

K-9 Program

Sr. Patrolman Jeremy Vondra and K-9 Nero

In February 2010 the Rock Falls Police Department suddenly lost its Police K-9 Axle to prostate cancer. The department went for approx. a year without a K-9. In the summer of 2010 the Rock Falls Police Department started receiving donations from the citizens, business and organizations of Rock Falls and the surrounding communities for the purchase of a new police K-9. By March of 2011 the department had received over \$12,000.00 in donations. With this funding the department would be able to purchase a K-9 and send it and the officer to the certification training that is required by State law.

Four officers within the department expressed interest in becoming the next K-9 Officer. The officers were evaluated on their backgrounds, police training, accomplishments within the department and family life. The K-9 will become like a member of your family so a stable and caring and understanding family life will be required.

Jeremy Vondra became a Police Officer with the Rock Falls Police Department in December of 2003. In October of 2005, Ofc. Vondra was selected and certified as a Special Response Team Member with newly formed Rock Falls Police Special Response Team. He was later selected as an Assistant Team Leader for the SRT team. In October of 2007, Ofc. Vondra was selected and certified as a Field Training Officer for the department training newly appointed recruits for the department. In October of 2008 Officer Vondra was appointed to Senior Patrolman.

In July of 2011 one and half year old German Sheppard from Germany named Nero was selected by Sr. Patrolman Vondra. In August of 2011, Sr. Patrolman Vondra and Nero were sent to the Illinois State Police Academy in Springfield Illinois. After ten weeks of intense training, Sr. Patrolman Vondra and Nero will graduate from the Academy on November 4th 2011. They will hit the street on November 9th 2011.

Nero fits the needs of the Rock Falls Police Department perfectly. He is very social, and yet works well when called upon to do so. He is a full service police dog. He assists officers in building searches, area searches, tracking of suspects and missing persons and narcotics detection. Nero is trained to locate five different types of narcotics. Sr. Patrolman Jeremy Vondra and Nero continue to train together on a daily basis. As with any other officer, Nero's function in the department is to help maintain a safe and orderly environment for the citizens of Rock Falls to live in. His ability to find narcotics, apprehend felony suspects, and locate missing people helps the department achieve this goal. His mere presence is a deterrent to those who might jeopardize the safety of our citizens and its police officers. To those who do no wrong, Nero is a welcome friend.