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Montco K9s to get life-saving body armor

Groupon and Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. partner to protect law enforcement dogs

Norristown, Pa., (February 19, 2014) – Reece, a Montgomery County Sheriff's Department drug-sniffing patrol K9, will be protected from bullet and stab wounds, thanks to a nationwide non-profit fundraiser. The campaign runs until Feb. 26, 2014 at 11:59 p.m. EST and all donations go towards making protective vests for dogs putting their lives at risk every day, in the line of duty.

The "Occasions" Groupon Grassroots campaign is in partnership with Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., a national non-profit organization whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests for law enforcement dogs in the U.S. The campaign was voted, "Best of 2013" by Groupon users and the partners were able to raise \$155,537.33 in just one week last year, which provided ballistic vests for 163 law enforcement dogs in 30 states, according to Groupon, Inc.

K9 vests cost approximately \$1,000 each and most departments don't have a budget for them, leaving their K9s at high risk. Four American police dogs have already been killed in the line of duty in January 2014. Vests from the "Occasions" campaign will be embroidered, "In Memory of K9 Rocco, Pittsburgh Police Department." Rocco, an 8 year-old German Shepherd, was fatally injured in a stabbing, while pursuing a suspect on January 29th.

Groupon donations are only \$10 and may be purchased at www.groupon.com/K9s. Donations can also be made at www.vik9s.org and via mail at P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.

Bikkel, another MCSD K9, will also be receiving a vest resulting from donations made last year to Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.

For more information about Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. please visit www.vik9s.org



PHOTO: K9 Dep. Reece (at right) with handler Dep. Trevor Keller