City Police Department Welcomes New K9 to Its Ranks

K9 “Moose” performs narcotics detection.

New Brunswick, NJ October 9, 2015 – The New Brunswick Police Department has a new officer among its ranks that is equipped with boundless energy and enthusiasm for the job.

“Moose” is a 21-month-old chocolate brown Labrador Retriever that has joined the department as a single-purpose scent dog trained to detect narcotics. Handled by Det. John Drury, Moose comes from Positive Response Canines of Jackson, Tenn., a company that specializes in the training of K9s for use by law enforcement agencies.

Moose is trained to detect marijuana, cocaine, crack, heroin, ecstasy and methamphetamines. When called to a scene to search for drugs, Moose sniffs and searches the area and when he hits on a scent, is trained to scratch and paw at the site. A positive identification will result in Det. Drury providing Moose with a towel to chew and playtime.

In order to train Moose for his career in law enforcement, Det. Drury and he attended two weeks of training with Positive Response Canines, followed by 10 weeks of training with the New Jersey State Police.

Moose successfully completed training this past June and started working with the New Brunswick Police Department in July. His training has not stopped, as Moose and Det. Drury continue to train weekly to ensure that he remains fit and trained to perform his duties.
Despite being on the job for only a few months, Moose’s resume is already shaping up. Six successful narcotics searches have yielded the seizure of more than $27,000 in street value of marijuana, heroin and crack, as well as $8,439 in cash. He is the first narcotics detection dog to be a part of the New Brunswick Police Department.

Moose is in the company of “Odin” a five-year-old German Shepard trained in explosives detection that joined the department in 2011. Odin and Moose are both handled by Det. Drury, who sees to their housing and care as well as their continued training.

“These highly trained, specialized K9s are part of our police department family,” said Police Director Anthony Caputo. “Odin and Moose serve our department well by working with our officers to sniff out explosives and narcotics, which provides another level of safety and security for our community.”

Moose and Odin are among a limited number of law enforcement K9’s serving in Middlesex County. As a result, Det. Drury and the dogs are available to assist law enforcement agencies throughout central New Jersey, and have worked high profile events such as the 2014 Superbowl.

Det. Drury’s first K9 Jamison retired from the New Brunswick Police Department in 2013 following approximately 10 years of service with the department as an explosives detection dog.

The City of New Brunswick, located in Middlesex County, is the county seat for Middlesex County. Home of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, the world headquarters for Johnson & Johnson and two globally-renowned hospitals, New Brunswick is an educationally-focused City as well as “The Healthcare City.”

All of New Brunswick’s developments provide seamless access to major transportation lines, an extensive dining scene and an arts district, located in the bustling downtown. The City is focused not only on bringing in new residents and businesses, but also on improving the lives of every one of its residents.

For more information, please visit www.cityofnewbrunswick.org.