

Donations Sought for Police Dog Memorial

Donations for a memorial to honor police dogs killed in the line of duty.

October 25, 2005 The Virginia Police Work Dog Association and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech are seeking donations for a memorial to honor police dogs killed in the line of duty.

More than a half-dozen animals have been killed in the line of duty since animals had become active in Virginia law enforcement about 35 years ago. Ingo, a German shepherd, was the most recent fatality. The nine-year-old canine officer was killed Oct. 24, 2004, during the apprehension of a burglary suspect. Ingo was posthumously awarded an Animal Hero Award from the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association for his sacrifice.

John Hoover, an officer of the Roanoke City Police Department and a certified master trainer with the North American Police Work Dog Association and the Virginia Police Work Dog Association, had worked on developing interest in the memorial for several years.

Its tough to find the words that describe the incredible role these dogs play in law enforcement and public safety, he said. They put their lives on the line every day, just like our officers. They are partners and they are heroes.

The memorial will be located on the veterinary schools campus in Blacksburg, Va.

Those interested in making contributions can send them to the Virginia Police K-9 Memorial Fund, Office of Development and Public Relations, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va., 24061.