



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

K-9 Unit Receives Specialized Equipment Donated by Local Business Franchises, Dogtopia

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA . . . The Prince William County Police K-9 Unit now has specialized equipment that will make it easier for aerial police support to coordinate with the fast-moving canine teams during tracks of criminal subjects, thanks to the owners of two Dogtopia franchises and dozens of people who gave of their time or money to help the K-9 Unit.

Dogtopia – <http://dogdaycare2.reachlocal.net/k9support.php> a business with locations in Woodbridge and the Manassas area – donated a canine ballistic vest, a training sleeve and cuffs, and strobe lights for each dog-and-handler team. The presentation was held today at 3 p.m. in the Gar-Field Station in Woodbridge.

“Our franchiser has a nonprofit group called Canine Support that raises funds for dogs used in the military and in public-safety,” said Suzanne Fitzpatrick, a representative of the Dogtopia location in Manassas. She and Amber Sutton, a representative of the Dogtopia location in Woodbridge, said they decided to hold a fundraiser for the Prince William County Police Department’s K-9 Unit.

So last July, the two businesses hosted a “dog wash” with a suggested donation of \$10 “Once people knew that it was to help the Police Department, they gave so much more than the suggested donation,” Ms. Fitzpatrick said. Added Ms. Sutton: “We had lots of people volunteer their time to help wash dogs, which was nice to see.”

The two locations raised enough money from the dog washes to purchase a canine ballistic vest for Koda, a dog who specializes in explosives detection; a new training sleeve and several cuffs that are used by the entire K-9 Unit during training exercises and demonstrations; and strobe lights used by the handlers so that police helicopters involved in tracking criminal subjects can maintain visual contact with the canine teams and relay that information to other police officers working such incidents.

“We greatly appreciate everything that Dogtopia did in helping the Unit,” said First Sergeant Greg Pass, the K-9 Unit supervisor. “We also thank those individuals who brought their pets out in support of us.”

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