



WALLA WALLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

240 West Alder Street, First Floor
Walla Walla, WA 99362-0220

Sheriff's Office	(509) 524 - 5400
Corrections Division	(509) 524 - 5430
Fax	(509) 524 - 5480
Dispatch	(509) 527 - 3265
Burbank Dispatch	(509) 545 - 8441
Toll Free	(866) 527 - 3268
Email:	sheriff@co.walla-walla.wa.us

John A. Turner
Sheriff

Gerrod A. Martin	<i>Chief Operations Deputy</i>
Shanda J. Zessin	<i>Chief Administrative Deputy</i>

PRESS RELEASE

April 11, 2015

Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office K9 Gudy has been awarded a bullet and stab proof vest

Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office K9 Gudy has been awarded a ballistic vest thanks to a non-profit organization, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., and the Staten Island Companion Dog Training Club in NY AKC Rally Trial which on March 14 raised \$4,750 for five K9s vests. The other K9s that will be receiving an award will be K9 Bert of the Ithaca Police Department NY, K9 Dozer of the Ulster County Sheriff's Office NY, K9 Arko of the Patterson Police Department NJ, and K9 Bear of the Williamson County Sheriff's Office, TN.

K9 Gudy's handler, Deputy Dale Preas, stated today, "It's so nice to know that there are good folks out there like Vested Interest in K9s and the Staten Island Dog Club who care about K9's and the dangerous work they do for their communities. I am truly grateful that Gudy will now be better protected while out there with me protecting and serving Walla Walla County. Thanks to Sheriff Turner for lining this up for us."

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 life saving body armor for their four legged K9 Officers. Through private and corporate sponsorships, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 1,317 law enforcement dogs in 49 states with protective vests since 2009 at a cost of over \$1.2 million dollars.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. announces their 7" plush stuffed German Shepherd K9 Hero, "Cesar," company ambassador of Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., now for sale online for \$15.00 at www.vik9s.org. Proceeds from the sales 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 US 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 via the website: www.vik9s.org.

The Walla Walla Sheriff's Foundation, in joint partnership with Walla Walla Valley Honda and the Prescott Lions Club, is hosting a "Hot Dogs and Hotdogs" K-9 Meet & Greet Event on Saturday April 25, 2015; 11:00am to 1:00pm. All are welcome to come meet WWSO K-9 Gudy and his handler, Deputy Dale Preas. Free hot dogs will be provided by Walla Walla Valley Honda and cooked up to perfection by members of the Prescott Lions Club. There will be a K-9 demonstration at approximately noon. Hope to see you there.

Deputy Dale Preas & K9 Gudy



WWSO K9 Gudy

