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K9S-ELITE ATHLETES WITH WORLD CLASS TRAINING

By Peg McRoy

The K9s that work side by side with law enforcement officers are a special breed of dog. They are bred to be elite athletes that constantly need to be trained, challenged, and tested.

"These K9s are the elite athletes of the elite athletes," said Corporal Kyle Schaefer with the Hendricks County Sheriff's Department, as well as a K9 trainer, supervisor, and handler. "They are the LeBron James, Michael Jordan, and Peyton Manning of their world."

When these K9s are acquired by law enforcement they have already been given basic training. Once they are in the care of their handlers (officers) more extensive training begins and continues throughout the dog's service.

Their skills need to be sharpened on a regular basis so that when they are on the street and in an actual deployment, they can perform their required jobs.

"The Department of Justice recommends a minimum of 16 hours of formal training per dog per month and we follow those guidelines," said Schaefer "Indiana does not have state certifications. There are several different organizations throughout the country that have varying certification guidelines. We meet or exceed all of those certifications."

"The initial training is just the basic stuff," said Schaefer. "After we get the dog from a vendor, we fine-tune them for the job they are going to be doing on the street."

A few years ago, Schaefer recognized that there was a need in central Indiana for a resource to enhance the fine-tuning, care, and training of the K9s and their handlers. In response to that need, he and Theresa M. Brandon, retired U.S. Department of Labor Chair, co-founded the Central Indiana K9 Association.

Although located in Plainfield, the Central Indiana K9 Association serves all of central Indiana. In addition to Schaefer, Deputy Nate Hidschman with the Hendricks County Sheriff's Office, Lieutenant Tom Owens with the Avon Police Department, and Corporal Rob Pritchard with Plainfield Police Department are trainers for the association.

The twice monthly training for the K9s is in-house service training. Quarterly training is offered through the Central Indiana K9 Association.

"Nate, Tom, Rob, and I travel all over the country to gain knowledge and keep up on national standards," said Schaefer. "There are hundreds of ways to train a K9. We travel the country going to conferences and seminars. When we see a good presentation then we try to bring that presenter to central Indiana."

The relationship between the dog and its handler goes much deeper than training and on-the job deployments. The K9s live full-time with their handler creating a true partnership. There is no doubt that these officers of the law



An elite K9 training to sharpen skills needed in the field. (Submitted photo)

"These K9s are the elite athletes of the elite athletes. They are the LeBron James, Michael Jordan, and Peyton Manning of their world." – CORPORAL KYLE SCHAEFER

love these dogs.

Some of the training is tailored to building that bond between the handler and K9 so they become a well-oiled machine.

"We always talk about how your emotions flow through the leash," said Schaefer. "Dogs can feel you through the leash and you can feel the dog back through the leash. That is where the teamwork comes in."

Funding has been and continues to be a scarce resource throughout the nation for K9 extensive training. There are many agencies that do not have the budget, means, or time to do it.

"I have been very fortunate in that current and past administrations have allowed me to and continue to allow me to go to different places and gain this training knowledge," said Schaefer. "But we are always trying to raise money. We want to keep the officers and public safe. There

are a lot of agencies across Indiana that are not funded. That is one of the reasons I started the association."

When on patrol these K9s are obedient and can think for themselves.

"These dogs want to work for us, and we want the dogs to be able to think for themselves and that is done through the training process," said Schaefer. "When I drop that leash it is on the dog. I want to know that dog is going to go out and do the job by himself and then return to me. So when 'Dad' drops the leash, the K9 thinks 'I've got this dad. I will take care of it and come back to you.'"

These elite K9s are a valuable tool in keeping the police department and public safe and their ability to do that is ensured through world-class training.

Supporting the Central Indiana K9 Association with Sponsorships

The association supports and supplements K9 units across central Indiana and strives to assist, unite, and promote all working K9 teams across central Indiana.

Sponsorship dollars go to support:

- 1) The Shadow Fund—a medical grant program for retired dogs. Many times, when these dogs retire, they are signed over to their handler. The handler then becomes responsible for the dog's medical costs. Often these dogs are retired due to medical issues so this can put a financial burden on the handler. The Shadow Fund is a grant program that a handler can apply to for financial assistance.
- 2) The Training Program—supports the four quarterly training seminars that the association facilitates for central Indiana.
- 3) A Monument for K9s—supports the long-term goal in creating a monument for dogs that have passed in the line of duty.

Sponsorships levels are:

- The German Shepherd Pack - \$2,500 and up.
- The Belgian Malinois Pack - \$1,000 to 2,499
- The Dutch Shepherd Pack - \$500-\$999
- The Labrador Retriever Pack - \$250-\$249
- The Bloodhound Pac - Up to \$249

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Hendricks County K9s

PITTSBORO



K9 Name: K9 Zara
Handler Name: Officer Zach Buchanan
Department: Pittsboro Police Department
Specialty: Narcotics detection
Years in service: two years
No arrest data per policy



Unique fact: Zara is an escape artist and has no problem getting over a 6-foot privacy fence as soon as nobody is looking.

BROWNSBURG



K9 Name: K9 Caro
Handler Name: Officer David Marcum
Department: Brownsburg PD
Specialty: Dual Purpose (Narcotic Detection and Criminal Apprehension)
How many years in service: 10 years total as a K9 Handler; 7 years with K9 Caro



How many assisted arrests: 374 total arrests; 288 with K9 Caro

Is there a memorable story about any of these particular arrests? All arrests are memorable, however, assisting US Marshalls and Brownsburg Swat is fun.

Is there anything unique or special regarding this K9? K9 Caro is a fairly social dog and loves playing fetch with a ball.



K9 Name: K9 Raptr
Handler Name: Officer Heather Foote
Department: Brownsburg PD
Specialty: Dual Purpose: Narcotics and apprehension
How many years in service: 7 months
How many assisted arrests: 21



Is there a memorable story about any of these particular arrests? K9 Raptr assisted Hendricks County Sheriff's Department in locating approximately a kilo and a half of narcotics and a suspect that fled on foot.



K9 Name: K9 Drago
Handler Name: Officer David Shedrow
Department: Brownsburg Police Department
Specialty: Narcotics, Tracking, Apprehension
Years of Service: 6 years



Arrests: Don't have the exact number but Drago has assisted in hundreds of arrests including drug traffickers and murderers.

Memorable about arrests: Whenever Drago assists in making a big arrest, I stop at a drive-thru and get him a cheeseburger as a special treat.



K9 Name: K9 Trip
Handler Name: Officer Brad Carr
Specialty: Dual Purpose K9 Detection Narcotics and Apprehension
Years in Service: 4



Arrests: Approximately 40 arrests

Is there a memorable story about any of these particular arrests? Every arrest is different but the most memorable is when we are assisting DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) because these are usually large finds.

Is there anything unique or special regarding this K9? K9 Trip is a very high-energy dog, one of the county's most high-energy dogs. He is very social which is great.

DANVILLE



K9 Name: K9 Jack
Handler name: K9 Sgt. Jeffery Slayback
Department: Danville Police Department
Specialty: Tracking & apprehension, Narcotics
How many years in service: 2



How many assisted arrests: 37 assisted arrests (deployed 71 times)

Is there a memorable story about any of these particular arrests? Not specifically an arrest, but we did recently do a K9 demo for the "Inclusion Day" at the Hendricks County Fair which was an incredible experience

Is there anything unique or special regarding this K9? Jack can do backflips in his kennel, we also discovered he can climb out of his 6 foot high kennel..which is why Jack now has a roof on his kennel!

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We love our Hendricks County communities. If you have something you believe we should know about, please send to editorial@icontimes.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE Request for Proposal/Qualifications.

The West Central Conservancy District is requesting Statements of Proposal/Qualifications from qualified parties for the development and construction of the following: Northwest Interceptor, Avon Middle School/Southwest Interceptor, Jeto Lake Low Pressure System, Indian Head Lake Low Pressure System, Jessup Meadows Low Pressure System, Prairie Manor Lift Station Elimination Project, Sycamore Ridge Lift Station Elimination Project, Conrail Lift Station Elimination Project, and Prestwick Pointe Force Main Replacement. In accordance with Ind. Code § 5-23-5, the West Central Conservancy District invites any and all qualified parties to submit Statements of Proposal/Qualifications to enter a public-private partnership for the development and construction of the project in Hendricks County, Indiana. An electronic PDF of the Statement of Proposal/Qualifications should be emailed to Sam Paledino, spaledino@wccdin.org by 5:00 pm EST on September 1, 2023, in order to be considered. Additional information and a packet outlining submission requirements will be available at 243 South County Road 625 East, Avon, Indiana 46123 and may be requested.

Hendricks County K9s



K9 Name: K9 Deni

Handler Name: K9 Officer Quintin Oller

Department: Danville Police Department

Specialty: Scent Discrimination Trailing, Apprehension, Article Searches, Narcotics Detection (Cocaine, Heroin, Methamphetamine, PCP, LSD, Marijuana, and MDMA)

Years in Service: 1 year and 3 months

Number of Assisted Arrests: 47

Memorable Story: I think that anytime I get to see the hard work and training I put in with K9 Deni is rewarding. We spend so many hours training and practicing, that anytime we get to apply that in a real world environment is rewarding for me and Deni.



K9 Name: K9 Edo

Handler name: Dep. Nate Hibschan

Department: Hendricks County Sheriff's Office

Specialty: Dual Purpose K9: narcotics & patrol

How many years in service: 5 years in service

How many assisted arrests: All our K9s are responsible for countless arrests assisting patrol units.

Is there a memorable story about any of these particular arrests?

The Sheriff's Office does not release arrest information.

Is there anything unique or special regarding this K9?

Edo loves the fall and pumpkins.



HENDRICKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



K9 Name: K9 Deaks

Handler name: Cpl. Kyle Schaefer

Department: Hendricks County Sheriff's Office

Specialty: Dual Purpose K9: narcotics & patrol

How many years in service: 4 years in service

How many assisted arrests: All our K9s are responsible for countless arrests assisting patrol units.

Is there a memorable story about any of these particular arrests?

The Sheriff's Office does not release arrest information.

Is there anything unique or special regarding this K9?

Deaks loves to swim.



K9 Name: K9 Ceto

Handler name: Dep. Shaun Caffee

Department: Hendricks County Sheriff's Office

Specialty: Dual Purpose K9: narcotics & patrol

How many years in service: 5 years in service

How many assisted arrests: All our K9s are responsible for countless arrests assisting patrol units.

Is there a memorable story about any of these particular arrests?

The Sheriff's Office does not release arrest information.

Is there anything unique or special regarding this K9? Ceto always

dumps his water bowl and carries it around the kennel in his mouth.



PLAINFIELD



K9 Name: K9 Doc

Handler name: Cpl. Nick Korpala

Department: Hendricks County Sheriff's Office

Specialty: Dual Purpose K9: narcotics & patrol

How many years in service: Just graduated from the K9 academy in July.

How many assisted arrests: All our K9s are responsible for countless arrests assisting patrol units.

Is there a memorable story about any of these particular arrests? The Sheriff's Office does not release arrest information.

Is there anything unique or special regarding this K9? Doc lives at home with Cpl Korpala and recently retired K9 Nitro.



K9 Name: K9 Jocko

Breed: Belgian Malinois, born in the Netherlands

Handler: Officer Rob Prichard

Department: Plainfield Police Department

How many years in service: 6 years active service

How many assisted arrests: K9 teams do not make arrests. They make apprehensions and find people, even missing children.

Unique about this K9: Favorite snack is cheese cubes or pepperoni slices.



Hendricks County K9s

PLAINFIELD



K9 Name: K9 Ruger
Breed: Belgian Malinois
Handler: Corporal Chris Johnson
Department: Plainfield Police Department
How many years in service: 2.5 years of active service
How many assisted arrests: K9 teams do not make arrests. They make apprehensions and find people, even missing children.



K9 Name: K9 Trigger
Breed: German Shepherd
Handler: Cpl. Mike Taylor
Department: Plainfield Police Department
How many years in service: 3 years active service
How many assisted arrests: K9 teams do not make arrests. They make apprehensions and find people, even missing children.
Unique about this K9: K9 Trigger loves swimming and anything related. K9 Trigger has his very own pool and water sprinkler that he plays with while off duty.



K9 Name: K9 Echo
Breed: Belgian Malinois
Handler: Tyler Peters
Department: Plainfield Police Department
How many years in service: Less than 1 year- Plainfield's newest K9
How many assisted arrests: K9 teams do not make arrests. They make apprehensions and find people, even missing children.
Unique about this K9: Hendrick County Shelter Dog rescued and trained to serve.



AVON



K9 Name: K9 Nero
Handler: Lt. Tom Owens
Department: Avon
Specialty: Narcotics Detection and Patrol
How many years in service: 8
How many assisted arrests: 193



K9 Name: K9 Lance
Handler name: Sgt. Eric Hollingsworth
Department: Avon
Specialty: Narcotic Detection and Patrol
How many years in service: 5
How many assisted arrests: 170



K9 Name: K9 Indo
Handler name: Sgt. Steve Kasprzyk
Department: Avon
Specialty: Narcotic Detection and Search & Rescue
How many years in service: 5
How many assisted arrests: 186



K9 Name: K9 Ricsi
Handler name: Ptl. Sam Sims
Department: Avon
Specialty: Narcotic Detection and Patrol
Is there anything unique or special regarding this K9? K9 Ricsi and Ptl. Sims just completed their training last week to begin working.



"These dogs want to work for us, and we want the dogs to be able to think for themselves and that is done through the training process. When I drop that leash it is on the dog. I want to know that dog is going to go out and do the job by himself and then return to me. So when 'Dad' drops the leash, the K9 thinks 'I've got this dad. I will take care of it and come back to you.'" – CORPORAL KYLE SCHAEFER

