



# K9 COLLAR

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Long Beach Police Awards

July 23, 2010

### K-9 Unit Citation

The Police Department's K-9 Unit consists of seven handlers and their K-9 partners who are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are deployed throughout the city on all three shifts. Occasionally, they are called to assist other law enforcement agencies outside of Long Beach when needed. Four of the seven handlers are also assigned to the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit.

In addition to the ever-increasing K-9 calls, the K-9 officers assist patrol officers on calls every day and responded to over 2,200 calls for service in 2009. They were

also involved in many high profile incidents and events including visits to Long Beach by President Obama and the Dalai Lama. Their expertise in containment and searching is beyond reproach.

K-9 officers are looked upon as the department's premiere community ambassadors. Be it schools, hospitals, or community picnics, the K-9 officers and their partners can be found throughout our community positively impacting those they serve and protect. However, the biggest impact of the K-9 officers and their partners is the increase in officer safety that they bring to their fellow police officers every day. They venture into harm's way so that

the other officers do not have to be placed at risk. They are the first to go through the front doors, windows, back yards, and attics, where a suspect may be concealed in a position of advantage, lying in wait to ambush officers.

The K-9 unit is made up of truly motivated and dedicated professional officers who have a combined total of 144 years of service. Their professionalism and experience shows in their daily commitment to the safety of the citizens of Long Beach and their fellow officers.

**Sergeant Thomas Keleher**

**Corporal Robert Schroeder and Egor**

**Corporal Gregory Manis and Kotha**

**Officer Michael Parcels and Boaz**

**Officer Victor Ortiz and Ringo**

**Officer Joseph Valenzuela and Paco**

**Officer Ernest Wolocewicz and Zerek and Kazik**

**Officer Michael Wooldridge and Basco**

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**K-9 Lucy's** (Handler Bill Kift) first deployment was a 23 day deployment for the FBI to the 2001 Winter Olympics. She worked on 30 federal investigations in over 29 states. Her last case was in Anchorage, Alaska where she trailed a kidnapping suspect on a 15 day old trail back 5 miles to his house. The suspect later plead guilty to the murders and is doing 2 life terms. Lucy pioneered the use of human scent evidence in federal investigations and her work resulted in the formation of a specialized FBI K-9 unit called HSET (Human Scent Evidence Team) based out of Quantico.

**K-9 Winston** (Partner of Joe Valenzuela) conducted over 400 searches in his eight years of service that lead to the arrest of 75 felony suspects. Winston was assigned to the K-9 SWAT team and assisted in many high-risk searches. Winston also participated in numerous school presentations and demonstrations at local schools.

**K-9 Gypsy** began her career in 2001 with Detective John Williams as a Narcotics Detection K-9. From 2005-2007 Gypsy was assigned to the LA impact regional

## K-9 Recognitions

task force searching for narcotics shipped through parcel companies and narcotics attempting to be transported by individuals through the Long Beach Airport. Gypsy's alerts resulted in the seizure of over one thousand pound of narcotics and in the arrests of numerous narcotics dealers in both Southern California and the eastern portion of the United States..

**K-9 Kilo** and handler Officer Jerry Carter were a certified Gun Detection Unit assigned to the Youth Service Division. In 2009 the Long Beach Police Gang Unit requested their assistance in locating a gun that was hidden in a vehicle. Within five minutes of the search, Kilo located a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun under the left rear quarter panel of the vehicle. Kilo also located another .45 caliber handgun in the center console in the interior of another vehicle for another Gang Unit assist.

**K-9 Rudy** and handler Corporal Manis helped with hundreds of searches and was responsible for 37 felony apprehensions. Rudy was an equal opportunity searcher, catching burglars, car thieves, domestic abusers, and parolees with quickness

and enthusiasm. Rudy had a cancerous tumor removed from his front leg and returned to work for an additional year. Rudy was honored for his many years of service and for his efforts to keep officers safe, capture dangerous suspects, and establish positive contact throughout the community. Rudy served the Police Department for 8 years and enjoyed retirement until cancer took his life.

**K-9 Zerek** (Partner Officer Ernie Wolosewicz) was an eleven-year old Belgian Malinois who developed into a courageous, loyal and effective K-9 partner. Zerek worked patrol and was cross-trained by Officer Wolosewicz for narcotics. Zerek was the only cross-trained police dog used to locate narcotics. Zerek was also assigned to the SWAT team as one of four SWAT K-9's. Zerek made many good arrests and saved lives, time and money as part of an effective searching team on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He was recognized for his years of dedicated service.

## Long Beach Police Service Dog Unit

Cpl. Robert  
Schroeder  
**Egor**

Corporal Greg Manis  
**Kotha**

Officer Bill Kift  
**Brayen**

Officer Mike Parcels  
**Boaz**

Officer Ernie  
Wolosewicz  
**Zerek , Truda &  
Kazik**

Officer Mike  
Wooldridge  
**Basco**

Officer Joe Valenzuela  
**Paco**

Officer Vic Ortiz  
**Ringo**

Officer Jerry Carter,  
Jr.  
**Choco**

## President's Message

It's been rather quiet this summer on the association home front. We missed not doing the car show and demo this spring and the opportunity to meet all our supporters. We are in the early planning stages for the 2011 show in hopes of having the show again next year.

The K-9 detail was recognized with a unit citation and individual K-9 recognitions at the police service awards ceremony this summer. What a great way to acknowledge the service these K-9's and their handlers provide our community and citizens. More about that later in this edition.

We had a great turnout at the Belmont Shore car show! It was really a great day with a wonderful response from our supporters. It was nice to see so many of you there there purchasing shirts with our newest design and showing your support.

We've had a very successful financial year with many large, kind contributions and we really thank and appreciate everything all of our members and supporters do for our cause. It is with your financial support that we are able to continue purchasing the police service dogs for the City of Long Beach.

On behalf of the Association, I offer our sincere thanks to each and every one of you!

Dan Kachel  
President, LBK9OA

## CRIME CRUSHER

By Officer Jerry Carter

On Wednesday September 22nd, I assisted North Felony units with a vehicle search after officers recovered narcotics and bullets from the vehicle. The officers were unable to find a gun that they believe was hidden somewhere inside of the vehicle. I deployed K-9 Choco on an exterior and interior search of the vehicle. K-9 Choco alerted on the sunroof area of the vehicle. When Officers searched that area they were still unable to locate a gun. The officers impounded the vehicle and I told them I would search the vehicle at the tow yard on the following day.



On Thursday September 23rd, I responded to the tow yard and deployed K-9 Choco. K-9 Choco once again alerted on the sunroof of the vehicle. I moved the sunroof forward and found a .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol lodged between the roof and headliner. The gun was loaded with five rounds in the magazine and one live round in the chamber. The bullets matched the bullets that were found in the suspect's possession.

That a good boy Choco!

## Long Beach Police Officers Easter Egg Hunt

At the annual LBPOA Easter Egg Hunt, K9 Patrol Officers Joe Valenzuela (K5) and Victor Ortiz (K6) put on a K9 demonstration for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row.

The "HUNT" is the LBPOA's largest members only gathering of the year. This year's event included approximately 500 POA members and their families.

After the children gathered all of the 8000 hidden candy filled Easter eggs, they were treated to a crowd-pleasing K9 demo. On hand to watch the demo this year was Chief Jim McDonnell. The crowd enjoyed the demo and could not get enough of Vic's K9 partner Ringo!

Tom Keleher, Sergeant  
Air Support / K9 Patrol Units / K9 Detection Units  
Special Enforcement Section



## CRIME CRUSHERS

By Officer Vic Ortiz

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, Officer Victor Ortiz and his partner, K-9 Ringo, were dispatched to assist units that were chasing a suspect who had just burglarized the Best Buy on Pacific Coast Hwy and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

While en route, Officer Ortiz heard over the radio that the suspect was running towards the Marina behind Joe's Crab Shack. They later stated that the suspect had jumped into the water and was swimming from gangway to gangway. The suspect was last seen in the water between a boat slip and the gangway.

When Officer Ortiz and K-9 Ringo arrived, he noticed that there were two Police boats, two Lifeguard boats, a Lifeguard in the water, and the Police helicopter all searching for the suspect. Officer Ortiz had all the Patrol Officers go to the end of the Gangway so he could let his partner K-9 Ringo search for the suspect.

K-9 Ringo quickly alerted to Officer Ortiz that the suspect was underneath the gangway in the water. Officer Ortiz ordered the suspect out of the water

and surrender or a K-9 would be used to get him out. The suspect immediately appeared swimming underwater towards another slip. The suspect stuck his head out of the water, again Officer Ortiz told the suspect to surrender but he just went underwater. At this time Ringo saw the suspect and jumped into the water but the suspect was able to go under a boat. The suspect emerged on the other side of the boat to get air and then swam away from officers as they were telling him to surrender. K-9 Ringo jumped into the water and bit the suspect on his right shoulder. The suspect then attempted to go underwater with Ringo, submerging them both. Officer Ortiz was able to pull them up towards the surface with a long line that was attached to Ringo. Officer Ortiz then pulled them both in towards the gangway where the suspect was taken into custody.

Later, at the hospital, it was revealed that the suspect was also wanted for an armed kidnap and a robbery to a Best Buy in Signal Hill that occurred a week before.

## CONTRABAND CONCEALMENT

By Det. Greg Roberts  
LBPD, Narcotics

Working with my drug detection dog, Floyd, I get a lot of requests to search vehicles for hidden drugs. The results of these searches may be nothing, or some drug residue, or sometimes there will be a little more dope or paraphernalia that was overlooked, and sometimes we will find a large quantity of concealed drugs or money.

On September 25, 2010, Officers Fox and Brearly called me and asked for a follow up search on a vehicle that they had impounded. They had found a small bag with about 3 or 4 grams of methamphetamine, but felt this drug dealer must have more of the drug somewhere. When I got to the Tow Yard to search the vehicle, I saw that it was a pickup truck that looked like a construction worker's truck. It was full of well used, professional grade tools.

While searching the interior of the truck's cab, K-9 Floyd gave an alert on two pneumatic nailers that were among other tools, on the floorboard. I searched around the nailers and did not see anything. I put K-9 Floyd back into the cab, and he again alerted on the nailers. There did not seem to be anything unusual about the nailers,

but I now noticed a hex wrench on the floorboard with a washer welded on one end. I found that this wrench fit the bolts on the back plate of both nailers, but that the bolts were too tight to turn. I then saw a screwdriver that fit through the washer, and I was able to turn the bolts. I was uneasy about disassembling multi-hundred dollar tools, but I was committed at that point.

When I pulled off the first back plate, I instantly saw that there was a large bag of methamphetamine concealed inside of it. I immediately went to get my dog, showed him the drugs, and we played ball for the next couple of minutes.

As it turned out, both of these pneumatic nailers had been modified by removing the air pistons, and were no longer usable as tools. There was a total of about 40 grams of methamphetamine concealed in the two nailers. The drug dealer had also used baby wipes and plastic wrap on the interior of both nailers in an attempt to mask the odor of the drugs inside. It may fool a human nose, but not a K9 nose!

*Pneumatic nailer used to conceal contraband*



# LUCY

By Officer Bill Kift

I'd first like to pass along that my K9 partner Lucy passed away unexpectedly in May from a stroke that completely disabled her. She had been retired from work for about a year, but was still in good health. This caught the family off guard and came as quite a shock to everyone. Lucy was really part of our family.



Lucy was different than my other police dogs in that I picked her out as a puppy and did all of her trailing training myself. The whole family went to the breeders to pick her up when she was just 11 weeks old. I selected her out of the litter for her outgoing personality and desire to work. Who knew then that she would travel all over the country and become so well known for her work with the FBI in human trailing. She worked for over 9 years.



Lucy excelled in trailing after people. She loved the chase, but really loved the good ear massage she would get after finding someone. A good ear massage would literally bring her to her knees. Lucy completed her training in only six months and became one of the youngest working bloodhound around at only 9 months old. Her abilities soon came to the attention of the FBI after she participated in a class where bloodhounds successfully trailed to a person from pipe bomb fragments after it had exploded.

The FBI invited Lucy and myself to assist with security at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City in 2001. We were at the games for 23 days and assisted in several investigations, including a bomb that was detonated inside a power station.

Lucy worked cases throughout Southern California and assisted the FBI with Federal Investigations throughout the country. Lucy worked cases



from California to Florida to Maine to Alaska and numerous states in between. Lucy has participated in some of the largest federal investigations in history including the search for Eric Rudolph, the Anthrax letters and the DC Sniper attacks.

Lucy was called many times when investigators needed a break in the case and many times she was able to provide that break. She worked a case where a newborn baby was stabbed to death and thrown into a dumpster. Lucy followed the odor to a nearby apartment building and lead investigators to a door. After being interviewed a women inside the apartment confessed to murdering her newborn baby. Lucy's last FBI case was a kidnapping of a nurse in Anchorage, Alaska. Lucy followed the scent of the kidnapper from an ATM back to his house 15 days later. The evidence from the dogs assisted in obtaining a search warrant, which lead to a suspect being arrested. The victim was later found murdered and the suspect eventually confessed to murdering two female victims. He is currently serving life without parole.

Lucy is greatly missed and the satisfaction of helping in so many criminal investigation will never be matched.

Lucy rest in peace.



## K-9 Rudy

By Officer Greg Manis



I regret to inform you that retired K-9 Rudy passed away from cancer on August 9th, 2010, at the age of 13. Rudy retired in March 2009 after serving 8 years as a patrol service dog, working east division on both graveyard and day patrol. Rudy was Corporal Greg Manis' third K-9 partner.

Rudy had adjusted nicely to retirement spending all day with his buddy Lola, our 7 year old Boston Terrier. We often commented that Rudy was very active and looked great for his age, lying in the sun by day and sleeping next to our bed at night. Rudy loved being with us. We had just attended the Police Awards Ceremony where Rudy received an award for service at the Carpenter Center in June 2010. My wife Laurie and I attended the ceremony and were proud of the recognition the City of Long Beach extended to our beloved dog for the eight years he protected me and fellow officers in the field.

One week later we were concerned as he became ill, was not able to keep any food down and was acting lethargic. I took him to our Vet, Crossroads for an evaluation. Because of the hard work of

the board members of the K9 Officers Association, and the generosity of the members of the association, we can offer the retired K-9's the best care available. Several tests were done, and an Ultrasound found a dark area around his intestines. Dr. Kelly Blackwood decided that exploratory surgery was the only option. With that, Rudy was on the operating table within the next hour. Dr. Blackwood called me and told me that Rudy had an avocado sized tumor that was attached to his large intestines, which she removed along with one foot of intestines. Samples of the tumor and a lymph node that was inflamed were packaged and sent to Colorado State University for evaluation. Rudy was sewn up and spent 3 days recovering from the surgery. Each day Laurie and I went to visit Rudy and each day he tried to sneak out with us as we left. After the 3 days of recovery Rudy was sent home.

Lola was very excited to see him as he exited the car at home. Lola was eight weeks old when she met Rudy and had not been apart from him before. Within a week Rudy was acting like his old self and it appeared that all was good. Dr. Blackwood called and told me that the tumor came back malignant and that I needed to see an oncologist. I got off the phone and told my wife who was very upset but very optimistic. I made an appointment and had the consultation with the oncologist. Based on the type and location of the tumor the oncologist told me that he had about two months to live, that

a new tumor would grow back, and that chemotherapy would only extend his life from two months to three or four months and I didn't want to put Rudy through that for an extra month. I was shocked and immediately willed up just as I am now writing this story. I was devastated and I knew the phone call I was about to make would be even harder, because of the bond my wife had with Rudy. My fears were correct.

When I got home we as a family had time to reflect, and thanks to Dr. Blackwood we would get at least two months more to prepare and spoil him even more. We were very thankful for that time. One week shy of the two month mark that the Oncologist had estimated, Rudy began having the exact same symptoms which made him sick the first



time and the next day 8-9-10, I was forced to put my partner down. It was very difficult thing for me to do but I knew there were no more options and I couldn't see him being in pain. As he closed his eyes for the last time it was me he saw giving him his last kiss on his cheek and saying I love you buddy.

I want to again thank all of you who support the Long Beach K-9 Officers Association for helping my family and giving my family time to properly say good-bye to my loyal K9 partner.

### K9 FIELD MEDICS

By Ernie Wolosewicz

Over the last ten years our K-9 detail has been working hard to integrate with our SWAT team. The relationship we have built is strong, and our role on the team has grown. Our K-9 partners are used on almost all entries and on all perimeters.

Deployment in a SWAT environment is inherently more dangerous, the possibility of the K-9 being hurt during the deployment is greater. We have already lost a courageous K-9 partner (Ranger) during a shooting on a

SWAT deployment. Ranger saved many lives that night and gave his own.

Recently the SWAT team started a program where they are integrating Emergency Medical Technicians. The idea is to have the EMT's deploy with the SWAT team in case of injuries to a team member. The EMT's could provide immediate medical attention prior to being transported out.

On our last search warrant I spoke to the EMT's and asked them how practical it would be for

them to provide first aid to our K-9's in the event of an injury. The EMT's said it would not be very difficult and added much of what they carried could be used on a dog.

We scheduled a training day with Kelly Blackwood, our contract vet, and four SWAT EMT's went for several hours of training. Upon completion we met with the EMT's and they discussed their new capabilities with us. They are able to do many things to help save our partners. They can start fluids through an IV, monitor their heart rate with a portable EKG, and

treat many other wounds and breaks.

This new relationship and ability will go far in saving our K-9 partners and I hope it will continue to grow. It is long overdue and I am thankful for our firemen in having an open mind about the project.



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Individual \$35.00/yr      Corporate \$100.00/yr

Please accept my application for membership in the Long Beach K-9 Officers Association. Appropriate payment for membership has been enclosed.

This is a RENEWAL application, please expedite. Appropriate payment enclosed.

This is a DONATION, Please put to good use for the K-9 Program! Donation amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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