

New Britain Police Department's K9 Pupperoni to get body armor



New Britain Police Department's K9 Pupperoni will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Pupperoni's vest is sponsored by a fundraiser hosted by Protectors of Animals, Inc. and will be embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Protectors of Animals". Delivery is expected within eight to ten weeks.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton, MA whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K9 officers. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 2,800 protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a cost of over 2.4 million dollars.

The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months of age. New K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9 is \$950.00. Each vest has a value between \$1,744 – \$2,283 and a five-year warranty, and an average weight of 4-5 lbs. There is an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States. For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts tax-deductible donations of any denomination at www.vik9s.org or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.

K9 Officer Ray Ouellette and K9 Pup have been certified and serving the great city of New Britain, CT for 2 ½ years. K9 Pup is a 4 year old sable colored German Sheppard and is certified through NPWDA/CPWDA. K9 Pup is certified for Patrol work which consists of Tracking, Evidence Recovery and Apprehensions. K9 Pup is a very loyal and positive canine with a great personality as well as high drive for police work. K9 Pup has assisted in numerous, suspect/EDP finds, and evidence recovery in his short 2 ½ years of service.