

Ventura Police Department Announces Retirement of K9 “Ferro”



Print

Share

RSS

08/29/2014

Incident: Ventura Police Department Announces Retirement of K9 “Ferro”

Contact: Sgt. Brian Hewlett, 805.339.4474

Location: City of Ventura

Date of Release: 8-29-14

Personnel Involved: Ventura Police Department K9 Officer Mike Hibdon and Partner “Ferro”

Narrative:

Ventura Police Department (VPD) K9 Officer Mike Hibdon and his partner “Ferro” will be retiring from the K9 Unit effective August 30, 2014. Officer Hibdon will be transitioning back to Patrol, while Ferro will now enjoy life as a “civilian” pet as he spends time at home with Officer Hibdon and his family.

Officer Hibdon is a nine and a half year veteran of VPD and had been in the K9 Unit for the last four and a half years partnered with Ferro, who has served in the K9 unit for seven years total. Ferro is eight years old and although the typical “working” age for a K9 can vary (dependent upon a number of factors) Ferro’s time in patrol was inevitably cut short due to his diagnosis of cancer in February of 2014.

Currently Ferro’s cancer is being treated, however, it has progressed to the point that he can no longer work as a Police K9. Said Officer Hibdon of Ferro and his condition/retirement, “The bond that a K9 Officer and partner share is unlike any other. Of course it will be hard being in the car without Ferro but I am happy his health has kept up as well as it has to this point.” He is an awesome partner and I will miss him tremendously but am excited he will get to be “just a dog” and hang out with my family and I. He definitely deserves it.”

Said K9 Supervisor, Sergeant Brian Hewlett, “Officer Hibdon and Ferro will be missed. They have done some incredible work out on the streets making quality arrests, taking lots of drugs and bad guys off the street, engaging with our community, and most importantly, helping to keep all of us safe.”

VPD’s newest handler and K9 (to be named “Rover”) have not been selected yet but our anticipation is that by November a new team will be on the street. We recently issued a press release (found here: <http://bit.ly/1opnI6L>) regarding a check presentation and donation from Land Rover Jaguar Ventura who have generously donated \$12,000 towards the purchase and training of “Rover.”

National Police Dog Foundation (NPDF) and Fundraising Information:

The VPD is fortunate to be involved with the NPDF. The NPDF is a local non-profit organization that seeks donations from the community and uses the money to purchase and train police dogs for law enforcement agencies throughout Ventura County.

All of our canines (past and present) were purchased by the NPDF and not through taxpayer dollars. On average the cost for a canine is \$8,000, with an additional \$4,000-\$10,000 for training and certification, all of which is paid for through the generosity of the NPDF, our community, and of course organizations like Land Rover Jaguar of Ventura.

Officer Hibdon & Ferro

