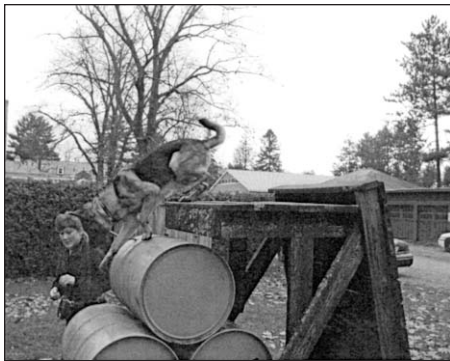


News from the Vermont Police K-9 Association

Welcome to our second submission from the Vermont Police K-9 Association (VPCA). Our goal is to distribute information regarding the Association and what our individual members are doing. We hope that this will continue to be a regular feature of *The Informer*.

Training

As reported earlier, in January 2004 we lost our head K-9 trainer, Sgt. Gary Genova, VSP, as a result of a transfer. Because of this loss we have been severely limited in training offered. Specialized training and full time schools have been hit hardest. The Academy continues to work at hiring a full-time training assistant.



Lucy Newton's K-9 Kalex playing on the obstacle course at the Academy.

A huge thanks goes to Sgt. Robert Ryan (and to the Barre City Police Department for allowing him) for keeping us all up to speed on our mandatory in-service training. Bob has been assisted by Chief Chris Morrell from the Hinesburg Community Police Department, Chief Rick Cloud of the Chester Police Department, and Corporal Ed Hunter of the VT State Police.



K-9 Hugo locked onto Bob Rayn's arm.

This fall the K-9 Program graduated the newest group of drug detector teams. VSP Cpl. Ed Hunter was the primary instructor, with assistance from Bobby Ryan. The graduates are: Cpl. Ed Hunter and K-9 Maximus, VSP; Eugene Duplissis and K-9 Niko, VSP; Maurice Lamothe and K-9 JC, VSP; Emily McGann and K-9 Cory, Bennington PD; George Merkel and K-9 Blade, Middlebury PD; Chief Morrell and K-9 Buck, Hinesburg Police; Robert Sylvia and K-9 Roka, Chittenden County Sheriff; David Zuger and K-9 Tabor, Lebanon NH PD, and Jamie Wright and K-9 Zidane, Bennington County Sheriff.

Canine Team Losses

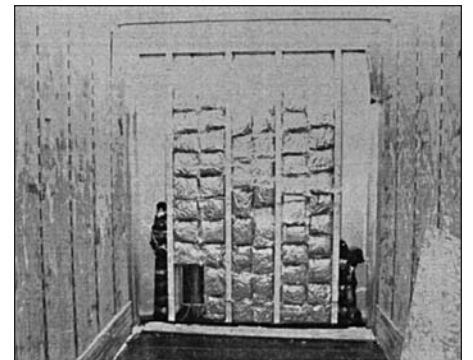
We have thankfully had only one K-9 team retire recently. We wish the best of luck to Mike Glodgett and K-9 Onde of the Newport Police Department. With Mike as his second handler, K-9 Onde came from Rhode Island when another department ended their K-9 program.

Although Ron Morrell is not part of a K-9 team, he has always been a strong supporter of our work. We wish Ron the best of luck in his retirement. Thanks again Ron for all your help.

Some Good Work

The following incidents are just highlights of a few interesting cases that some of our teams have done recently.

In the Spring of 2004 the Shelburne Police Department took a complaint of a suicidal female who had overdosed on sleeping pills. She had left her home and disappeared into nearby swamps. Hinesburg Community Police Chief Morrell responded with K-9 Doc. The team found her within approximately 30 minutes of searching. She was found unconscious, was transported by Rescue, and survived. Chief Morrell and K-9 Doc are credited for saving her life.



Scooby's truck find: 110 pounds of marijuana in a hidden compartment.

This summer the US Customs were performing an investigation involving a trailer truck and the suspicion of it transporting large quantities of marijuana. Trooper Buckley and K-9 Scooby of the Williston Barracks were called in to assist. K-9 Scooby gave the alert of his life. Upon removing a false wall, they found 110 pounds of marijuana hidden in a false compartment. The marijuana, the trailer, and the truck were seized.

In June 2004 the Winooski Police Department, the Burlington Police ►

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Some of Our Sponsors:

Vetri-Science Laboratories of Essex, VT has again donated a year's supply of their Glyco-Flex III and Canine Plus Vitamins for all the members of the VT Police Canine Program. This donation is estimated at \$52,000.



www.vetriscience.com



**Gero Brothers Movers, Inc.,
Colchester, VT**

Department, and the DEA were executing a search warrant in Winooski. Upon arrival, two males ran out a side door into the woods and split up. Colchester Police Officer Dewey and K-9 Kilo were called to assist. After two tracks through Winooski and into Colchester, both suspects were taken into custody.

In July 2004 Trooper Eric Hudson and K-9 Aiko were the lead car in a short pursuit involving a drunk driver coming out of Randolph. At one point the drunk driver put his car in reverse, rammed Trooper Hudson, and left the scene. K-9 Aiko was slightly injured during the crash. The suspect then drove a short distance before abandoning the vehicle and ran on foot. K-9 Aiko was deployed after backup arrived and after five minutes they had the suspect in custody.

In June 2004 Rutland City Police Officer Sam Delpha and K-9 Jax were called for a report of a drunken man knocking over shopping carts. As they tried to take the male into protective custody because he was drunk, he grabbed onto an officer's arm and tried to run away. An officer grabbed the male's shirt and told him to get down on the ground when the male started swinging at him. Officer Delpha

VSP stopped a vehicle on I-91. Tpr. Zorn requested a K-9 early on, and VSP Sgt. Todd Protzman and K-9 Max responded. K-9 Max alerted on the passenger door. On an interior search K-9 Max alerted to several locations. A search warrant followed, and revealed 2 eightballs of cocaine, a marijuana blunt, residual cocaine, and \$3200 in cash. The vehicle, a 2001 Lexus, was also seized.

Awards

Our annual K-9 Picnic, Campout, Meeting, and Awards Ceremony was held at Tinmouth Pond in Rutland County. At the annual meeting, we issue equipment to each handler. Equipment in the past has been Streamlight flashlights, LED lights, and harnesses for the handler to carry some of our gear. This year's purchase was a boot dryer for each handler. They have been used already by most of us.

Ron Morrell was also present and gave out certificates of appreciation to Cpl. Ed Hunter, VSP; Rick Cloud, Windsor PD; Chief Morrell, Hinesburg PD; Sgt. Robert Ryan, Barre City PD; and to the VPCA.

The VPCA also recognizes our own

The VPCA is a non-profit corporation, granted tax-exempt status under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Tax Code. Donations are accepted, and can be directed towards a specific cause or K-9 team.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Sgt. Todd Protzman, VSP

Treasurer: Cpl. Edward Hunter, VSP

Vice President: Sgt. Robert Ryan, Barre City PD

Secretary: Ptl. David Dewey, Colchester PD

Also check out our website: www.vtpca.com

then called for K-9 Jax assist. K-9 Jax bit the male on his leg and backside, and he was taken into custody. (from *Rutland Herald* reports)

for outstanding work. Awards from the Association were as follows.

Handler of the year:

Jason Stoddard and K-9 Blitz,
formerly St. Albans City PD

Tracking team of the year:

TFC Eugene Duplissus
and K-9 Niko, VSP

Detection team of the year:

Cpl. Thomas Radford and
K-9 Stoney, Burlington PD

Lifesaving Award (new award):

Chief Morrell and K-9 Doc,
Hinesburg PD

Thank you certificates were given to Ron Morrell and Sgt. Bobby Ryan for their support and assistance with the Program since Gary's absence.

The VT Veterinary Medical Association recognized K-9 Kilo (and Officer David Dewey) of the Colchester Police Department at their annual Hall of Fame awards ceremony held in Stowe. K-9 Kilo was named Hero Dog of the year. Previous recipients include K-9 Doc (and Chief Morrell) of the Hinesburg Community Police Department and K-9 Xerxes (and Corporal Ed Hunter) of VSP. See the VVMA's website at www.vtvets.org for details, photos, and history.

Other News

In June, Alan Keays of the Rutland Herald put together a great article focusing on the statewide K-9 Program, com-

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plete with several interviews, photos, and background. Alan even rode along to obtain accurate information. The entire article can be seen on our website, but some excerpts from his article are below.

When Rutland police officer Matthew Prouty goes on duty, he makes sure he has his service revolver and handcuffs. He also checks to make sure that a yellow tennis ball is in the trunk of his cruiser: It is the favorite toy of his partner, King Riley, a 3-year-old German shepherd. Whenever King Riley completes an assignment — and he usually does so, successfully — he gets to fetch the ball, which is his favorite game.

"The reward has to be worth the work," says Prouty, 32, who joined the Rutland department about five years ago after a stint in the armed forces as a military police officer. When chasing a suspect, "this dog goes a mile and a half, two miles, and he wants to know it's going to be worth it. This is all about positive reinforcement, and for Riley, (that means) chasing a tennis ball."

King Riley, a police badge attached to his collar, often gets the ball on the bounce, in the air.

Prouty, a strong-armed thrower, dresses for his job as city cop much like he did in the armed forces. On a recent spring day he is wearing black fatigues and army-style boots. "It's much more comfortable," Prouty says. "You never know when you're going to get called and have to search in the woods."

Prouty's canine partner entered the force about three years ago when the city was looking for new ways to combat the drug trade and violence that at the time was plaguing the city. The city now has two canine assistants, but there are plenty of others across Vermont.

The state's police dog corps numbers roughly three dozen, according to police officials. The Vermont State Police, with eight, has the largest contingent. Other local departments with dogs include Barre, Burlington, Colchester and Hinesburg.

As one might expect, some dogs have playful names like Scooby and Stoney. Others answer to fierce monikers like Maximus, Blade and Blitz.

Thanks, Alan, for the support! □