



CITY OF REDDING

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1313 California Street, Redding, CA 96001-3396

530.225.4200 FAX 530.225.4553

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Peter T. Hansen, Chief of Police
530-225-4211 www.reddingpolice.org

NEW POLICE CANINE UNIT

The Redding Police Department is proud to announce the addition of their newest canine team. Officer Jeff Schmidt and Canine Yari, a 20-month-old German shepherd, joined the three existing canine teams currently working for the department. The newest canine is trained to assist with tracking, officer safety, and the apprehension of dangerous suspects, with the intent to train Yari in the future for drug detection.

This past year, our drug detection dog, Moses, was retired from service. Once the department determined there was a need to replace this dog, we began the process by selecting a handler. Officer Schmidt was chosen from a pool of candidates and was assigned to the unit on April 27, 2009. Yari was then purchased from the trainer currently used by the department, Witmer-Tyson Imports of Menlo Park, California. The final phase was training the team to work together. Officer Schmidt and Canine Yari successfully completed a four-week patrol canine course.

Over the past eight months, residents and businesses in our community have donated to the Redding Police Canine Unit for the purchase of an additional canine. Canine Yari and his basic training were paid for solely by these community donations, which is approximately \$13,000. Without the generous donations, the Redding Police Department would have had difficulty purchasing this new canine.

The Redding Police Department would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to those community members and businesses who donated to and/or funds raised for the Canine Unit.

North State Ice, Inc.
Mr. Mike Mills (Carl' Jr.)
SHASCOM Employees Association
Mr. John Kelbaugh
Ms. Kellie Jokels
Mr. & Mrs. David Taner
Mr. Donald Belkin
Ms. Jennifer Singelton
Dr. Gisela Okonski

Dr. Richard Gerlic
Mr. Joe Gazzigli
Lawrence & Judy Johnson
Mr. Brad Jackson
Northern California Veterinary Medical Association
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Limond
Mr. John Dougherty
Sunrise Rotary of Redding
Leadership Redding

The department continues to receive contributions from the community for the Canine Unit and these donations will be used for training, purchase of equipment, such as canine bulletproof vests, and potentially additional canines.

Please join us for a public demonstration showcasing our new canine team on:

September 2, 2009, at 5:30 pm
Lake Redding Park -- Pavilion Area
(In the grassy area next to the covered barbecue area)

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