



Jane Heisler, Director of Public Affairs: 503-697-6573

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Contact: Sgt. John Brent
503-635-0253

POLICE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW K9 UNIT

LAKE OSWEGO - December 5, 2007 marked the return of the Lake Oswego Police Department's K9 Unit with the arrival of K9's Enzo vom Rabenturm, and Ilkay "Kai" vom Schmausenbuck. Both are 3 year old German Shepherd's from Germany. The Lake Oswego Police Department has not had a K9 Unit since 2003.

Officer Bryan McMahon and Officer Dawn Walker were selected as handlers. Officer Walker will be handling Enzo, a sable German Shepherd with longer hair. Officer Walker has been with the Lake Oswego Police Department for 3 ½ years. Prior to that she was a Deputy with the Spokane County Sheriff's Department. Officer McMahon will be handling Kai, a standard black and tan German Shepherd. Officer McMahon has been with the Lake Oswego Police Department for 9 years.

The K9's have been with their handlers for approximately 2 weeks working on bonding and socialization. Beginning the first week of January, both K9 teams will be attending a 10 week academy sponsored by the Hillsboro Police Department. This training will bring both K9 Units in line with state certification. The K9 teams should be on the streets of Lake Oswego by March 2008.

K9 teams increase suspect apprehensions with their tracking ability, and can also defuse a stressful situation with mere presence. K9 teams also provide an addition level of protection when searching for suspects in buildings or vegetation. K9's can alert officers to a suspect's located, and if necessary, apprehend the suspect. Therefore, K9's reduce the number of officer injuries that occur when attempting to apprehend suspects. The K9 teams will also assist in public education programs and will often be seen at local events and schools.

For more information about Lake Oswego Police Department's K9 Unit, contact Sergeant John Brent at 503-635-0253.

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