

Sheriffs K-9 Programs & Partnerships

For more than 100 years, dogs have been part of law enforcement activities in the United States. Sheriff's Office K-9 units and handlers work closely with their dogs to find missing persons, enforce laws, and apprehend criminals. With relatively few positions available, an assignment to the canine unit is a highly coveted position and requires special skill and great dedication on the part of the dog and its handler.

There are typically four types of K-9 deputies –

- **Apprehension** – tracking down and catching criminals who flee.
- **Detection** – Detecting drugs, explosives, and evidence of a crime scene.
- **Search and Rescue** – Identifying lost or kidnapped victims.
- **Patrol** – Searching in buildings and areas to identify the criminals.

Bloodhounds, German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois and Labradors are just some of the typical breeds for K-9s.

K-9 Deputy handlers frequently work nights and weekends and must be ready to respond to emergency situations with little or no notice. **The handler is always responsible for the dog, as the dog lives with the deputy and his/her**

family during non-working hours.

K-9's and their handlers must undergo extensive training before they are ready to handle official law enforcement duties. Once completed, both handlers and their K-9s graduate and are ready for duty!



Wabash Co. Sheriff's Office: K-9 Kiki's first official day on the job.

Kiki received tremendous accolades from her Tennessee trainers! Great job Kiki & Deputy Cheadle you did ok too!



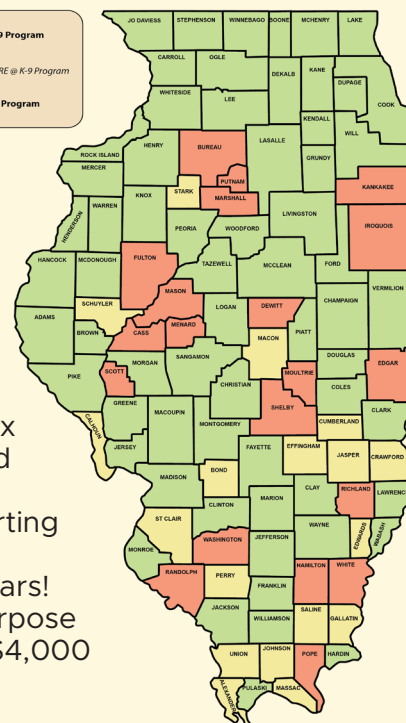
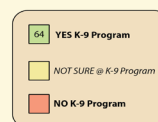
Lake Co. Sheriff's Office: K-9 DAX DOES IT AGAIN!

K9 Dax responded to assist a local agency in Cook County for an individual who fled from a stolen car, and was possibly in possession of a weapon. K9 Dax arrived, conducted a brief track, and found the man hiding in a shed behind a residence. The man was arrested by the local PD, and they were working on obtain charges. #CantHideFromLCSOK9s

63% of the 102 Illinois County Sheriff's Offices host a K-9 program with anywhere from 1-5 dogs.

Deputy and K-9 do more than just wear the same badge. They must trust each other since they're often putting their lives in each other's hands, **or in this case... paws!**

As important as K-9s can be to a Sheriff's Office operation, it can be a struggle to provide the service due to the cost involved in purchasing the dogs, training them and their handlers, equipment, vet care, housing, feeding the animals, and outfitting patrol vehicles to accommodate a dog.



Most K-9s have a career of only about six years, so Sheriff's need to build in the attrition costs as well. Just starting a program can cost \$20,000-\$29,000 dollars! The average single-purpose dog can cost \$2,500-\$4,000 without training!

This is just one of the reasons the Illinois Sheriffs' Association works diligently to support the time-honored Office of Sheriff in Illinois.

Our true power to make a difference arises from the support of our Citizen Members and our ability to continue to collaborate, financially support, and provide the best quality training for our Sheriff's, their Deputies, and K-9 units. We thank you for helping us make a difference!