

HENDRICKS COUNTY

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# 4-legged first responders



Hendricks County Sheriff's Department K9s and handlers include Cpl. Kyle Schaefer with K9 Deaks, Cpl. Nick Korpala and K9 Nitro, deputy Nate Hibsichman and K9 Edo and deputy Shaun Caffee and K9 Ceto. (Photo provided by the Hendricks County Sheriff's Office)

## K9s, human officers partner to patrol Hendricks County

By Peg McRoy Glover

Cpl. Kyle Schaefer wears three hats when it comes to K9s in Hendricks County and Central Indiana.

Schaefer and his K9 Deaks work in the Hendricks County Sheriff's Office enforcement division. He serves as one of three K9 trainers in Hendricks County and chairs the Central Indiana K9 Association (CIK9).

### Schaefer and Deaks

Schaefer and Deaks make up one of four K9 teams with the Hendricks County Sheriff's Office.

Last fall Deaks performed his job at top level when he indicated drugs were on-board a vehicle stopped on I-70, and officers located and seized 600 pounds of marijuana product.

"The amount of narcotics that Deaks has taken off the streets is phenomenal," said Schaefer.

"Another time Deaks did his job was when I engaged in a car chase. The guy finally stopped and then he took off on foot. It was dark, and the guy was fast, and I knew I couldn't catch him. So, I released Deaks.

"The guy who ran off said, 'Man I am fast, but then I heard someone coming up behind me and then next thing I know that dog knocked me down.'"

That demonstrates the precision and skill of these dogs.

Deaks turned 5 years old in May and lives in an outside kennel on Schaefer's fenced in property, but when Schaefer is home, Deaks has total run of the property.

"Deaks and I train every day in addition to the twice monthly training sessions that we do with all of the K9s in the county," said Schaefer. "Watching these dogs do the jobs they are trained to do is amazing."

### Hendricks County K9 training

Schaefer, sheriff's deputy Nate Hibsichman and Avon Police Lt. Tom Owens

make up the Hendricks County K9 trainer team.

"Training takes a skill set that is developed over a lot of years," said Schaefer. "Training a K9 dog is an art that only comes with a lot of experience."

Typically, K9 breeds include German, Dutch and Belgian Malinois shepherds,

Labrador retrievers or bloodhounds. K9 officers are considered elite professional athletes.

Some are imported from Germany, Slovakia or Eastern Europe through a vendor in the United States. Some come from other places, but Schaefer doesn't care where they come from as long as they have a good training foundation.

Deaks came from Germany, and 10 years ago, Schaefer imported a dog from Slovakia. Through breeding him, Schaefer kept and trained a male puppy.

"I trained that puppy, and he actually worked at the same time as his dad did but with a different handler," said Schaefer. "That was kind of cool because it is unusual to have a K9 father and son team working at the sheriff's office at the same time."

These dogs are trained at very young ages, and the training foundation is already complete when they pair with local handlers. Schaefer, Hibsichman and Owen step in leading additional training between the K9s and the handlers.

"The past sheriff administrations (sheriffs Dave Galloway and Brett Clark) have been exceedingly generous and supportive in the amount of time it takes to train these dogs.

"They understand the value of the K9 teams," said Schaefer. "They support the overall mission of public safety and community service. Sheriff Clark said it best when he said everybody loves dogs. And I would like to add that even bad guys like dogs."

In Hendricks County, 22 K9s serve, and the majority work in drug detection and patrol apprehension. Five only work as detection dogs. All 22 dogs are affiliated with law enforcement, including school police departments.

## BROWNSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION K9S ZENA AND KYA



Brownsburg Community Schools Police Department officer Kim Kiritschenko and K9 Zena



Brownsburg Community Schools Police Department officer Corey Hill and K9 Kya

### Submitted by Vicki Murphy, BCSC spokesperson

Brownsburg Community School Corporation has its own police department, BCSCPD. The department includes five officers and two K9 officers, Zena and Kya.

The BCSCPD and its two K9s serve all 12 Brownsburg schools.

Officer Kim Kiritschenko is the handler for K9 Zena, and officer Corey Hill is responsible for K9 Kya.

The dogs are often featured in the staff section of school yearbooks at Brownsburg High School.



Avon Police Lt. Tom Owens and K9 Nero



Avon Police Sgt. Eric Hollingsworth and K9 Lance



Avon Police Sgt. Steve Kasprzyk and K9 Indo

### Central Indiana K9 Association

Three and half years ago Shaefer and Theresa Brandon, who was chair of the U.S. Department of Labor before retiring, co-founded the Central Indiana K9 Association (CIK9) to serve the working and retired canines and their handlers in Central Indiana.

They have three primary goals:

Maintain a financial resource called The Shadow Fund. The grant program helps pay for retired canines' medical needs. Grants ease veterinary costs and financial burdens for handlers.

A Central Indiana quarterly training program engages trainers from all over the country, facilitates training and improves professionalism and effectiveness of K9 teams. Eventually CIK9 wants a permanent facility to host training events.

The organization also wants to build a working dog

monument to honor all working military and police dogs lost in the line of duty at the future permanent facility.

"We focus on military and law enforcement dogs, but there are many other working dogs," said Shaefer. "These dogs don't necessarily work in those fields, but they do have ties to law enforcement and the military, but we include them, too. Those dogs usually work in search and rescue or arson."

Search and rescue dogs often work for Indiana Homeland Security and arson dogs for insurance companies.

To find out more about the Central Indiana K9 Association visit CIK9.org

**ON THE COVER:** Hendricks County Sheriff's Department Cpt. Kyle Schaefer and his K9 Deaks work in the enforcement division taking drugs off the streets and capturing fugitives. (Photo provided by the Hendricks County Sheriff's Office)

## PLAINFIELD POLICE K9 JOCKO

Submitted by Cpl. Robert Prichard, Plainfield Police Department



My canine partner is Jocko. He is a 6-year-old Belgian Malinois (pronounced mal in waaaa). He's been active with the Plainfield Police Department and my partner for five years.

This story highlights his heroic efforts:

Recently a subject fled from an officer on foot following a traffic stop. The officer attempted to pursue on foot but was injured. Jocko picked up the trail and led us to the fugitive hiding in the woods.

The suspect wound up having multiple federal warrants for robbery, so we're proud of that. Jocko has also done a ton of community outreach and been the focal point of multiple Make-A-Wish events for children who have wished to be a canine handler for a day. We are very proud of being able to make a critically ill child's dream come true.

On Aug. 4, the department fulfilled the latest wish for a boy named Johnny who was trained in K9 work, emergency vehicle operations and working investigations with detectives after visiting the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.

Thanks for putting a spotlight on these dogs. Their daily sacrifice for their handlers, humans and community is every bit as great if not greater than us two-legged officers.

### Household Hazardous Waste is Accepted for Free -

- Oil-based Paints/Stains  
-Latex paint should be dried out & thrown away. Please don't bring it to Tox-Away Day.
- Pesticides/Herbicides
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- Mercury-containing items
- Unwanted Medicines
- Sharps (Lancets/Syringes)  
-Must be in rigid, puncture-resistant container.
- Automotive Fluids/Fuels
- Adhesives/Putties
- Drain Openers
- Batteries (All types)
- Cleaners/Solvents
- Pool/Spa Chemicals
- Fire Extinguishers
- Propane Tanks

# Tox-Away Day

Saturday, August 27 | 8 am-1 pm

Hendricks County Fairgrounds

1900 E. Main St, Danville | \*Enter at Gate 5\*

Hendricks County households are encouraged to use Tox-Away Days to recycle and dispose of chemicals, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, medicines, medical sharps, tires, electronics, and appliances. Regulations prohibit wastes from businesses, churches, or other organizations from being accepted at Tox-Away Days.

Latex paint should not be brought to Tox-Away Day for disposal. Instead, dry it up and throw it out. No document shredding or heavy trash disposal is available at Tox-Away Days.

### Problem Wastes Accepted - Some Fees May Apply -

- Electronics  
-Computers: Free  
-Monitors: Free  
-Printers/Scanners: Free  
-DVD/CD/Blu-ray Players: Free  
-Televisions Small: \$20  
Large: \$25
- Appliances  
-With Refrigerant: \$10  
-Without Refrigerant: \$5
- Tires  
-Passenger Car/Truck:  
First 4: Free  
Next 8: \$2 Each  
Limit: 12 per household  
-Other Tire Types: visit website for fees and limits.

Visit [RecycleHendricksCounty.org](https://RecycleHendricksCounty.org) or call (317) 858-6070 for more information.

