



KRONENWETTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Community Focused, People First"

Established 2004

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PRESS RELEASE

Kronenwetter Police Department K-9 Officer "Chip" passes away

The Kronenwetter Police Department is very saddened to announce the death of K-9 Officer "Chip", the departments only K-9.

K-9 "Chip" was a Belgian Malinois (pronounced Mal-in-wah) born on June 29, 2008 and trained through the Little Rock K-9 Academy in Little Rock, Arkansas. The purchase of K-9 "Chip" was made possible through a 2010 Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance – Small Police Agency Crime Initiative grant. His handler, Officer Luis Lopes-Serrao, attended two weeks of training at the K-9 academy in early 2010 and their first shift together was June 22, 2010.

K-9 "Chip" was a dual-purpose patrol dog trained in searching for street drugs, tracking fleeing suspects and missing persons, searching buildings for persons, suspect apprehension, handler protection, evidence recovery and more. Additionally, he was a valuable member to the family of his handler, Officer Lopes-Serrao, who spent every shift with him at work but also cared for him at his home. He was not only a valuable asset to our agency, but was also often involved in assisting outside agencies in the area as well.

On March 11, 2012 K-9 "Chip" began to display some difficulty breathing and a fever. He was initially treated at the Central Wisconsin Animal Emergency Center in Kronenwetter but subsequently transported to the Fox Valley Animal Referral Center in Appleton and placed into the Intensive Care Unit for treatment. Further examinations and an x-ray found a suspected severe case of Blastomycosis. His conditioned worsened through the night and at 1:15 AM on March 12, 2012 a difficult decision was made to humanly euthanize K-9 "Chip" and end his suffering.

A few of his most notable deployments were on September 15, 2010 when the team was asked to assist the Marathon County Sheriff's Dept in searching for an armed robbery suspect. The suspect, Larry London of Kronenwetter, had committed a robbery in the Town of Rib Mountain and then fled officers into a wooded area in the Town of Mosinee. The suspect was located hiding deep in a wooded area by K-9 "Chip" and he was taken into custody without incident. On September 11, 2011 K-9 "Chip" was again asked to assist the Marathon County Sheriff's Department in searching for Joel Olszewski who had fled the scene of an injury rollover crash in the Town of Knowlton. Olszewski, who was wanted by Kronenwetter PD at the time, was found by K-9 "Chip" unresponsive about 100 yards from the scene of the crash in some tall brush.

No decision has been made at this time in regard to the future of the K-9 program.

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