taken into custody and transported to Miami Valley Hospital for treatment, where he fully recovered. If Mr. Zale had not been located during this K9 track, it is likely he would have died.



Region 6

Officer Chad Smith & K9 Tychus Cheltenham Township Police Dept Patrol: Track - Arrest

On January 17, 2018 at 0138 hours police responded to a high rise apartment complex for the report of a burglary in progress. The residents called police after an intruder entered their apartment taking the TV and fleeing. Police observed the suspect wheeling the TV on a chair on another floor and when confronted the suspect abandoned the stolen property, entered another apartment and jumped out a second floor balcony to the ground where he fled. Officer Chad Smith deployed K9 Tychus on a track from the area the suspect was last observed by officers. K9 Tychus tracked to a location where a large air-conditioning unit was located and fenced in. The area was also surrounded by bushes which K9 Tychus attempted to enter when the suspect verbally surrendered to Officer Smith. The suspect was placed under arrest by responding support officers.

Officer Bryan Nawoschik & K9 Jerry Norristown Police Department Detector: Narcotics

On January 15, 2018 at 1123 hours police had made a car stop where the driver who was known to them fled on foot from the rental car and was detained several blocks away by police, the driver had thrown the vehicles keys away from him and also had a large amount of money in his possession. Officer Nawoschik was requested to conduct a narcotics sweep of the vehicle and the flight path taken by the driver. Officer Nawoschik deployed K9 Jerry on an exterior sweep of the vehicle where Officer Nawoschik noted behavior changes indicating that K9 Jerry was in odor of narcotics and then observed K9 Jerry perform a final sit alert at the driver's door. Based on K9 Jerry's alert and other information police had developed a search

warrant was requested and granted for the vehicle. The search warrant was executed and police recovered the following items related to narcotics trafficking.

30 blue wax bags stamped "Santa Muerte" containing heroin, 1 bag containing 6.64 grams of crystal methamphetamine, 1 bottle of Sodium Oxbate, 1 plastic vile containing marijuana, 19 plastic containers of crack cocaine, 1 digital scale and U.S currency.

Officer Christopher Narkin & K9 Nero Norristown Police Department Detector: Narcotics

On January 22, 2018 Officer Christopher Narkin had received information from a citizen that a male was selling Crystal Methamphetamine in Norristown. The citizen had also stated the suspect keeps the Methamphetamine in a magnetic box under the hood of a red pickup truck that he drives. The citizen advised Narkin that the suspect frequents the 600 block of Haws Ave and the Elmwood Carwash in Norristown. Further investigation showed the suspects driver's license to be suspended. At 1545 hours on January 22, 2018 Narkin observed a red Chevrolet Colorado pickup being driven by the suspect and stopped him. During the stop the suspect refused a consent search of the truck and appeared very nervous to the point his hands were shaking while talking to police. An exterior sniff of the truck was conducted with Narkin's K9 partner Nero. While at the front of the truck K9 Nero gave a positive indication in the area where the front right fender meets with the passenger door. A search warrant was applied for and granted. Inside the vehicle officers found a metal case with skulls imprinted on it which contained a black digital scale with white crystal residue on it in the backseat of the truck. A clear bag containing 12 packages of Crystal Methamphetamine was found behind the glovebox of the Colorado tucked up behind the heater blower motor near the firewall.

Region 6

K9 Handler Ron Marchese & K-9 Rocky

Glassboro Police Department, NJ Detector: Narcotics

On Monday 01/01/2018 at approximately 1304 hours, I, Ptl. Ron Marchese, was requested to conduct an exterior K-9 sniff of a vehicle (silver Honda Accord NJ bearing NJ Registration) that was stopped at 731 S. Harding Hwy in Buena (WaWa parking lot). Upon my arrival, the driver of the vehicle was still sitting in his vehicle. I was then briefed by Ptl. Gallo #1167 as to the circumstances that lead to his request for a K-9 sniff of the vehicle. He advised me that prior to my arrival the driver of the vehicle attempted to elude him by driving his vehicle through a motel parking lot, Dunkin Donuts parking lot and quickly on and off of the roadway into a WaWa parking lot. These maneuvers appeared to be made in an attempt to prevent Ptl. Gallo from being able to perform a motor vehicle stop on the vehicle. According to Ptl. Gallo, upon his initial contact with the driver, he appeared to be very nervous and was visibly sweating despite the extremely cold temperatures. A check of the driver revealed that the driver also had an extensive CDS criminal history according to Ptl. Gallo. Ptl. Gallo's investigation revealed evidence of possible illegal drug activity and he requested my assistance with a K-9 sniff of the exterior of the vehicle.

At this time, I removed K-9 Rocky from my patrol vehicle and placed him on a patrol lead secured to a live choke collar. At approximately 1330 hours, I brought K-9 Rocky to the rear driver's side bumper of the vehicle and placed him into a sitting position. I then gave K-9 Rocky the starting sequence of "Sniff it out" and conducted an on-lead counter clockwise sniff of the vehicle. During the second pass of the vehicle, K-9 Rocky displayed distinct breathing changes as he passed the front

driver's side door and opened driver's side window. The breathing changes consisted of deep inhalations and ardent sniffing as K-9 Rocky climbed up towards the open window and put his head inside while he started to wag his tail rapidly. I then directed K-9 Rocky to continue the search and he displayed another breathing change on the passenger's side front door seam. The breathing changes again consisted of deep inhalations, ardent sniffing and his tail started to wag rapidly. K-9 Rocky then began to briefly scratch at the seam with both paws. I quickly pulled K-9 Rocky away from the vehicle to continue the search. K-9 Rocky again displayed a distinct breathing change as he approached the driver's side door and window. The breathing changes

again consisted of deep inhalations and ardent sniffing. K-9 Rocky again climbed up towards the driver's side window and again stuck his head inside. K-9 Rocky started to wag his tail very rapidly, stuck his head inside and tilted it to the side towards the rear of the passenger compartment. K-9 Rocky then attempted to push with his rear paws and jump into the passenger compartment of the vehicle. I pulled K-9 Rocky away from the driver's side window and door for his safety and concluded the K-9 sniff. K-9 Rocky's actions on both the driver's side front door and widow area along with the passenger side front door seam was consistent with a positive alert for the presence of narcotic odor. The narcotics sniff of the vehicle was ended at approximately 1333 hours.

At this time another Franklin Twp Police Unit arrived on scene to provide backup. I remained in the vicinity of the suspect's vehicle with K-9 Rocky to provide cover for Ptl. Gallo during his search of the vehicle. A subsequent search of the vehicle by Franklin Twp PD revealed a small crack pipe in the passenger compartment of the vehicle along with approximately 30 pounds of suspected high-grade marijuana which was double vacuum sealed and located in the trunk. The street value of the Marijuana was estimated at \$75,000.00 The driver was arrested and charged with numerous CDS offenses. Franklin Twp PD also recovered \$1,000.00 in USC and will be making a request to seize both the USC and suspect vehicle.

REGION 9

MAINE/ EASTERN CANADA

Region 9

Officer Zack Finley & K9 Mako

Portland Police Department

Patrol: Assault on police, arrest.

On 10/08/2017 at approximately 02:36 hours, I (Officer Finley) was working uniformed patrol with my K-9 partner, Mako. At this time, I overheard Officer Grass and Sgt. King dispatched to the area of 9 Presumpscot Street for a male breaking into residences. As I was responding to the location, I heard officers on scene saying that the male was possibly on foot in the area. The suspect was described as a white male, wearing jeans with a black sweat-shirt with no shirt underneath.

Upon my arrival into the area, I overheard Sgt. King say that he and Officer Grass saw the suspect run into the residence at 24 Presumpscot Street. We went to this location and established a perimeter on the residence. We were unsure if this was the residence of the suspect or another house

he was breaking into. By the time we were at this location, the suspect had kicked in the door to one residence, entered another one through an open door, kicked over two motorcycles, and possibly threatened someone with a gun. Based on these circumstances we decided to enter the residence.

I took Mako out of the cruiser and placed him on his flat collar on a 6ft leash. I walked him up the stairs to the residence and met Officer Grass who stated that the door to the residence was unlocked. I brought Mako to the door and pushed it open. I could see that the residence opened into a very small office area that was closed off by another door to the rest of the apartment. I gave my K9 warning announcement in this first small room and nobody responded. I gave a second announcement, but did not send Mako into the residence because I was unsure

if there was anyone else inside that was not involved. During this time, Mako gave a strong, loud bark. I walked Mako into the room after not hearing anyone respond to my warnings.

I began checking the small room with other officers behind me. I thought the room was clear, but wanted to check behind a chair that was in the corner of the room. As I walked towards the chair, I saw a person's leg sticking out from behind the chair. I gave another announcement and as I did so, Sgt. Mitchell came up and pushed the chair off to the side. After he did I saw a male on the floor matching the earlier description perfectly. He was clearly under the influence of something as he immediately took a fighting stance while multiple officers and a barking police K-9 were directly in front of him. I told Sgt. King and the rest of the officers on scene to attempt to go

I gave my K9 warning announcement in this first small room and nobody responded.

hands on before I utilized Mako. Officers attempted to put the male into handcuffs but he actively resisted the entire time. The male remained on the floor the entire time and I saw multiple attempts by the officers to detain him fail.

I saw that one handcuff had been applied but officers could not get the other one hand behind the suspect's back. I saw the suspect actively assaulting Sgt. King and finally Sgt. King told me to utilize Mako for an apprehension. I held Mako by his leather flat collar and straddled him over his back as I walked him into the suspect. The only available space I had to deploy Mako on the suspect was the left hip/buttocks area. I placed Mako on that area and he secured a strong bite. Mako pushed into the suspect and held. The suspect began flailing but Mako held the bite. At one point, the suspect grabbed Mako's harness in an attempt to get away. Almost as instantly as Mako secured the bite, I observed the male place his other hand behind his back and say "Ok, ok!" and Sgt. King told me that he was in handcuffs shortly thereafter. I did a tactical out and Mako immediately came off the bite. I pulled him back away from the suspect and other officers. Mako was on the suspect for no more than 3-4 seconds and outed instantly after the male was secured in handcuffs. The apprehension had the desired effect on the suspect.

After being checked out by MEDCU, the suspect was transported to Maine Medical Center. The suspect was charged with multiple crimes to include burglary, 2 counts of criminal trespass, criminal mischief, refusing to submit and assault on a police officer.

Region 9

Officer Christian Stickney and K-9 Blaze

Portland, Maine Police Department

Patrol: Track, arrest

On the August 2, 2017 at 1907 hrs. Portland Police Officer Christian Stickney and K-9 Blaze responded to the town of Gorham to assist with a K9 track for leaving the scene of an accident.

At the scene, Officer Stickney was told by the Gorham officers that two males had fled from the vehicle. The driver was known to the officers and wanted on several charges. A witness at the scene pointed out where the suspects had run across a field and into the tree line.

Blaze quickly acquired the track in the field and took the route described by the witness. Inside the wood line, the K-9 located two shirts, one green and one with

camouflage. The K-9 continued along a small dirt road to a road and then into the woods again, coming out to the rear of a home. The homeowner told the officers that two men had come out the woods just before the dog team, but they had doubled back to the left of the house.

The K-9 continued tracking and crossed a fence several times. Officer Stickney concluded that the suspects were circling in the area. The track proceeded to the back of another house where the K-9 team's backup officer spotted both subjects ahead of the dog team. Officer Stickney verbally challenged the suspects, telling them to stop or the dog would bite them. The suspects complied with the warning and stopped. The backup officer placed both suspects in custody.

One male had shorts on but no shoes shorts and no shirt the other was taller wearing jeans and a long sleeve tan shirt.

The driver was charged with Driving to Endanger, Leaving the scene of an accident, Violation of Bail and OUI. The second male was

on probation and charges were pending when Officer Stickney left the scene. The track was about one mile in length.



Region 10

Deputy Joseph Cain, K-9 Aurus

LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office

Detector: Narcotics

On November 12, 2017 at approximately 1509 hrs, LPSO Dispatch received a call about an RV traveling south on Hwy 127 towards Jena City Limits swerving all over

the road. The caller advised she was afraid he may crash. At that time, I Deputy Joseph Cain of LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office located the vehicle coming into the Jena limits. I then got behind the vehicle and observed the vehicle pass over the fog line several times. I then initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle and it came to a stop at the intersection of Hwy 127 and Hwy84. Upon contact with the driver, I asked him to step

out of the vehicle and shut the vehicle off. I advised the subject of the reason that I stopped him and asked him if he had an ID, and he handed me his Mississippi Driver's License. After identifying the subject, I asked him why he was swerving and asked if he was okay. Subject advised that he was fine, and he had been working for 5 straight days and was just extremely tired. I asked if there was anyone else in

the vehicle in which he advised that there was not. At that time, I asked him if there was anything illegal in the vehicle or open containers and he paused and put his head down. After asking him the same question again, he advised that there was nothing illegal in the RV. At that time, Deputy Lacy Cockerham arrived on scene and stood by with the subject.

At that time, I utilized my K-9 Partner Aurus to do a free air sniff around the exterior of the vehicle using the reverse pattern. During the free air sniff, K-9 Aurus alerted to the door on the passenger side of the vehicle. At that time, I allowed K-9 Aurus to search the interior of the vehicle. K-9 gave a positive alert to a backpack in one of the back seats, a drawer in the kitchen area, and the dresser drawers in the bedroom area. After the search, K-9 was placed back inside my patrol unit. At that time, I began to search the interior of the vehicle while Deputy Cockerham stood by with the subject. In the black backpack I located the following: 7 bags of suspected Methamphetamine, 1 scale, 3 glass pipes with suspected Methamphetamine residue, one bag of several small baggies used to hold CDS, 3 torch lighters, and One con-

tainer with suspected marijuana residue inside. In the kitchen area in a drawer under the sink I located one jar of suspected marijuana, one jar top with suspected marijuana residue, and one root beer can with suspected marijuana residue on it. In the bedroom area I located one baggie of suspected marijuana and one glass pipe with Methamphetamine residue inside the dresser drawer. Also in the bedroom area on the surface of the bed was a black Bose headphones container with a plastic baggie



inside with suspected Cocaine inside. I also located in between the driver's seat and the arm rest a Jimenez 380 pistol with 10 rounds in the clip with one in the chamber.

At that time, I advised the subject of his rights per Miranda and advised him that he was under arrest. While patting him down for weapons, I located in his pocket one small baggie of suspected Methamphetamine and another scale. I placed him in handcuffs and placed him in Deputy Damin Dozior's patrol unit to be transported to LPSO. During a continued search of the RV, Deputies located a manila folder with \$3,720 dollars inside and confiscated it to be seized.

All evidence was logged into LPSO Evidence locker and the subject was arrested for the following charges: LRS 40:966 Possession of Sch I (Marijuana) w/ Intent to Distribute, LRS 40:967 Possession of Sch II (Meth) w/ Intent to Distribute, LRS 40:967 Possession of Sch II (Cocaine) w/ Intent to Distribute, LRS 40:1023 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, LRS 14:95.E Illegal Carrying of Weapons, LRS 32:79 Improper Lane Usage, LPSO Warrant: No Driver's Licence.

REGION 12

WESTERN MINNESOTA

Region 12

Officer Brian Cameron & K9 Ramo

Saint Cloud Police Department

Patrol: Tracking, Arrest

Narrative On November 2017 Saint Cloud Police Department SWAT team conducted a high risk warrant at Lazaro Domingo Diaz's residence. Diaz was wanted for probable cause for second degree assault. He was suspected in cutting his then-girlfriend with a large knife after threatening to cut her

throat and assaulting her. During the incident, Diaz refused to surrender and fled out of a second-floor window. Officer Cameron and Ramo were on perimeter. Ramo apprehended Diaz via a bite to his left thigh area. This apprehension resulted in Diaz's arrest.

On October 16, 2017, at 2158 hours investigators from the Violent Offenders Task Force (VOTF) and Stearns County Sheriff's Office requested the assistance from Saint Cloud Police Department in conducting a welfare check on the same adult female who had been assaulted previously. The

female claimed that Diaz had assaulted her earlier in the day by striking her with a handgun, that she was afraid of him, and that he had "lost it." Diaz's criminal history showed arrests for Domestic Assault, second degree assault involving a weapon, felon in possession of a firearm, and drug convictions. At the time of the call, Diaz had posted \$200,000 bail and had two confirmed felony warrants for violating conditions of release from his assault against his girlfriend. Diaz was prohibited by DANCO from having any contact with the above female.

Investigators located an address on the 7700 block of Northwoods Lane as a possible address of the two mentioned persons. Based on Diaz's prior history and a concern for her safety, a plan was formulated to conduct a welfare check on the female at the above-mentioned address. Officers of the Saint Cloud Police Department, including Officer Cameron with his K9 partner Ramo, Deputies of the Stearns County Sheriff's department, and VOFT responded to the location. Officers secured the perimeter of the home as Officer Cameron and Ramo were positioned in the rear of the home. As Officers made contact with persons at the front door, Diaz broke out the rear window to the home in an attempt to flee. Officer Cameron identified himself as a K9 unit and advised Diaz he was under arrest.

Diaz produced a handgun and fired three rounds in the direction of Officer Cameron and Ramo. As Diaz fired the first round, Officer Cameron released Ramo to apprehend Diaz. Diaz fled around the side of the residence toward other officers and thus Officer Cameron was unable to return fire due to other law enforcement being in line of fire. Diaz was tased and shot by other perimeter units. Ramo began to apprehend Diaz's leg as those officers attempted to secure Diaz. Diaz continued to struggle and appeared to reach for a knife. Diaz was ultimately tased again to gain compliance. Ramo released his bite at this point as we believed he was tangled in the taser wires. Ramo immediately secured his bite once again as he was untangled. Once Diaz was secured, Officer Cameron removed Ramo from the bite and maintained focus on Diaz. Once Diaz was removed from the scene, Officer Cameron and Ramo were asked to assist in conducting a building search to clear the residence and the garage. The female was located and had injuries from being assaulted by Diaz inside the residence. The garage and most of the residence were cleared with no indications. There was one-bedroom door that was closed and Ramo indicated on that locked bedroom door. Officers breeched the door and located a male hiding in the bed-

room. The male was arrested.

Region 12

Deputy Michael Schei & K9 Boriz Nobles County Sheriff's Office, MN 4th Quarter Case Award - Detector: Narcotics

On 11/19/2017 at 0050 hours Deputy Schei conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 90 near mile marker 30 for traffic infractions. During the initial contact with the occupants at the vehicle an odor associated with methamphetamine was smelled. After speaking with the driver and establishing reasonable suspicion, Deputy Schei deployed K9 Boriz for an exterior narcotics sniff of the vehicle. K9 Boriz gave a positive alert to the vehicle. A search of the vehicle was conducted. Approximately 20 pounds of methamphetamine was located inside the trunk of the vehicle, hidden behind both side panels of the trunk. The driver admitted to smoking methamphetamine inside the vehicle. Both the driver and passenger were arrested for this incident.

Region 12

Officer Brian Cameron & K9 Ramo Saint Cloud Police Department Patrol: Tracking, Arrest

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REGION 13

TENNESSEE

Region 13

Investigator Jason Ghee & K9 Kailee

18th JDDTF, TN

Detector: Narcotics

On Tuesday December 19, 2017 I, Inv. Ghee, was sitting stationary on I-65 in Sumner County watching north bound traffic. This particular morning was extremely foggy and there was a "DENSE FOG ADVISORY" issued for my county. I observed a white Ford Focus with no rear lights operational making it very hard to see in the foggy weather.

I conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle for a light law violation and made contact with the driver and a passenger. I showed the driver the violation and he stated that he thought he had the lights on AUTO, but when I turned the lights to the

ON position, the rear running lights came on.

Driver stated they were in route to Corbin Kentucky from Lubbock Texas to visit the passenger's grandfather. When I asked the passenger about their travel itinerary and he stated he didn't know where they were going; he was just along for the ride.

While waiting for the occupant's information to return from BLOC, I asked the driver for consent to search the vehicle and he denied consent. I then retrieved my K-9, Kailee, from my patrol unit and introduced her to the vehicle. Kailee alerted to the trunk area of the vehicle, so I praised her off and placed her back into my patrol unit.

Both subjects were placed into separate patrol units as a probable cause search was conducted. I opened the trunk and

observed several large bundles of marijuana lying in the trunk (seven in total). Also, I found three more large bundles lying in the back seat covered by a blanket. The total weight was approximately 219 pounds.

Both subjects refused to participate in a controlled deliver and both were booked into the Sumner County Jail on a \$500,000.00 bond.



Region 18

Deputy Mike Carroll & K-9 Koda

Barron County Sheriff's Department

Barron County, WI

Patrol: Deployment armed suspect

On November 4, 2017 at 10:30 pm Deputy Carroll responded to the Cabin Bar and Grill in Reeve, WI for a report of a male subject causing a disturbance. While en-route Deputy Carroll was advised the male suspect was attempting to physically fight with multiple people.

A brief time later the Barron County Sheriff's Department received another call from the bar advising the male suspect had left the bar and armed himself with a firearm and was standing in the road outside the bar causing more of a disturbance.

The suspect who was identified by bar patrons was a known meth user, believed to be intoxicated and was a convicted felon. The male suspect had fled from the street into his residence across from the bar.

Upon arrival to the area Deputy Carroll along with three other Barron County Deputies set up on the residence. Deputy Carroll took up a position at the front of the residence behind cover with his USPCA patrol certified K9, Koda. Through a front large glass window Deputies were able to observe what appeared to be a shotgun next to the front door just inside the residence.

Deputies then contacted the suspect via loud speaker and advised him multiple times to exit the residence unarmed



with his hands in the air. The male suspect failed to comply with commands to exit but his girlfriend did exit the residence and was compliant.

After multiple attempts to gain the males compliance to exit the residence being unsuccessful, the suspect would only open the front door and stand in the doorway next to the shotgun.

Deputy Carroll then gave the suspect multiple commands to comply or he would be apprehended by a police dog. The suspect failed to comply with all commands and would not exit the residence.

A Barron County Sheriff's Deputy was able to sneak up to the suspect behind cover and deploy his taser which was partially effective as the suspect fell to his back then began reaching for the shotgun, at which time Deputy Carroll deployed his K9 partner to apprehend the suspect to prevent him from accessing the shotgun or fleeing back into the residence. The suspect was apprehended on both inner thighs and his lower right leg which caused him to stop reaching for the firearm and comply with being taken into custody.

The suspect was arrested for disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, going armed while intoxicated, felon in possession of a firearm and a parole violation.

Region 18

Deputy Dennis Nelson & K-9 Oscar

Sawyer County Sheriff's Dept

Sawyer County, WI

Detector: Narcotics

On December 13th, 2017 at approximately 2230 Deputy Nelson was contacted by Sawyer County investigator in regard to a SWAT Team callout for a drug search warrant and high-risk traffic stop. The SWAT Team did a debrief advising that the targets vehicle would be proceeding into Sawyer County and that an arrest team would be affecting a felony stop on the vehicle and taking the subject into custody.

Deputy Nelson's position was the #2 car in the arrest team and was positioned on Company Lake Road just off of STH 77. Wisconsin State Patrol was the primary stop in the vehicle in front of Deputy Nelson. Deputy Nelson's position would be the second vehicle in the arrest team in case the subjects attempted to flee on foot as Deputy Nelson and his K-9 partner Oscar would be there to attempt and apprehension if needed.

At approximately 0201 information was given that the target vehicle would be passing the location of the arrest team. Deputy Nelson observed a red Ford truck heading eastbound on STH 77. At that time WSP initiated the traffic stop as was Deputy Nelson's vehicle stopped a few hundred yards

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away from the location that the lights were initiated. Deputy Nelson positioned his vehicle to the left of WSP squad in the felony stop position and Deputy Nelson deployed his K-9 partner Oscar and held cover while three subjects were taken into custody.

After clearing the vehicle and identifying that the vehicle had no other occupants inside, Deputy Nelson placed his K-9 partner Oscar back in the squad car for a few minutes before performing a K-9 sniff on the vehicle.

After a few minutes Deputy Nelson deployed his K-9 Oscar who is a certified USPCA Drug

Detection dog. Deputy Nelson began the vehicle sniff starting at the front driver's side tire. We noted that the driver's side door had been left open when the occupants had left the vehicle. K-9 Oscar began going down the side of the vehicle, when we were by the front driver's door K-9 Oscar began sniffing very intently with his mouth closed and standing up on the driver's seat. He then started crawling up into the truck and showing signs



of there being an odor. K-9 Oscar intently sniffed around the radio area of the dash and above

it and continued sniffing on that area and around the dashboard to the glove box. He then sniffed intently around the seat. He then continued to sniff the dashboard and concentrating on the area of the dashboard and the radio.

K-9 Oscar did not give a final response of a sit, however unsure if it was impossible for K-9 Oscar to do so as how he

was positioned inside the vehicle when he was sniffing on the dash. After a few minutes Deputy Nelson called K-9 Oscar out of the cab of the vehicle to continue the search around the vehicle. K-9 Oscar attempted to pull two times back into the cab of the vehicle.

Deputy Nelson was able to redirect his focus and continued searching around the vehicle. Deputy Nelson searched on the side of the vehicle, the back of the bumper and then back up the passenger side. K-9 Oscar had gotten to the passenger side door which was closed. Deputy Nelson had him check the vertical seam of the door. At that time K-9 Oscar jumped up on the door two times. After the sec-

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ond time of jumping up on the door K-9 Oscar did a final response of a sit.

Deputy Nelson continued the search around the front of the vehicle and did not see any other signs of behavior change.

Deputy Nelson placed K-9 Oscar back into his vehicle. Deputy Nelson notified investigators of the body behavior change inside the vehicle in the dash area and also the final alert of the sit on the passenger side door.

With the alerts from K-9 Oscar a search warrant was done on the vehicle the next day. Deputies located 62.7 grams of meth inside the dash behind the radio.

REGION 19

MICHIGAN • CANADA

Region 19

Deputy Susan Stejskal & K9 Buzz St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office Detector: Cadaver

On April 6, 2017, a male subject was reported to have fallen into the Kalamazoo River. At the time, the air temperature was 35 degrees Fahrenheit with sleet and snow and the river was several feet over flood stage and was moving fast at about 5 -12 mph. The victim was heard calling for help and last seen floating down the river. At this point, an officer threw him a floatation device, but he was unresponsive. Efforts to locate the decedent took place over the next several days, searching from the water, shoreline, and air. Extremely high-water levels, swift current, and river hydrology plus numerous turns in the river with deadfalls and strainers hampered search efforts. On April 14, the Allegan County Sheriff's Department re-

“
**...K9 Buzz
exhibited
his trained
response for
the odor of
decomposing
remains...**

quested the services of Sue Stejskal and K9 Buzz. At the time of deployment, the air temperature was about 45-55F, wind from the east at 5-10 mph, water temperature 53F, and the river was still over flood stage with a very fast flow. The boat was launched a few miles downriver from the point last seen. The river has many

bends and branches around several small islands along the way. Search efforts continued over the next several days, without success. When the team was again available on April 24, the weather was clear, air temperature about 70F, and water temperature about 60F. Although the water was still over flood stage, it was starting to recede and slow down a bit. The boat was launched from the same site and the team worked upriver in generally similar as

the previous search. However, this time, K9 Buzz exhibited his trained response for the odor of decomposing remains (bark). With this information, focus concentrated on visual searching and eventually the

decedent's foot and ankle were seen at the water's surface. The decedent was submerged face down and entangled in a fallen tree under water. It was unlikely that his body would have surfaced and floated due to the degree of entanglement. It was also unlikely that the decedent would have been seen because of being held under water. It was also very unexpected that he would be found 1.2 miles down from the point last seen, especially considering the amount of twists and turns in the river along with lots of downed trees, etc., in the water. In this case, the dog was very instrumental in locating the decedent.

Region 19

Officer Daniel Sanderson & K9 Azar Wyoming Police Department Patrol: Track, Arrest

On December 24, 2017, Officer Sanderson of the Wyoming Police Department and K9 Azar, were dispatched to a possible breaking and entering. K9 Azar was deployed. Officer Sanderson and K9 Azar walked to the fence opening and saw 2 sets of footprints inside the fenced in

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area. The tracks were easily seen due to the fresh snow. The same footprints were observed leading out of the fenced in area and traveled along the railroad tracks. Officer Sanderson and K9 Azar entered the

fenced in area through the area where the fence was cut. When they got into the fenced in area, they observed red handled cutters lying right next to the fence hole. They could also see the footprints leading to a door on the side of the building. It was observed that the door was open about 6 inches. After locating the open door, Officer Sanderson made 2 announcements for the suspects to come out with their hands up, and advised them they were under arrest, but heard no response. Officer Sanderson then deployed K9 Azar inside the building for a building search, but no one was located inside. After clearing the building, Officer Sanderson then deployed K-9 Azar for a track. We started the track on the set of footprints that led from inside the fenced in area and headed along the railroad tracks. K9 Azar went 100 yards along the railroad tracks and went slightly into the woods to the south and located a green Makita

bag that was full of tools. The track then continued along the railroad tracks, for another 300 yards. Azar then tracked again into the woods, and the team located three tools lying on the ground. After locating the tools, they continued tracking along the railroad tracks for another 100 yards. Azar then turned, and they jumped a metal fence. The team then tracked on a service drive. While tracking on the service drive, another officer advised that he observed 2 subjects walking on a nearby street but did not know if they were involved. Azar continued to track northwest along the service drive that led to the street that the possible suspects were observed on. The track led directly to the two subjects that the officer was speaking to. After the track led directly to the two suspects, they were both placed under arrest. Both suspects were later lodged at Kent County Jail for breaking and entering.

Events, Training & Certifications

Upcoming Region Events

Region 2

Patrol Dog Certification
April 4 @ 7:00 pm – April 7 @ 9:00 pm
Savannah-Chatham Metro PD, GA
Jason Ricketson (903) 885-7602
Email davisk9@juno.com

Region 20

Patrol & Detector Dog Certification
April 9 @ 7:00 am – April 13 @ 4:00 pm •
Sulphur Springs, Texas
Ben Ferrero Email bferrero@savannahga.gov

Region 18

Explosive Detector Dog Certification
April 13 @ 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Mall of America
Neil Trondson (952) 883-8877
Email neil.throndsen@moa.ne

Region 21

Detector Dog Certification
April 15 @ 5:00 pm – April 17 @ 4:00 pm
Anamosa, Iowa
Sgt. Damon Van Bogart (319) 462-3504
Email vanbogart66@gmail.com

Region 6

Detector Dog Certification
April 18th and 19th
Bensalem Police on at 3100 State Rd.
Croydon, PA.
Officer Michael Moore
Email: Mmoore@cheltenham-township.org

Region 4

Detector Dog Certification
April 20 @ 7:30 am – 5:00p.
Chelmsford, Mass
Tim Frates (781) 530-7008 E-Mail k9joka@gmail.com

Upcoming National Events

May 20-23, 2018

National Detector Dog Field Trials and Certification
Stockton University, NJ.

Sept. 16-21, 2018

National PDI Field Trials and Certification
Huntsville, Alabama.



The National Detector Dog Field Trials and Certification



Stockton University Galloway, New Jersey May 20-23, 2018



Schedule of Events:

Saturday, May 19th **(optional EOD training day)**

- Arrival & check in 10am – 5pm
- EOD dog training 12pm – 5pm
- Explore local eatery on own 6pm

Sunday May 20th

- Additional arrival & check in 10am – 4pm
- Vendor load in 10am – 5pm
- National Executive Committee Meeting 9am – 1pm
- Lunch Break 1pm – 2pm
- Judges Meeting 2pm – 4pm
- General membership/handler's meeting 4pm -6pm

- Hospitality in the beautiful Stockton University student center 6pm

Monday, May 21st

- Explosives dogs: ORT, Vehicle, rooms, packages 8am – completion
- HRD / accelerant dogs (TBD if registered)
- Hospitality on campus 7pm

Tuesday, May 22nd

- Narcotics dogs: Vehicle and rooms 8am – completion
- Hospitality at off site location 7pm

Wednesday, May 23nd

- Awards brunch 11am – until completion
Check out of housing by 2pm

Registration Fee: \$150.00

Lodging: Stockton University Campus – Housing 5, Galloway, NJ 08205

Cost: \$50 per night (Registered residing participants will be housed in the newest campus housing unit. Each will have an apartment which has multiple bedrooms, a living room area, kitchenette and bathroom. The main level lounge area has a pool table a flat screen tv for use. This fee includes linens and wi-fi.

Contact Person: Tracy Stuart 732-433-2302 or Email: 2018nationaldetectortrials@gmail.com

Mail signed registration form and check (payable to – 2018 USPCA National Detector Trials) to:
MSC 2753

Stockton University

101 Vera King Farris Drive Galloway, NJ 08205

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS MAY 6, 2018



Osteoarthritis in Dogs

Kenton Taylor, DVM

Inflammation within the joints, osteoarthritis, is common in dogs with about 20 percent suffering the effects. It is a slowly evolving disease with development of joint pain, stiffness and limitation of motion. The most common cause is abnormal stresses on normal cartilage. Even tiny imperfections in the joints can lead to mechanical breakdowns and the resultant inflammation. The progression of the disease can be affected by body weight, amount of exercise and genetic influences.

The first symptom is loss of normal performance followed by stiffness after rest that usually lasts only a few minutes. Next, quality of life is affected – decreased exercise tolerance, not getting in or out of the car without help and decreased activity. These problems are frequently blamed on the pet's increasing age. Progressive disease leads to lameness of a sudden or slow development. In some dogs there may be behavioral effects of joint discomfort including nervousness, aggression, depression and loss of appetite.

There is no cure for osteoarthritis but rather the progressive condition is “managed.” In dogs the therapy goals are influenced by the severity of the symptoms, the intended activity, age and size and any concurrent disease or drug therapy that may interfere with the use of anti-inflammatory drugs.

The most important treatment in overweight pets is weight loss. Obese dogs can become free of symptoms once they have achieved ideal body weight or be managed with lower dosages of pain relieving and anti-inflammatory medications.

Medical therapy will vary depending on the severity and location of the osteoarthritis. With medical therapy it is most effective as multi-modal treatment (2 or more different types) and best started prior to development of chronic pain. Once chronic pain is established medical therapy is generally not as effective. Similarly pharmaceuticals should be given regularly and not “as needed” after the pain worsens.

In most patients unless the osteoarthritis is mild the use of a non-steroid anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) is indicated. These drugs while not

addressing the underlying cause do control pain and inflammation allowing improved mobility. The most commonly used are referred to as COX enzyme inhibitors. COX enzymes are used by the body to produce prostaglandins. The “bad” prostaglandins cause inflammation and the “good” prostaglandins protect the stomach. This is in part why some patients can have stomach upset with the COX enzyme inhibiting non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. A newer drug called grapiprant (Galliprant®) does not inhibit the COX enzymes but works by blocking the inflammation and pain producing prostaglandin receptor. For those who have digestive issues with other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs they generally do well with grapiprant.

A pain relieving drug, Gabapentin, is generally very effective combined with an NSAID or sometimes used alone in mild cases. It is particularly helpful in dealing with chronic or neuropathic pain. It is generally started at a low dose and the dosage gradually increased to avoid the common side effect of sedation. It may not be helpful in patients until a high dosage is reached. The medication is safe for long-term use.

Opiates particularly Tramadol can provide pain relief and are generally well tolerated. There appears to be individual variation in responsiveness to these medications and with chronic pain full effect may not be seen until after 2 weeks. Due to potential changes in alertness and behavior, Tramadol may not be good

for working or service dogs, and check with your veterinarian before using with anti-anxiety medications.

Adequan® is an injectable glycosaminoglycan which is a major component of joint cartilage. The specific mechanism of action in dog joints is unknown. It is perhaps best used when the osteoarthritis is at an early stage and when used alone at this time many clients report significant improvement in mobility.

In regards to glucosamine, chondroitin sulfate and green lipped mussel, there are no studies to document effectiveness other than those conducted by the manufacturers. Unlike an injection of Adequan®, since these products are given orally they may be degraded to other compounds by the stomach and digestive enzymes prior to absorption. Since these products are not regulated as pharmaceuticals the actual quality of these products varies widely. Cosequin® manufactured by Nutramax Labs is a reputable product.

For those patients that are not responsive to previously reviewed medications the injection into the joint(s) of hyaluronic acid or corticosteroids or the use of PRP (platelet rich plasma) is indicated. Hyaluronic acid is a form of viscosupplementation which restores the physical properties of the joint fluid to aid in the lubrication of the joint, decrease inflammation and degradation, and help in cartilage repair. Used alone it is useful for mild to moderate osteoarthritis but in severe cases it is used with corticosteroids or PRP.

Corticosteroid injections into the affected joint(s) reduce inflammation and improve comfort with 2 injections separated by 3 weeks lasting weeks to months. PRP reportedly has an anti-inflammatory and analgesic effect; has cartilage protective effects and improves the viscoelastic properties of joint fluid. For most patients joint injections require sedation.

Fish oil (omega-3 fatty acids) does have documented effectiveness and generally supplemented at 600mg per day.

Besides medications and supplements there are lifestyle changes that can be beneficial. Regular moderate exercise including leash walking and swimming reduces inflammation and maintains good muscle strength to stabilize joints (“motion is the lotion”). Passive range of motion exercises; massage and hydrotherapy with an underwater treadmill or deep water therapy are all valuable. A warm, well padded, e.g. orthopedic foam bed, area to sleep is also important.

For most dogs symptoms associated with osteoarthritis can be relieved with weight loss if needed, exercise in moderation and pharmaceuticals with fish oil supplementation. Your veterinarian can help with catching early signs of this disease and guiding you with preventative treatment and therapies to delay progression of arthritis and if needed medications to relieve the debilitating pain associated with osteoarthritis.



**CHECK
YOUR
DATES**

Renewal Membership Date: January 1, 2018.

**Canine Courier article & photo submission deadlines:
February 1st • May 1st • August 1st • November 1st.**



USPCA News

From Melinda Ruopp

We are beta-testing certification rules for **NEW K-9 Detection Tests**. We are in need of Regions to help run a test or two and provide some feedback. We are asking for YOUR help. Specifically looking for a Region to run a test for **Cellphone Detection** and **Tobacco Detection** (Jail/Prison dogs). Please if you have these types of detection dogs, can you help us run a test? Please contact Melinda Ruopp uspcasec@heartofiowa.net

From Gary Pietropaolo

USPCA Judges Committee Chairman

A reminder there is no need to send a judge's application with an envelope that states "signature required". It will not be picked up or get processed. Instead please call or email to me to see if the application has been received.

A request for assistance from Elena Joering

Elena is the daughter of slain K9 Officer

Eric Joering of the Westerville, OH and would like to honor her dad by wearing K9 shirts from across the country. PLEASE let's help her out.

She wears an adult small. They can be sent to:

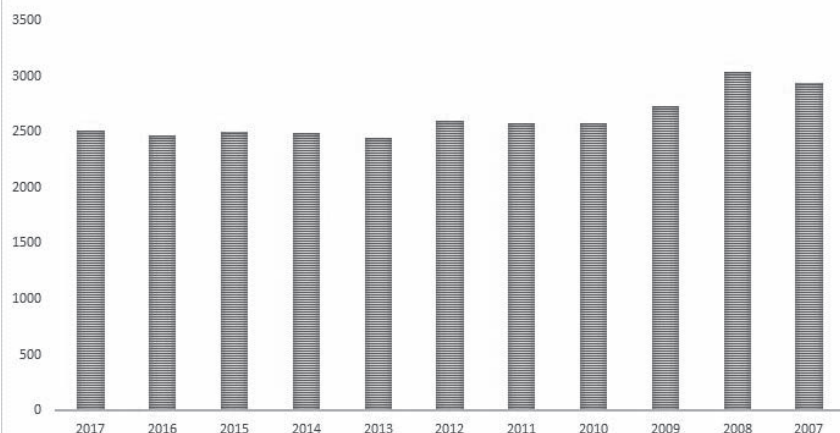
Attn: Justin Alloway
Westerville Police Dept
29 S State St
Westerville, OH 43081

USPCA MEMBERSHIP

Membership has surpassed 2500 members for 2017. After remaining static for the last several years with the highest point being above 3000 members in 2008 it is encouraging that the USPCA membership could see those numbers in the near future, but how do we do that?

We need current members help. The USPCA is looking to hear from current members who may have creative ideas on how to push membership forward and to reach the canine community at large. The USPCA is open to offering an introductory free membership to get new members to boost attendance at training sessions and or certifications. But we need to open ourselves up to that and not be afraid to invite in folks to watch or participate. Contact anyone on the Executive Board if you have questions or thoughts. Take care!

USPCA MEMBERSHIP



Henry Bajer
 President
henry.bajer@aviselectric.com

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MEXICO

In a first for the USPCA and Mexico, we sent along a team of four to help train and run the State of Jalisco, Mexico their first Detector and Tracking Dog Certifications. From February 18-24, Team Leader John Binnex, Carlos Rolon, Chris Gerace, and Executive Director David “Lou” Ferland helped to prepare 27 new members and run certification testing for Narcotics, Explosive, Cadaver and Tracking Dogs. These teams are on the front lines

helping to interdict and thwart the Cartel's trafficking of drugs, guns, bombs, humans, terrorism, kidnapping, and so on.

In the end 13 Narcotic Dogs, 7 Explosive Detection Dogs, 6 Cadaver Dogs and 1 Tracking Dog were Certified. The trip was paid for by the Mexican State Police with the team members volunteering their time to begin what might be a long lasting relationship.





Agency K9 Unit Spotlight



Minnes



ota's DNR K9 UNIT

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Enforcement has had working dogs since the mid-1990s. For much of that time there have been at most two K9 teams on for the entire state, but during the past seven years the number has increased to four and then six K9 teams. With the recent retirement of one team, we are back to five K9 teams, which includes two German Shepherds, two German Shorthairs and one Labrador mix.

We train our dogs to handle a variety of tasks. The best way to begin the explanation is to break down the dogs into two groups: the shepherds and the sporting breed dogs, which include the Labs and Shorthairs.

The shepherds are dual-purpose dogs and certified through the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) in patrol (PD1), detection and tracking. We mostly use them for article searches and tracking people. The main difference between our shepherds and the other dual-purpose canines from other agencies is that our dogs are certified in game/fish detection instead of narcotics or bombs. We also have introduced firearms scent detection for these dogs. Our job, especially in the fall, revolves around people using guns, so firearms detection comes in handy. We have made several cases in which firearms have been hidden or thrown.

Some people wonder how we're able to do both. In narcotics detection, the goal is to locate something that's illegal to possess. Game and fish are not necessarily illegal to possess, so we have to work them differently. In Minnesota, the law requires people



to show us any wild game or fish in their possession if we request it. So depending on the circumstances, if they say they don't have anything and we have information that indicates otherwise, the dog can help us determine that fact. Some of the highlights include finding hunters, trespassers, felons who fled police, articles thrown by armed bank robbers, and even locating a suicidal person within about 10 minutes after the individual had taken a large amount of pills and fled into a wooded area.

We have trained our sporting breed dogs for article searches, detection and tracking. They also go through USPCA certification. The detection for which these dogs are trained is a bit different than for the

shepherds. They are trained to detect ducks, firearms, venison and zebra mussels. Some people don't know what zebra mussels are or why it's important to prevent them from inhabiting our lakes. They're about the size of a thumb nail and are like little clams that attach to rocks and other hard surfaces. There really are no threats zebra mussels in our waters, so they are free to thrive. By clogging municipal water intakes, and attaching to items such as boats, motors and swim rafts, they are quickly becoming a nuisance and causing many problems. In addition, because they're filter feeders, zebra mussels compete for food with native species and thereby disrupt the food chain in our lakes. Minnesota

is the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," but there actually are 11,842 bodies of water that are at least 10 acres in size. When it comes to zebra mussels, it would be irresponsible of us to sit back and do nothing. These little critters pose a multi-billion dollar threat to North America, and they're spreading rapidly. The dogs we have trained for detection are doing their part to prevent the spread by searching boat trailers, dock lifts, and anything else that may come from infested waters.

All of the dogs we get are social. As with any K9 unit, the public likes to meet with us and learn more about our program. This is huge when it comes to public relations. Most people like dogs and can relate to them, but that interaction really educates the public on working dogs and how we use them. Through demonstrations and meet and greets, we show the general public how the dogs work and the role they play in protecting our resources.

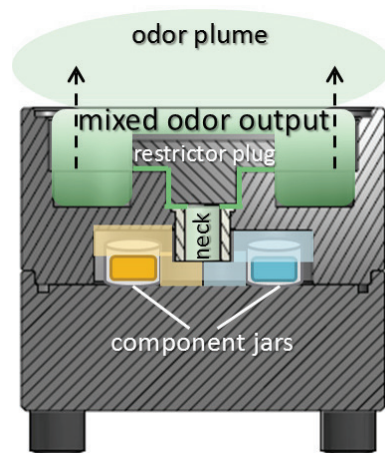
We would love to add more K9 teams in Minnesota in the future. Our teams work hard and train often in order to maintain a great K9 unit. With these specialized canines, we do a lot toward protecting resources and public safety. When paired with their dedicated handlers, we have a K9 unit to be proud of.





Odor Trace Mixed Odor Delivery Device (OT-MODD) is a revolutionary new tool for training canines in the detection of homemade explosives (HME). The brainchild of the Office of Naval Research, the Odor Trace MODD allows users to safely replicate odors of volatile compounds without the threat of unintended, adverse reactions. Furthermore, users can quickly change components to replicate an unlimited number of compounds, and disposal is as simple as handling each separate, inert element as specified by its manufacturer.

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Trainer's Corner

WHAT EFFECTS A K9 TEAM'S SUCCESS?

THE DOG:

Technological alternatives have to this time proved inadequate as compared to the acute ability of a dog's nose. The Pentagon spent \$19 billion dollars to determine that their best explosive detection tool was a dog. Right now, good detection dogs are getting harder and harder to obtain. Government agencies such as Customs and Border Protection, TSA and ATF have multiple vendors trying to come up with good dogs to fill their specific requirements. Reports suggest that the good dogs go to whoever has the most money and at last look that is most likely not the American government, which by the way competes against itself in the procurement of dogs and is also in competition with local and state law enforcement agencies for the same purposes. Also, in the mix are private companies who purchase dogs needed for a host of detection work, some to fill U.S. contracts at home and overseas. Some U.S. Government bids even spell out that the dogs MUST come from Europe. The Department of Defense reported that most of their transactions occur in Germany and the Netherlands however, many Eastern European countries have become major resources for purchasing working dogs. America is buying as many dogs as it can find and afford from Europe and here is a shocker, America is not getting the best dogs. Finding dogs is, depending upon breed,



By Robert Daugherty

getting harder and obtaining the best dogs most likely impossible. The advanced countries the U.S. is purchasing dog from also have concerns for keeping safe from terrorism or drug trafficking. Common sense will suggest those countries are keeping the best dogs for themselves. Breeders in less secure economic countries will sell to whoever will pay the highest price for a dog. Why are we not finding and buying dogs domestically?

The TSA had from 1999 to 2012 a Canine Breeding and Development Center which selectively bred nearly 500 puppies with a goal of breeding genetically selected high-performing healthy explosive detection dogs raised from puppies. The breeding program closed in 2012 after an efficiency review determined that although "important" further investment would not best manage taxpayer dollars. It is a loss of a program that if given what it needed then would have

only advanced the goal of keeping America safer and providing a source of domestically bred bomb sniffing dogs. Over several years ongoing testimony before the U.S. House of Representative committees and subcommittees on examining the use of canines has happened. Recently HB4577 entitled "Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act of 2017" was introduced in the House in December of 2017, passed the House and is now before the Senate. This bill calls for the development of a working group to develop a decentralized domestic canine breeding network to produce high quality explosives detection canines and modernize canine training standards.

The dog's primary sense is olfaction and not every dog is or can be a very good detection dog. For now, let's accept that the selection process has been good, and the dogs chosen to have either been genetically bred well for work and raised from puppies to do detection. If the dog came from a shelter or was a donation let's hope the drive to play the hunt game is high and the dog has a good nose. With

continued on page 35



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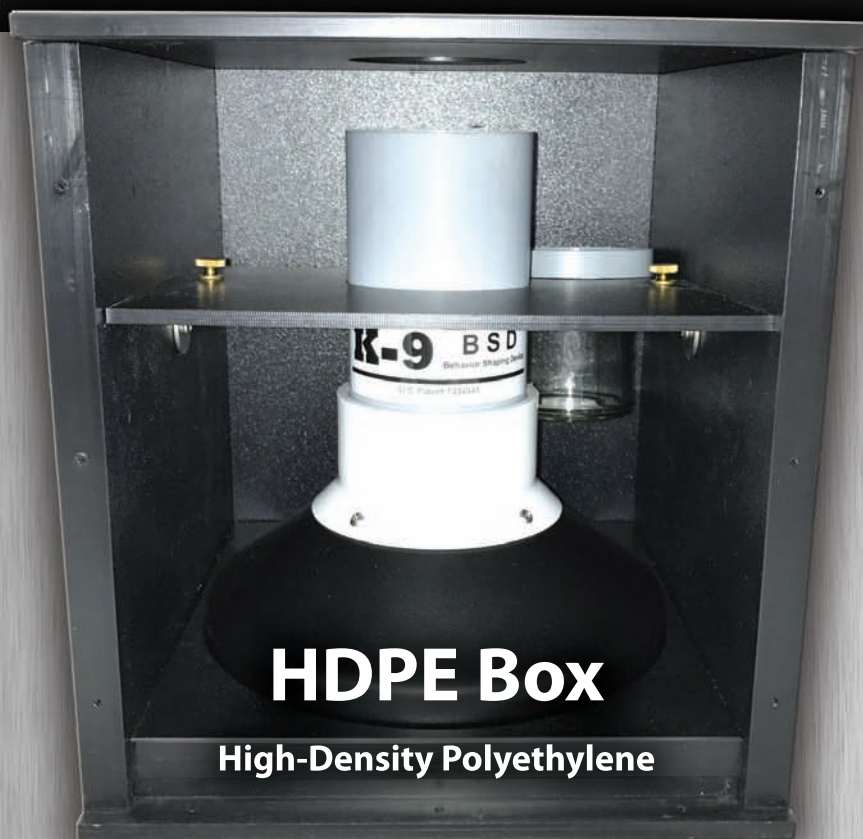
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**US Patent - US 7,334,541 B2 - Animal Behavior Shaping Device
US Patent - US 8,104,458 - K9 Remote Reward Launcher**

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- Create behavior modification through classical conditioning.
- Practice clear and concise K-9 communication.
- Shape K-9 behavior through positive reinforcement.
- Train your K-9 to search off leash and independently from the handler in addition to directed search patterns.
- Correct undesirable behaviors.
- Learn proper use of the K-9 B.S.D. (Behavior Shaping Device) to teach your dog to find target odor and disregard distractor odors.
- Set up a successful maintenance training schedule.
- Use, maintain, and store real and pseudo odors for training.
- Teach a passive alert and reward from source (AKA - The sit and stare at odor source).



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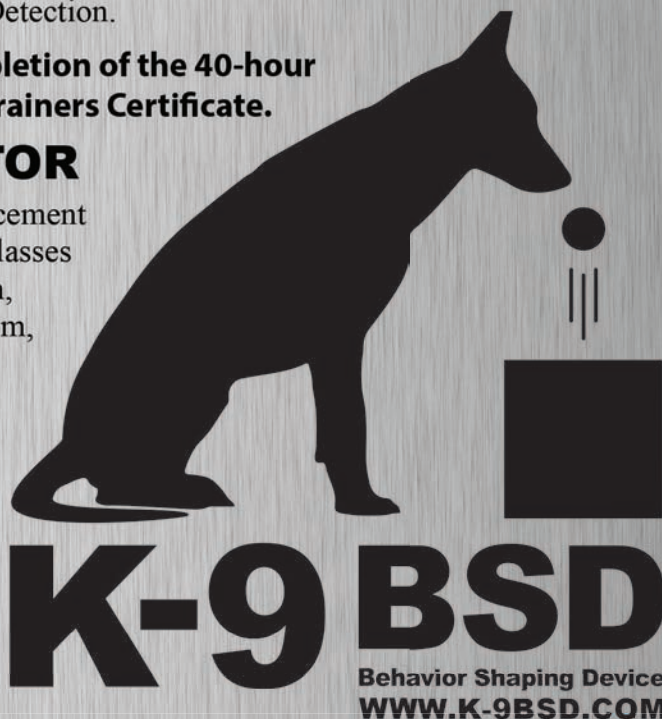
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| 8210-5 5' Long | 8275-5 33' Long |
| 8115-5 6' Long | 8276-5 50' Long |

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continued from page 31

all the check marks in the right boxes the process to teach the dog to find anything from explosives to an SD card will happen through solid basic detection course instruction.

MAINTENANCE TRAINING:

Not to lump everyone into the same category and it is clearly understood that agencies differ in training requirements, time allotted, and budgets. For much of the law enforcement community with K9 units the K9 officers are assigned to platoons or squads running everything from auto crashes to neighbor disputes until they are called out for their specialty. For these teams monthly, in-service training is their reality and twice a month if their agency is compliant with a national standard. For detection in service multiple training aids are placed out for detection dogs where trainers are most likely doing their best to set up problems for teams to work out. As if often the case the training sites are familiar, or maybe if a new location is used it often is an abandoned building or auto pound or car lot or a less active part of a transportation center. Trainers know it can be difficult to find places to train and they know how important it is to change locations. During training

sessions trainers may be present during the searches to support the teams, helping handlers to identify a dog's behavior changes in odor and provide the approval nod so that the handler accurately rewards the dog on source. For most detection K9 teams they have a very high reliability in training...but that's training. The real concern for handlers and trainers is what happens in the field? Because in the field, on the street, it is solely the handler's call as to the accurate performance of their dog. The mere real world around the team will undoubtedly impact the performance of the dog by countless contextual elements: situation, endurance, and conditions.

Imagine the handler-dog team who have a high accuracy rate in locating source odor in training who one day find themselves working in a large moving crowd, perhaps sweeping the site of an event for hours, or a densely populated environment full of different odors and environmental stimuli, a moving subject who drops a book bag in a trashcan containing a rice cooker bomb. What are the chances the team will be successful in their mission and what are the factors the team can be reliable and effective?

DISTRACTIONS:

Teams should train as close to the same circumstances as they will work in and face real world. Trainers know this but still sometimes can't fulfil the requirement as best as they would like. A dog that is very consistent in detecting the target odors of various weights, amounts or location placements of explosive or narcotic training aids in a sparse training area will be faced eventually with an array of sights, smells, sounds and environmental exposures that impact even the best of dogs. Dogs get a great deal of information through smell. Just look at two dogs greeting each other, they can't put their noses into enough places close enough or long enough. Take your dog for a walk and they stop every few feet to take in some piece of information about their surroundings, relieve on a pole perhaps where 50 other dogs have relieved themselves, pulling to an unknown object to smell it, figure its purpose out, what is the meaning of this "thing" to the dog.

The same principle is at work when the expectations in the real world are that the dog will work just like in training. Dogs will get distracted in real world situations.

continued on page 41



Photo with Penn Vet P- Litter Photo

Members of the P Litter puppies (Labrador Retrievers) move about on their first day of training at the center. The P Litter (TSA/Penn Vet Working Dog Center) was whelped by a foster family and began their training at 8 weeks of age. Each member of this litter is named after a victim of the 9/11 attacks. *Photo courtesy Penn Vet/John Donges*



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 PURINA
PRO PLAN

SUPPORTING WELLNESS AND COGNITIVE HEALTH — IN SENIOR K-9S —

As your alert K-9 partner ages, he or she may run a little slower, and his or her muzzle may appear a little grayer. Although the aging process cannot be stopped, using targeted nutritional and conditioning strategies that focus on maintaining overall wellness will help to support your senior K-9's physical performance and cognitive health for a longer career.

"Dogs can still be physically active through their senior years," says Purina Senior Research Nutritionist Brian Zanghi, PhD. "However, it's important to match the physical lifestyle to the age of your dog. Mobility, mental sharpness and overall health become more important than speed and intensity."

Dr. Zanghi also says age-appropriate exercise that focuses on maintaining a dog's skills while accommodating an older dog's physical limitations is critical. Shorter, less frequent bouts of exercise are best. Avoid extremely hot or cold weather, keep your K-9 hydrated and take rest breaks as needed.

Furthermore, studies such as the groundbreaking 14-year Purina Life Span Study have shown that properly feeding your dog to maintain ideal body condition, meaning the dog's ribs are palpable without excess fat covering, plays a major role in sustaining wellness and longevity.

This is why it is important to monitor your dog's body mass and not allow him or her to become overweight, as extra weight puts unnecessary stress on joints. Low-impact exercise, such as swimming, is a great way to keep a dog lean. Daily exercise and walks also help support an ideal body condition.

NUTRITION FOR SENIOR DOGS

Around age 7 or when your dog nears retirement age, it is a good time to consider switching from a high-protein/high-fat performance food to a senior formula to help maintain health and wellness.

"Senior dogs have special dietary needs," Dr. Zanghi explains. "As a dog enters the senior life stage, glucose metabolism in the brain begins to change, potentially affecting memory, learning, awareness, and decision-making. Many senior dogs benefit from high-protein diets to help retain lean body mass, but that also are lower in fat to help maintain a healthy body condition."

Targeted nutrients that can make a difference in an older dog include omega-3 fatty acids from fish oil to help promote joint health and mobility. Enhanced botanical oils can be used as an additional energy source for the brain and when added to the daily diet of dogs ages 7 and older, promoted memory attention and trainability.

Purina Pro Plan BRIGHT MIND Adult 7+ dry formulas represent a breakthrough innovation with enhanced botanical oils shown to promote alertness and mental sharpness. Among the benefits to senior dogs, BRIGHT MIND Adult 7+ dry formulas:

- Are made with high-quality protein including chicken as the first ingredient
- Contain enhanced botanical oils shown to promote alertness and mental sharpness in dogs 7 and older within 30 days
- Contain a blend of brain-supporting nutrients for cognitive health, including arginine, DHA and EPA, antioxidants such as vitamins E and C, and B vitamins such as folic acid and pyridoxine
- Contain EPA, an omega-3 fatty acid, and glucosamine to help support joint health and mobility
- Include vitamin A and linoleic acid, an omega-6 fatty acid, for healthy skin and coat

To learn more about the nutritional needs of senior dogs, please visit www.brightmindeffect.com. ■



TIPS FOR YOUR OLDER K-9

Brawn + Brains Your senior dog may have the heart, but not the brawn to continue training and working. Make sure your K-9 is physically and mentally fit by first having your veterinarian perform a thorough exam.

Less Is More Be wise in how you train and work with your senior K-9. Shorter, less frequent bouts of exercise is best. Avoid extremely hot or cold weather. Keep your dog hydrated and take rest breaks as needed.

Fit For Life Just because a dog has entered the senior life stage doesn't mean he or she can't still be a lean machine. Monitor your K-9's body mass and avoid letting him or her become overweight to avoid putting unnecessary stress on joints. Daily activity will help to maintain your dog's ideal body condition.

Source: Brian Zanghi, PhD, Purina Senior Research Nutritionist

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continued from page 35

Unlike the sometimes-sanitary conditions of training the real world provides distractions; other dogs, people they don't know, noises they are not familiar with, food discarded in the interior of a car or on a train platform and the list is endless of people, places and things. A dog cannot just detect the odor of TATP or Crystal Meth without having to work through everything else in its path. The dog that performs alerts on stationary hides cannot be expected to detect the person carrying an explosive in a backpack moving through a crowd. A narcotics dog might miss a hidden compartment because the car interior is full bags of partially eaten fast food. An explosive dog might miss the back pack tossed into a trash can because of a loud noise that was distracting enough to stop the dog from smelling.

ENDURANCE AND TIME CHANGES EVERYTHING:

The endurance ability of a dog, how long can a dog work for and under what conditions. Every trainer and handler know that the ability of a dog to perform well changes over time. Very simply, a tired dog is less reliable. An overweight dog will become ineffective quicker than a dog at the correct weight, a dog that is exercised regular and correctly will last longer than a dog that only exercise comes from jumping in and out of their vehicle. Watching the dog work means more than just waiting until the dog finds the odor source and alerts. Watching the dog means considering how is the dog being affected by time, weather and stress. When a dog is mouth breathing or panting they do not sniff odors at their best, a hot or overheated dog will be forced to cool themselves and therefore has a less reliable nose. A thirsty, hot, tired dog may start seeking shelter from the climate, an overheating dogs tongue will often cup,



mouth wide open taking in as much air as possible to cool themselves down. The dog that shows signs of stress (yawning, making lots of eye contact with the handler, sitting to scratch or shake off stress...) is not reliable at that moment. To be more reliable does the dog need to take a break, lose weight, get more beneficial exercise?

ODOR DISPERSES AND CHANGES:

When a hide is set up for training often the first dog is the test dog. Watching how the dog works, where they catch odor, how they work it out. The next 7 dogs show similar or exact behavior, but dogs 8 thorough 10 changes are noticed to where they now pick up the odor and work it out because things changed in the room. The placement has become harder to

source or easier to source. Time has elapsed as to when the aid was placed out, the temperature in the room changed, strong sunlight is drawing the odor towards the window. Odor is different when the weather changes, warm or hot humid weather odor disperses differently than in the cold. Dogs can miss odor searching in one direction and catch it moving in the opposite direction because of air moving. A narcotic dog can miss an odor on a car stop because traffic is moving by causing drafts, noise and exhaust odors. A cold engine aid placement will be sourced differently by a dog than a real odor source concealed in an engine compartment that has been driving on the highway for 5 hours.

HUMAN ERROR:

The human is always a factor in the team's success. The handler did not read the dog correctly, missed a behavior change, has lots of other personal issues in their heads drifting off thinking about "stuff" when they are to be focused on the task. Maybe the person on the end of the lead is not a good handler to begin with, being indecisive or doubting themselves or the dog or worse, being indifferent to it all.

"Trust your Dog"... "The Dog is Always Right"... may not really apply in the real world but make great mottos that hang in training facilities and passed down by trainers to handlers through the decades. A more accurate motto might be "What is your dog telling you"? Being able to accurately "read" what the dog is communicating is perhaps the single most principal factor in a team's success.

Bob Dougherty is a retired canine handler and trainer and currently holds the position of Law Enforcement Training Program Coordinator at the Penn Vet Working Dog Center in Philadelphia.

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UNDERSTANDING AND TRAINING THE EXPLOSIVE DETECTION CANINE

Canine trainers are constantly reviewing and editing their training curriculum based on ideas received from a variety of sources. It should not be considered unusual that there are many ways to train the Explosive Detection Dog Team (EDDT). Their goal is producing an operational team that can locate explosives in a variety of situations. The reliability of the team is tested in an operational environment by disinterested judges or evaluators. Passing the test is a validation of the training.

This initial training covers imprinting of the dogs, handler training, and operational exposure. The handler training is usually the most difficult as they will become the leader of the team. They must understand the effects air movement has on explosive odor, productive areas to search, a working knowledge of explosives, canine behavior, motivation and a variety of other things. This is an enormous amount of information to learn and perform in a short period of time.

In this article, I will explain why accuracy in locating explosives depends on search techniques, training, and leadership by the handler. I have also included a section on food reward for ball dogs during imprinting.

Productive Searches

A productive search involves a good search pattern as well as a thorough search. Presentations by the handler and scans by the canine should be done in places where explosive odor or devices may be



present, including blank walls if air is moving. Good search strategy maximizes odor detection.

It is a common misunderstanding that the amount of explosive itself is the chief contributor to the amount of odor available to a canine. The concentration of odor at the dog's nose depends not only on the amount of explosive material but also the explosive vapor pressure (the natural release of odor from an explosive), air movement and how it is packaged. If the canine team properly searches the objects, vehicles, buildings or areas, it should not matter what the quantity of odor is. Ensure that the canine is actively sniffing. A miss is highly likely if the dog is not actively searching and going as close as possible to the areas that are productive. The quality

of the search is critical.

When searching for an explosive it is always better to start your searches low and work up. The explosive odor is generally heavier than air, which causes it to pool in low-lying areas. Cast your canines under structures, the bottom of vehicles and their seams rather than on top or in the middle to locate any odor. The exception to this is air movement. Moving air can redirect the downward movement of odor to coincide with the direction of the air flow.

What are the Handlers' responsibilities?

The handler must be the leader of the team. They are responsible for everything, including making sure the canine is searching properly and

productive areas are searched.

They must understand airflow and environmental issues that can affect dispersing explosive odor. Heating, air-conditioning, drafts and cross ventilation can cause air to move in a room or building. The effects of this movement may not be noticeable until the canine gives a final response in an unlikely place. Hand presentations may be needed to ensure all areas are completely searched.

Handlers must understand changes in behavior and reactions the canine makes after encountering odor. How many of you have been searching for explosive odor and your dog lifts its head sniffing the air (change of behavior), hesitates and then continues its normal search? Or, while searching vehi-





cles, the dog pauses, sniffs briefly under a car (change of behavior) and then continues. When it happens, consider the idea that air moved explosive odor across the dog's nose. Seconds later the air changed direction and it's gone. You should complete a detailed search of that area or vehicle(s) making sure nothing is missed.

Allow the canine to follow the odor after a change of behavior. Make sure you mark your current location, so you can restart where you left off. It is useful to know whether it's a change of behavior or if the dog is just breaking away to check other things. Some dogs eager to receive the reward may break off the search and walk around hoping they sniff odor. If that's the case, direct them back onto the search.

Let's assume it is a change of behavior and the dog has pulled you off the current search pattern. After marking your spot, go with the dog to see if they can locate the source of the explosive. What if the dog pulls to a point and stops, acting as if the odor has disappeared? You should assume the dog was sniffing explosive odor and for whatever reason, now the odor is unavailable to the dog. Don't leave that spot and go back to your marker. Search everything from that spot in a circle until you're certain the area is clear.

What does the dog really know about searching when the handler allows the dog to lead the way?

When you allow the canine to become the leader and simply follow them, success is not easy to achieve. The canine does not un-

derstand what is productive and will likely wander from one place to another. This will add confusion to what has been searched and what hasn't. The explosive odor may not be available to the canine who casually walks through an area.

A scan is a search strategy to cover a large area or number of objects quickly while being thorough. Every search area, vehicle or building will have some feature the canine hasn't been exposed to in training. The handler looks for the productive areas, determines the search pattern and directs the canine to scan. The handler guides the canine to the productive areas. A well-trained canine will then scan these areas as it moves for explosive odors. If the dog misses something the handler will redirect them to complete the search.

Why does my dog search so fast and how can I slow them down?

The team's movement is rapid but thorough. Do not underestimate the importance of training in canine skill development. Accuracy is the benchmark that indicates the team is ready to search at a faster pace.

There are several reasons why canines search quickly. I will use the ORT cans as an example. Often you see a canine go very quickly over the cans until they locate odor and then sit. Unfortunately, they will have likely missed some low vapor pressure odors along the way.

Speed can be a function of drive in the dog itself, its desire to receive the reward and its understanding that searches can produce rewards. This is a good thing to have in a detector canine. It is what we look for during the selection process. This discussion is on slowing them down to make them a more effective searching and sniffing part of the team.

Another consideration is the handler's rapid body and arm movements which may signal the dog we are moving fast. Knowingly or unknowingly we imprint our behaviors (non-verbal communication) on our canine partners. It's not the words as much as the actions including voice inflections and facial

expressions that provide information. Verbally pumping up the dog before you start, your fast movement towards the cans and very quick hand presentations are all forms of communication for the dog.

A word of caution, we don't want to diminish the dog's drive as you change your body movements. Don't use harsh leash corrections or harsh voice commands.

What I use for this training is four cans in a straight line or part of a circle. All cans have distractors except for the last one with an explosive odor. You can use anything that you normally use during maintenance training, whatever is available to you. It is very difficult to control and teach a canine while on leash and searching, hand presentations are used to establish the behaviors you want.

Most dogs these days are pre-tested by canine vendors and should come with the drive you need. The idea of getting the dog excited is no longer needed, with good maintenance training they should be ready. In almost all situations of explosive detection, a calm dog is preferred.

Calmly walk your dog over to the point you will be starting from, which should be right next to the


first can. If you start the search too far away, your quick movements to have a presentation ready give the dog the idea that speed is desired. Start the search by saying in a calm low voice "Easy" and make a very slow presentation to the first can and hold it until the dog puts his head inside sniffing. You start your move to the next can keeping your hand down just above the height of the cans. This is to stop the canine from pushing past you. Offer resistance if they attempt. Say "Easy" if they are pushing your hand attempting to get by you. Keep moving. As you approach the third can if they are still pushing or going too fast, pull them off as you leave the third can before you get to the fourth can with the odor saying "Easy". You will repeat this exercise until the dog is moving at the pace you like. They will then be allowed to reach the fourth can and the reward. Using the word "Easy" is an attempt to pair the word with the behavior (slower speed) that is desired. If successful with this pairing you may slow the dog with a simple command.

All dogs are different, and you may have to repeat this process until the behavior is learned. All commands are in a soft voice.

Dogs need to understand what the rules are, and you must be con-

There are several reasons why canines search quickly. I will use the ORT cans as an example. Often you see a canine go very quickly over the cans until they locate odor and then sit. Unfortunately, they will have likely missed some low vapor pressure odors along the way.





sistent in demonstrating the behaviors you want. Essentially, we are withholding the reward (reaching the can with odor) until they move slowly. You may have used this technique of withholding the reward to teach the dog to sit straight or focus on the source of odor before you reward. Show them what you want and reward when they complete the task. Reinforcing this behavior, if needed, can always be accomplished during maintenance training.

What you've completed when you get your dog working properly are forms of Positive and Negative Reinforcement. Praising and rewarding (Positive) for good work done and taking away (Negative) something until it's completed properly.

If your dog is not calm before you start and is barking or whining, do nothing. This is usually caused when the handler started the exercise while this was happening. They do this because they think it starts the exercise. Wait till they are calm and then start. They will soon realize what they need to do to get you moving.

Food reward (for ball dogs) in beginning training, how it works, and will it work for you.

The preferred method for most trainers when training detector dogs (Narcotics and Explosive) in the United States is play-reward. Trainers use the dog's drive to gain a reward for finding explosive odor. During canine selection, trainers place rewards in different areas to check the dog's willingness to retrieve. This is not a search; the toy is visible to the dog. They simply have to get past an obstacle, confined area, dark room or under a small area and they get the reward. The success of this test gives the trainer an idea of what to expect during training. Some canines won't attempt to fetch and can be rejected, while others are not deterred or at least make attempts to retrieve the reward.

Over the years vendors have paid attention to what we asked for in a dog and are giving us dogs with high ball drive. It's a known fact that dogs have different levels of drive for the reward which can be detected by the possessiveness they show the reward. The true test of a dog's drive is not chasing a ball that you've thrown, but how long they will hold it once they have retrieved it. When you throw the ball, you are activating their drive which can give you an inaccurate picture of the dog's capability. The dog who holds the reward for a long period of

time is telling you how much they desire it, which translates to how long they might search for the explosive odor to get it.

The downside of the high drive ball dog is their reluctance to release the reward. All dogs desire the reward and need time possessing it and satisfying themselves by holding it in their mouth. For the high drive dogs, the time period can be lengthy, causing handlers to struggle with the dog to retrieve the reward. This is usually accomplished by multiple release commands followed by some compulsory action designed to force the dog to release. For the high drive dog, this may happen everytime they get the reward. The dogs learn through repetition when you are preparing to force them to release the reward. They may hold the reward until they can't possibly refuse to let it go any longer. This is a cycle that starts early during imprinting which affects consistency and repetition needed for a successful imprint. It's not recommended to attempt to train the release during imprinting, the prime goal is teaching sniffing and rewarding. An attempt at harsh corrections for not releasing in the imprint area may diminish the dog's desire to search for fear of punishment. Using food reward during the imprint will not affect the dog and will give them many repetitions. You simply use their daily allotment of food during training. Also, in a different area, you can train the release of the reward.

For everyone who has completed training and is experiencing these issues, I have some advice. The reward is usually given to the canine by the handler or trainer throwing it towards the explosive odor where the canine is showing a final response. The canine chases the reward catching it in their mouth completing the cycle of detection. The theory that the play-reward must always be thrown at the area where the explosive odor is hidden is not supported with positive results for every dog. It used to be believed that the dog must always think the reward comes from the source of the odor. No matter the reason, when the dog starts looking at you, they've figured it out.

When you throw the Kong, you escalate the level of drive in your dog. For the dog with a high drive who already has trouble releasing, you are making it worse. Try placing the reward at the source and allow the dog to move in and pick it up. Their drive is high, so they won't be affected. This won't make the release easier but doesn't drive it up either. Getting them to release can be easy. They don't want to release because you take it away and forcing them isn't the solution either. Using one command to release, simply wait them out until they drop the reward. This may take a long time, only use one command. When they drop the reward reach down



and flip it back to them. You can do this several times the first few times to see how they are reacting. Repetition will teach them you are going to give it back making it more likely they will release the reward. After you've done this and they consistently release, change the pattern. Sometimes you don't give it back and sometimes you do. As long as they think there is the possibility they will get it back they will release.

Each canine is different and this may not work, but if it does, it's better than fighting the dog.

In moments of doubt, remember your training and trust your dog.

Don Slavik



EXPERIENCE CAN TEACH A DOG MANY THINGS SOME GOOD AND SOMETIMES NOT SO GOOD

I will begin this article with an absolute and undeniable statement; **EVERYTHING** you do with, to, or for your dog **TEACHES HIM SOMETHING**. And sometimes he may learn some things you did not intend to teach him but he learned anyway. All dogs but particularly a trained dog tends to use his brain in a way that will encompass everything you have taught him as it relates not only to his specific tasks but also how he relates to his handler, his experience as well as the environment. Certainly the average house pet has less to “think about” than a police service dog, no matter the venue whether it be patrol or strictly scent work. One cannot stop a dog from thinking and how any intelligent animal thinks will depend not only upon what he has been taught and how he relates to that information but equally as important, if not more so, is his individual personality and experiences. One of the dogs in my unit received an electrical shock while searching a building, another fell through a false ceiling, another had a cocked .38 go off when he picked it up, (we told the handler the dog was trying to kill him) and my own dog fell into a swimming pool one night on a track. All these experiences will affect how your dog will both think and work. Some dogs will work simply because they love the task and will continue to do so regardless of external factors. Unfortunately some may be a bit more devious and attempt to avoid a trained task in favor of their own prefer-



Don Sterling

ences in life, like “gee, I don’t really feel like working today, I’d rather look for a girlfriend”. But the bottom line is simply that experience will always have an effect upon the dog’s performance whether it be negative or positive.

The problem may actually lie with our own retraining program, for example, when a dog fails to perform properly he will know it before the handler does simply because the handler cannot observe nor correct a mistake until such time as he observes that mistake, and by that time it has been going on for some period of time. Bad habits and negative behavior can happen but they always have a beginning, a starting point. So the dog always knows what is going on before the handler. Way back in 1966 when I worked with my first patrol dog, (yeah, I’m that old) I noticed a declining interest in his building searches. Now he had always been an enthusiastic worker but there came a time when I noticed a certain “lack of enthusiasm” in his searches. I attributed this to the fact that he had searched so many buildings without locating a suspect that he had become bored. A bit of history here. Our canine unit was just being formed and we were anxious to assist any sector car that had an open door or alarm ringing and we believed that “experience” searching buildings would further the dog’s ability. That proved to be our first mistake as instead of improving the dogs it simply bored them as there was no “real reward” for the search as there had been in training when **EVERY SEARCH RESULTED IN A FIND**. I always like to compare canine behavior to human behavior





because we can better understand human behavior. As such let me offer an example of the above. If you consistently attempt to hit a baseball and after numerous attempts you fail to hit the ball, sooner or later you stop trying whereas if you get a base hit every time you're up at bat you are far more likely to continue. Success breeds success and failure can ultimately lead to failure. Dogs think along the same lines. Search "x" amount of buildings and let the success rate be too low, sooner or later the dog will lose interest. And the dogs know the difference between a real reward, an apprehension or location that triggers aggressive behavior, and a simple "good boy" or play time with a tug. Few things can ever replace the reward the dog has been trained for and an apprehension or even simply the location of a suspect is the primary motivator in a patrol dog.

As a result of my dog's deteriorating work, again, the dog knowing what was happening before the handler, I decided to have the patrol officer hide in the building after I had completed my initial search and sent my dog in for another search. This seemed to work well for some period of time until I noticed that my dog would was more interested in returning to the car to await my "motivational training exercise" than to conduct his primary search. Please understand that I had very little experience at the time so my training was quite "unsophisticated" if I can use that term to describe a certain lack of knowledge. So once again, the dog was "ahead of me" in learning something I had not intended to teach him.

And so it went during my earlier years as a trainer. One of the things I have learned over the years is never "over work" your dog. Dogs have what I like to call an "enthusiasm bank" and every time you ask him to work and he does not receive an ADAQUATE reward you are making a withdrawal from that bank and it can be depleted until there is nothing left and that's when we begin to observe a deterioration the dog's work. SOMETIMES a lack of training can enhance

motivation provided the dog is already sufficiently trained as too much training can simply ware the dog's enthusiasm down, and no worry about the dog "forgetting" what he has been taught. THEY NEVER "FORGET".

I have also learned to try to "think ahead of the dog" and recognize a problem before it manifests itself in obvious ways. Consequently, I monitor how much or how little my dog is working, both being important factors, his "real life successes" relative to his street calls versus rewards I would supply in the event he was not successful on a his street tasks. Two of my three dogs were excellent tracking dogs and loved to do so almost without outside motivation and we ran a ten percent apprehension rate, one the highest in the unit simply because tracking apprehensions, even with good information to begin with, are probably the most difficult in which to be successful since the reality of containing or overtaking a suspect is so difficult.

To maintain my dog's performance it was necessary to supply all three of my dogs with "real life" training exercises. This is where it is necessary to "become smarter than your dog" and try not to let him know that training is not training but an actual work call or he will work well in training but my not on an actual call. Hint; perpetrators lay down the best tracks. As such I would try to use the track from an actual crime scene as a guide for my training exercises.

As a result of learning from my mistakes and an increasing understanding of the intelligence of dogs I began a program to do a better job of thinking about and planning my exercises which continues to this day. I have found that imagination is a key element in coming up with interesting exercises for both my dogs and handlers. If a handler becomes complacent the dog is sure to follow so it is necessary to consider the handler as well as the dog in training. A note here. When working with an experienced handler preplanning is important but telling a handler EXACTLY what is going to happen will take the reality of the exercise out of the training for the handler because in the real life work of law enforcement the handler never knows what the re-

sults will be thus allowing the handler to work and observe the dog without foreknowledge and will increase his/her ability to read the dog. HOWEVER, I NEVER embarrass a handler or allow him/her to make any mistake that would be detrimental to the progress of the dog. Consequently a trainer should generally accompany a handler on any "unknown" exercise. But once again, however, there should come a time when a team becomes proficient enough that they should be given the parameters of an unknown exercise and allowed to run it alone. Such exercises build confidence in the handler's ability to read the dog and builds trust of their dog's ability.

So let me return to things that dogs learn that you may not wish them to learn. My first dog learned that I could not control his barking on a traffic stop or interrogation which made it difficult for headquarters to hear my transmissions. He also understood that when I didn't enforce basic commands it made my control work difficult. He could "read me like a book". He was always "ahead of me". If I dropped the lead on a track he would finish it alone, a bad trait as more often than I care to remember, I ended up looking for my dog. He would get in the front of my car whenever I got out and the list goes on and on. Dogs never stop thinking and everything you do

or don't do will change your dog's behavior, for the better or for the worse. EVERYTHING IS IMPORTANT. Incidentally, when tracking I taught my next two dogs to stop on command.

Human nature is human nature and if you are a "normal" human being you will most likely make mistakes due to the familiarity of routine. This is unavoidable unless you make a conscious effort never to let bad habits influence your dog's performance. Now I realize that dogs are not robots and they are susceptible to variations in their behavior just as much as we are. It is in recognizing that these variations that can be both negative and



or positive and one must be alert to the negatives. I never correct a dog for a mistake but I never let disobedience or disinterest go uncorrected or your dog will learn that he can get away with such behavior. The more consistent a handler is the less disobedient the behavior consequently the less correction necessary to control the dog's behavior and the more rewarding the relationship. Dogs never stop thinking and neither should a handler. I would like to clarify my previous statement. Disobedience must be corrected in the traditional manner; disinterest must be corrected through better training based upon positive motivation.

Training dogs is the complex application of common sense and common sense tells us that intelligent, (and sometimes not so intelligent animals) never stop learning. There is no "neutral" in a dog's brain or behavior. Everything your dog experiences on Monday will affect his behavior on Tuesday. Consequently a handler must remain alert to his/her dog's behavior every day and once again I use a human analogy. If you have a serious altercation with a perpetrator on Monday your behavior will be different on Tuesday, more so than it was on Sunday. My dog apprehended a suspect who was under the influence of drugs and resulted in a particularly serious

injury from his apprehension. The following day my dog's aggression level rose dramatically. He had "learned" something I did not want him to learn as high levels of aggressive behavior must be a concern to any handler and I had to take measures to return him to a more reasonable level of aggressive behavior. They, like you, never stop learning. Sometimes it can be beneficial and sometimes it can be counterproductive. Stay alert to your dog's behavior, it will change every day.

And remember, someone out there may be trying to kill you and tonight may be the night...ROUTINE KILLS.

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Name: _____ Home Phone: _____
Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____
C/S/Z: _____ Date of Birth: _____
EMAIL: _____

Agency: _____ Work Phone: _____
Address: _____
C/S/Z: _____ Number of Years Employed: _____
Rank: _____ Assignment: (Handler/Trainer/Admin/Retired) _____

K-9 Name: _____ Breed: _____ Age: _____
Skill of dog: (circle all that apply) Patrol Narcotic Explosive Cadaver Game Tracking only

K-9 Name: _____ Breed: _____ Age: _____
Skill of dog: (circle all that apply) Patrol Narcotic Explosive Cadaver Game Tracking only

K-9 Name: _____ Breed: _____ Age: _____
Skill of dog: (circle all that apply) Patrol Narcotic Explosive Cadaver Game Tracking only

List Approximate Dates/Agencies where Basic or Advanced Training was Completed: _____

(Use reverse side if needed)

Are you a USPCA Regionally Certified Judge? Yes No If yes, what type? _____
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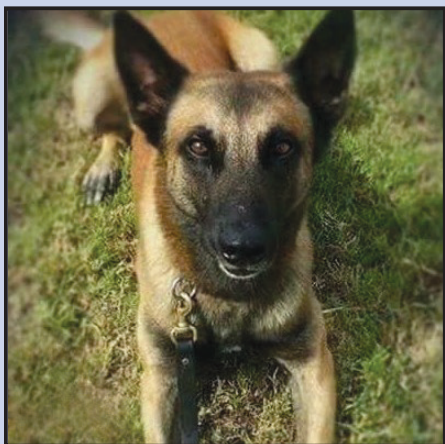
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END ^{OF} WATCH



K9 Rony

Houston Police Dept. Texas

End of Watch

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

K9 Rony died after suffering a serious injury following a vehicle and foot pursuit of a subject who had been driving a stolen car.



K9 Mojo

N. Charleston Police Dept. SC

End of Watch

Thursday, February 15, 2018

K9 Mojo was killed in a vehicle crash when his handler's patrol car collided with another vehicle.



K9 Brock

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, MD

End of Watch

Thursday, January 18, 2018

K9 Brock died from complications of an injury sustained while training.



K9 Dino

Green Township Police Dept. Ohio

End of Watch

Monday, September 25, 2017

K9 Dino died after suffering a medical emergency during an active track of several suspects involved in a burglary and abduction of a 15-month-old child.



K9 Scout

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, NY

End of Watch

Thursday, January 18, 2018

K9 Scout died after a ball accidentally became lodged in his mouth, blocking his airway.



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