





## Ventura County Sheriff's K-9 Search and Rescue Team

The Ventura County Sheriff's K-9 Search and Rescue Team is made up of dedicated volunteers who assist local, state, and federal agencies in the search for and recovery of lost and missing persons. All members are on-call 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week. The K-9 team is trained in three different types of search discipline... Area Search, Trailing, and Human Remains Detection. Dogs and handlers undergo rigorous training and must pass a yearly certification test before being mission ready on deployment status.

K-9 search team members are all volunteers and are not compensated for their work. They spend countless hours in supervised training sessions, as well as individual practice and professional training workshops throughout the United States. Each handler invests their own time, money, energy, and love into these dogs... and when the time comes, unselfishly share their special skills for the benefit of others. All expenses are the responsibility of the handler, including: dog food, medical, housing, equipment, training, and the purchase of their canine partner.

The Ventura County Sheriff's K-9 Search and Rescue Team is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

[www.vcsark9.org](http://www.vcsark9.org)



## National Police Dog Foundation

It is the mission of the National Police Dog Foundation to provide for the purchase, training, and veterinary care of working and retired K-9s.

In 1998 the Ventura Police Dog Foundation began as a local group helping to fund the K-9 program for the City of Ventura, CA. Ventura Police Department Lt. Dave Inglis and veterinarian Dr. Ron Dalzell, along with a few volunteers, realized the need for a civilian organization to help fund K-9 units. In addition, many cities in Ventura County lacked budgets to fund their K-9 programs in their entirety, so the foundation expanded and became the Police Dog Foundation. Not only did police departments lack the initial funds to purchase and train a dog, many did not have a budget for serious medical issues. This continues to be the same circumstance today throughout the US, so the foundation expanded again and became the National Police Dog Foundation.

The National Police Dog Foundation began to support K-9 units throughout the United States in 2004. We currently assist law enforcement agencies through funding to achieve their goals of providing a K-9 unit with quality police dogs and training. In addition, the NPDF has also incorporated a network of veterinarians to help assist agencies with providing for maintenance care and possible emergencies as well as costly medical situations that might occur during their active service career. Equally important is to provide continued care for the police service dog after it retires. Our network of veterinarians includes some of the country's most valued specialists in many varying areas of health care.

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## Ventura County Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit

The Ventura County Sheriff's Department has had a full time continuously operating canine unit since 1986. The purchase of these canines is solely funded by private donations from citizens. Since then the canine unit has grown to six working K-9 teams.

The K-9 teams are assigned to the patrol division within the Sheriff's Department and there is a K-9 team assigned to each of the six stations the Sheriff's Department has throughout the county, which include the contract cities of Ojai, Fillmore, Camarillo, Moorpark and Thousand Oaks.

The current patrol canines are German Shepherds which are imported from European countries. The untrained patrol canine cost is approximately \$8,000 - \$9,000. The canines that are purchased are normally 16 to 24 months old.

The canines help us do our job safer and faster than we would be able to do without them. The canines save the department hundreds if not thousands of man-hours every year. The canines freely and willingly go into areas officers are not able to. We rely on the canines to use their special abilities to help us locate suspects, evidence, narcotics or missing people quickly.

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