



OFFICE OF  
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# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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For immediate release:  
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Thursday, Aug. 25, 2005

## Sheriff's Office K-9 death and K-9 injury

**Port Orchard, Wash.** -- Two separate internal announcements concerning the Sheriff's Office K-9 unit rippled through the ranks of patrol deputies, detectives and support staff today, with the death notice of the Sheriff's senior police dog, K-9 "Andor," and an injury to K-9 "Ryker."

### K-9 Andor

K-9 Andor, a 10 year-old Belgian Malinois (almost 11), was euthanized yesterday when it was diagnosed that he was suffering from prostate cancer that had progressed to an advanced stage.

Sgt. Jon Hytinen was Andor's handler for his entire law enforcement career with the Sheriff's Office. Andor lived with Sgt. Hytinen and his family.

Andor was born in The Netherlands and was obtained from the Makor Kennels, Napa Valley, Calif., in the fall of 1996, after selection by Sheriff's K-9 deputies. He trained for three months and was placed into service as a patrol K-9 that December. Since then Andor has been credited with more than 200 suspect arrests during his career.

With the addition of K-9 "Elco" to the Sheriff's K-9 unit in March 2004, Andor was slated for full retirement from active patrol operations; however he was retained in a reserve capacity and still performed K-9 general service duties, as needed, until the unexpected diagnosis of his illness.

### K-9 Ryker

During a public Sheriff's K-9 demonstration yesterday afternoon at the Kitsap County Fair, K-9 Ryker was injured during a pursuit and hold exercise involving an off-duty deputy portraying the role of the quarry or suspect.

Ryker leaped and struck the deputy's leg and then fell, injuring his right front paw. Ryker was transported to Animal Hospital of Central Kitsap on Central Valley Road NE, Poulsbo (24 hr. emergency veterinary care), for medical evaluation and treatment.

The medical evaluation determined that Ryker sustained soft tissue damage to his right front paw without any bone fracture. The injury is not considered life threatening or incapacitating.

K-9 Ryker, a 5 year-old German Shepherd, was born in Ochtrup, Germany. He was obtained from Kraftwerk K-9 Kamp, Rochester, Wash., in November 2001 and, following extensive police dog training, was certified for patrol operations in March 2002. His handler is Deputy Aaron Baker.

Ryker is currently on "light duty" for now while he recuperates; he is expected to return to full duty within 10 days to two weeks.

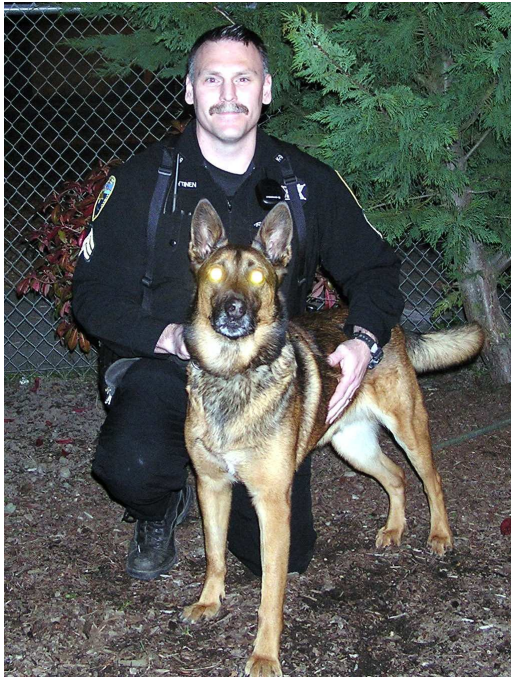
### **Additional**

The initial training of K-9 dogs for police employment involves a minimum of 390 hours of actual field training for both the K-9 and the handler. The Washington State Police K-9 Association provides certification of the K-9 and handler in police patrol operations.

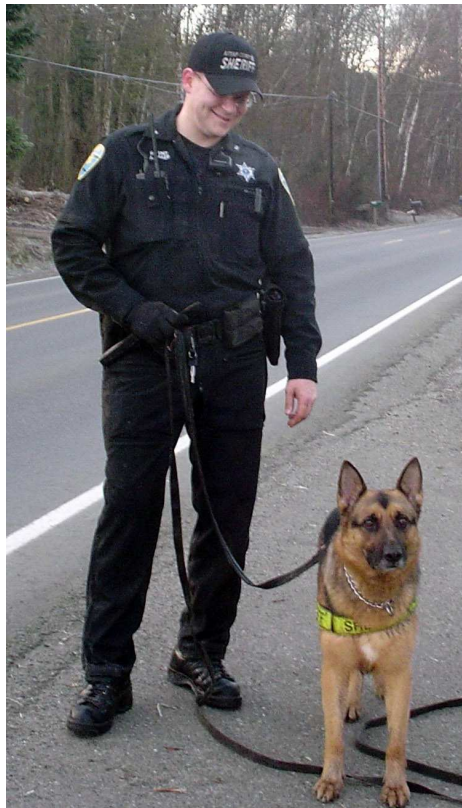
Training for Sheriff's Office K-9s and handlers is continuous, generally on a weekly basis, or more frequent, involving a variety of scenarios in which K-9s may be employed. Training is often joint in nature, involving K-9s from Bremerton Police Department as well as other West Sound law enforcement agencies.

Note: See photographs below.

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**Sgt. Jon Hytinen and K-9 Andor**



**Deputy Aaron Baker and K-9 Ryker**