

Media Advisory:

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO RECEIVE DONATION TO HELP
"TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME"**

Kitsap County Sheriff Steve Boyer, along with K-9 Deputies "Bo," "Andor" and "Ryker," will be in the spotlight when they step forward, 'front & center,' to accept a sizeable donation from the Peninsula Dog Fanciers on Thursday, July 24, 2003, during the club's regular meeting.

The brief ceremony is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Sheridan Community Center, 680 Lebo Blvd., Bremerton.

The donation is being made by the club to help the Sheriff's Office to 'hire' a new K-9 police patrol dog. The new K-9, once trained, certified and on patrol, will relieve Deputy K-9 "Andor" who will retire after nearly seven years active law enforcement patrol operations.

"I am extremely proud of how citizens and numerous organizational groups within the county continue to take up the challenge of supporting our mission," said Sheriff Boyer. "This is community involvement, in support and recognition of its local law enforcement agency, at its best.

"I am deeply grateful to the Peninsula Dog Fanciers for recognizing the many facets of the tasks of law enforcement," added Sheriff Boyer. "This very generous donation will provide the means for the Sheriff's Office to add another member of the law enforcement team. Our K-9 patrol dogs are fully involved members of the Sheriff's Office team. They are also members of our family, too. While we cannot provide them with pay raises, retirement pensions and the like, we can provide them with the best possible training, veterinary care and protective equipment that is available."

K-9 “Andor” is a nine-year old Belgian Malinois. He was born in The Netherlands and obtained from Makor Kennels, Napa Valley, California. K-9 “Andor” joined the Sheriff’s Office in the fall of 1996 after selection by departmental K-9 officers. He underwent training and was certified for patrol operations in December. Since then, K-9 “Andor” has been credited with more than 180 suspect apprehensions.

After training and certification of the new K-9 patrol dog, K-9 “Andor” will formally retire. He will continue to reside with his handler, Sheriff’s Sgt. Jon Hytinen, during his retirement years.

A coordinated search and selection process for the new K-9 police dog is now underway. Likewise, the Sheriff’s Office is also conducting a selection process for a deputy K-9 handler. Once selected, the officer will team-up with his/her newly hired partner and both will undergo a stringent curriculum of more than 390 hours of training for both the handler and the K-9.

The Washington State Police K-9 Association provides certification of the K-9 and handler in police patrol operations. Upon completion of initial training and certification, KCSO K-9s and their handlers continue to hone their skills, generally on a weekly basis, involving a variety of scenarios in which the K-9s may be employed. Training is often “joint” in nature, to include K-9s from other law enforcement agencies within the West Sound area.

Media representatives are welcome to attend the ceremony.

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