

Update Ventura Police Department's K9 Rover has been Awarded a Bullet and Stab Resistant Vest

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05/09/2015

Incident: Ventura Police Department's K9 Rover has been Awarded a Bullet and Stab Resistant Vest

Contact: Watch Commander, 805.339.4416

Location: Ventura Police Department

Date/Time Occurred: May 7, 2015

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura Police K9 Officer Juan Rodriguez and K9 Partner, Rover

Narrative:

UPDATED INFORMATION

The Ventura Police Department's K9 Rover has received a ballistic vest thanks to a nonprofit organization, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., and a generous donation from The Hausman Family Foundation. \$15,000 was donated to the charity to provide bullet and stab protective vests for K9s in the state of California. The following are also recipients of this donation: 1 K9 from Ventura, 1 K9 from Gilroy, 1 K9 from Mill Creek, 3 K9's from Montebello, 4 K9's from Tulare County Sheriff's Office, 1 K9 from Lompoc, 1 K9 from California City, and 1 K9 Alhambra.

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. Each vest costs \$950.00 and has a 5-year warranty. The nonprofit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four legged K9 Officers. Through private and corporate sponsorships, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 1387 law enforcement dogs in 49 states with protective vests since 2009 at a cost of over \$1.3 million.

Ventura Police Department K-9 Officer Rodriguez would again like to thank the Hausman Family Foundation for their donation, and to Vested Interest in K9's for making this type of vest, which will help protect several K-9's throughout the state. He said, "Now that Rover has the vest to use during high-risk situations, I know that he is protected and better suited to protect the public and officers."

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. announces their "Hog Wild for K9s" t-shirt is now available online for a \$15.00 donation at www.vik9s.org. Proceeds will provide bullet and stab protective vests, for police dogs actively working without the potentially lifesaving equipment.

The organization orders the U.S. made vests exclusively from distributor Regency Police Supply in Hyannis, MA. who also does the custom embroidery on the body armor. Vests are manufactured by Armor Express in Central Lake, MI.

New K9 graduates as well as K9's with expired vests are eligible to participate. The program is open to law enforcement dogs who are U.S. employed, certified and at least 19 months of age.

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Tax deductible donations accepted via mail to: Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718 or the website: www.vik9s.org.

