

Scranton Police Department K-9 Unit



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January 2010 marks the official retirement of (8) year old Police K-9 BRIX. BRIX has provided dedicated service to the Scranton Police Department and the residents of the city of Scranton. BRIX is a German Shepherd purchased by the department and imported for police service from Czechoslovakia. BRIX joined the department in 2003 and has assisted in hundreds of arrests, and narcotic seizures throughout his career.

Police K-9 BRIX was not only a hard working dedicated street officer; he was also an outstanding public relations representative for the Scranton Police. Because of his even keeled temperament and all around friendliness, he was able to participant in community activities to include School demonstrations, DARE Programs, Annual National Night Out and other related public services and events. Children loved BRIX and his demonstrations will be truly missed.

BRIX retires to his home with his partner, Detective James Pappas, to live out the rest of his days. Though the work partnership is over, the friendship continues to grow at home. He has transitioned to life at home with his loving family.

BRIX's TRAINING

Police K-9 BRIX has received (560) hours of basic patrol training consisting of basic obedience, building searches, tracking, evidence searches, agility training, and criminal apprehension & protection training. This training was completed at the Philadelphia Police Department K-9 Facility, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. BRIX had received daily ongoing

maintenance training since his graduation from the K-9 Police Academy in 2003.

In addition, BRIX has received (400) hours of basic training in the detection of marijuana, hashish, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and ecstasy, at the Philadelphia Police Department K-9 Training Facility. Included in this training was continual testing of the dog's abilities. BRIX had been certified in the detection of narcotics yearly by the UNITED STATES POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION and the EASTERN Police Canine Association. BRIX has met the standards and achieved the desired rating of excellence during certifications annually since 2003.

Police K-9 BRIX has also received yearly training in Advanced K-9 Handler and Tactics training and was an active member of the Scranton Police's SPECIAL OPERATION GROUP.

Listed below are some memorable incidents that Police K-9 "BRIX" has been involved since his in service date.

1.) On Tuesday 13 January 2004, I was contacted by the officers of the Special Investigations Division to assist with locating a vehicle. This vehicle was suspected in the delivery of a controlled substance and visual contact and surveillance by undercover officers had been lost. A description of the vehicle was given to this officer and its last known location. I was able to locate the vehicle a short time later and conducted a routine traffic stop after observing a minor motor vehicle violation (stop sign). Upon interviewing the driver, consent was given to search the vehicle. I subsequently utilized my Police Service Dog, "BRIX" to conduct a narcotics search of the vehicle. The canine began his search; once he was in the passenger compartment of the vehicle, he gave a positive alert to the presence of narcotics on the center console area near the armrest. It was at this time that I rewarded the canine and placed him back in the patrol cruiser. I then returned to the suspicious area and conducted a hand search of this area. I lifted up the armrest and noticed that a screw had been missing from the panel that holds the storage compartment within the armrest. When I looked at the adjacent screw, it appeared to be extremely worn out, as if it had been tightened and re-tightened several times. I was able to remove several screws from this area and actually removed the whole center console component. Underneath, there was a hidden compartment/void area where I located and recovered 156 bags of heroin, 9 pills of methadone, and \$8,380.00 in U.S. currency. The successful results of the search may have never been accomplished without the efforts of K-9 BRIX. (Incident Report # 04-01917)

2.) On 10 August 2005, I was assisting the Special Investigations division with the execution of a search warrant on a particular residence. Prior to entry teams making entry into the home, several of the suspects fled on foot towards a convenient mart. I encountered the suspects along with Police Service Dog "BRIX and another officer in the parking lot of a nearby gas station. We were able to detain these suspects and took them into custody. In doing so, one suspect attempted to dispose evidence (marijuana) into a trash can. Once all suspects were secure, I utilized the canine to search the area and path that the suspects had taken from the house. During this search, the canine located and recovered a magazine from a .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol containing several bullets lying in the weeds. At this

time, I then assisted in the execution of the search warrant at the residence. I utilized the canine for a narcotics search of an empty attic on the third floor of the home. In this attic, the canine displayed positive indications for the presence of narcotics on the floorboards in one corner of the attic. Upon searching this area, I located and recovered 87 bags of heroin hidden underneath the floorboards. In addition, a black Beretta .380 semi-automatic pistol with the magazine missing, was located within a second floor bedroom. The successful results of this warrant service can be attributed to location of hidden evidence by the Police Service Dog. (Incident Report # 05-37861)

3.) On 04 August 2005, I was assisting the Special Investigations Division with the execution of a search warrant on a particular residence. Prior to execution of this warrant, we were advised by surveillance that the main suspect in the investigation had just pulled up in front of the target home, in a vehicle. I was advised to conduct a traffic stop of this vehicle if it left the area. The vehicle did indeed leave the area. When I initiated a stop of this vehicle, a high speed pursuit ensued. As I pursued this vehicle, I observed the suspect tossing narcotics out of the driver's side window. The vehicle eventually became immobile and the suspect then fled on foot from the area. I was able to apprehend him a block away. I then responded back to the search warrant residence and utilized the canine for a narcotics search. In a bedroom closet, the canine attempted to stand on his hind legs and scented the air above him. I then brought him out of the closet and re-introduced this area. Again he stood on his hind legs, raising his nose to the ceiling. As I inspected this area, I noticed a crawl space with a lid constructed in the ceiling. When I removed this lid, I found several loose rocks of crack cocaine in a plastic bag in addition to 100 bags of heroin. I then instructed the canine to continue to search the rest of the room. He then gave a positive alert to a shelf area which had a small container on top of it. In this container, I found 30 more bags of heroin. This was another example of a successful find for K-9 "BRIX". (Incident Report # 04-35962)

4.) On 30 May 2004, I observed a stolen vehicle in the south-side section of the city of Scranton. I was traveling east on Birch Street when I noticed the suspect parking the vehicle near the intersection of S. Irving Avenue. I exited my patrol cruiser and ordered the suspect to get on the ground in addition to shouting "show me your hands." The suspect refused to comply with all verbal commands and attempted to flee on foot. It was at this time that that I gave chase. I was able to grab the suspect a short distance from my patrol vehicle. As I grabbed him I stated "Get on the ground, Get on the ground!" He refused and became extremely combative, and was actually fighting with me. I struggled with him and ordered him to put his hands behind his back several times. The suspect was actively resisting arrest and as I struggled with him he shoved me several times. It was at this time that Police K-9 "BRIX" exited the patrol cruiser and apprehended the suspect in the left shoulder area. BRIX is a trained police service dog and acted appropriately. He exited the patrol vehicle and made an apprehension of a suspect in protection of his handler, a police officer. The suspect posed an immediate threat to my safety, he would not comply with verbal commands given, and it was unknown if he had a weapon. I had no back up officers with me at the time and the suspect was actively resisting arrest and attempting to evade apprehension by flight. BRIX acted appropriately in protection of this officer. The suspect immediately surrendered upon apprehension by the canine. (Incident Report # 04-25488)

5.) On 07 October 2006, Police K-9 "BRIX" competed in the Lackawanna County Chiefs of Police Annual K-9 Trials, competing in several different competitive events. There were approximately 20 other canine teams from Police departments throughout Northeast Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. We finished in 1st place in the obstacle/ agility course, 2nd place in the criminal apprehension/protection event, and 3rd place in the obedience event. These top three finishes in three separate events enabled us to take the overall "TOP DOG" Award for the entire competition.

6.) In October 2007, in defending his title from the previous year, Police K-9 BRIX again competed in the Lackawanna County Chiefs of Police Association Annual K-9 Trials. Upon completion of all competitive events, Police K-9 BRIX again received the overall "TOP DOG" Award for the entire competition.

In Addition, Police K-9 BRIX has also competed in State Competitions hosted by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police K-9 Trials to include the following finishes:

2004 PA Chiefs of Police (regionals) 1st Place
2004 PA Chiefs of Police (States) 3rd place

BRIX's career has been a great representation of the Scranton Police Department demonstrating how valuable of an asset Police Service Dog, "BRIX" has been to the Scranton Police Department and the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Detective James Pappas #628