

Kendall County Sheriff's Office K9 Miko to get Body Armor

Kendall County Sheriff's Office K9 Miko will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Miko's vest is sponsored by Lincolnwood Training Club for German Shepherd Dogs of IL and will be embroidered with the sentiment "Donated by Lincolnwood Training Club for German Shepherd Dogs". 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 2,400 protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a cost of over 2.1 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 law enforcement K9 is \$1,050.00. Each vest has a value between \$1,795 – \$2,234 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 Page 2 of 2 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.

Deputy Jason Larsen, a 10 year veteran of the Kendall County Sheriff's Office, teamed up with his Canine partner Miko, a 2 year old Belgian Malinois from Poland, in October 2016 when they underwent a rigorous 10 week training program together. Deputy Larsen and Canine Miko are certified through Macon County Sheriff's Office K9 Academy in Decatur for both Police Service and Narcotics Detection.

The Kendall County Sheriff's Office is proud and grateful to receive this donation, "Miko's new protective vest adds another layer of security to keep him safe. It will help both Deputy Larsen and Miko perform their job safer and more efficiently," said Sheriff Dwight Baird."