



OFFICE OF
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KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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Sheriff to Introduce Newest K-9 Recruit to County

Port Orchard, Wash. -- During a brief ceremony tomorrow (Sat., March 20), Sheriff Steve Boyer will present his newest 'recruit deputy' to the citizens of Kitsap County.

Event: Peninsula Dog Show, sponsored by the Peninsula Dog Fancier's Club of Kitsap County.

Time & date: Between 2:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Saturday, March 20. The ceremony will be held just prior to the main event: the 'Best of Show' competition.

Location: Kitsap Pavilion, Kitsap County Fairgrounds, intersection of NW Fairgrounds Road & Nels Nelson Road, NW, Central Kitsap. The dog show will run from Friday, March 19 through Sunday, March 21.

Involved:

New 'recruit' deputy: K-9 "Elco," age: 18 months.

Elco is a male German Shepherd born in Germany. He was acquired through the Kraftwerk Kennels of Rochester, WA. Elco was "hired" by Kitsap County Sheriff's Office on Nov. 4, 2003. He weighs in, presently, at more than 75 lbs.

Elco commenced general service dog/police patrol operations training in early January. He is scheduled to complete his initial training next week, with some 400 hours of "hands-on" field training for both himself and his handler.

The Washington State Police K-9 Association provides certification of Kitsap County Sheriff's Office K-9 dogs, and their handlers, in police patrol operations. Training for KCSO K-9s and handlers is continuous, generally on a weekly basis, or more frequent, involving a variety of scenarios in which K-9s may be employed. Training is often "joint" in nature, involving K-9s from Bremerton Police Department as well as other West Sound law enforcement agencies.

Handler: Deputy Alan Langguth. Following an extensive application and interview process, Deputy Langguth was selected as the Sheriff's Office newest K-9 handler. He began his K-9 handler training in conjunction with the start of Elco's training.

Deputy Langguth, a graduate of South Kitsap High School, holds a bachelor's degree from Pacific Lutheran University. He has a more than five years experience in law enforcement, with

three years service with Franklin County Sheriff's Office and 30 months with Kitsap County Sheriff's Office. Elco will reside with Deputy Langguth and his family.

Elco's service with KCSO would not have been possible without a sizeable monetary donation provided by the Peninsula Dog Fancier's Club of Kitsap County.

"I am proud of how citizens and various organizational groups with 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."

Once certified, and after a period of time gaining experience on the street, K-9 Elco will relieve the Sheriff's senior police dog, K-9 Andor, a 10 year-old Belgian Malinois. With the addition of K-9 Elco, K-9 Andor will be retired from police service to live his retirement years with his handler, Sheriff's Sgt. Jon Hytinen.

"I am deeply grateful to the Peninsula Dog Fancier's for recognizing the many facets of the tasks of law enforcement," added Sheriff Boyer. "Their very generous donation provided the means for the Sheriff's Office to add another member of the law enforcement team, when our budget could not accommodate the financial outlay for a new police dog at this point in time.

"Our K-9 patrol dogs are fully involved members of the Sheriff's Office team. They are 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."

The Peninsula Dog Fancier's Club presented their donation to the Sheriff's Office last summer, allowing time for Sheriff's K-9 trainers to conduct a thorough search for a new K-9 recruit candidate. Once this process was complete, and Elco identified as a potential recruit last fall, the Sheriff's Office obtained Elco from Kraftwerk Kennels of Rochester. A gradual indoctrination process was begun, allowing Elco to become used to riding in a patrol car and exposed to being around unfamiliar people.

Elco began his formalized training program on Jan. 10. He will complete his training next week; it is expected that Elco and his handler will be certified for police patrol operations by the Washington State Police K-9 Association.

Elco will then be ready to go to work, formally assigned to Sheriff's patrol operations to do his part to "take a bite out of crime."

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