



BARTLETT POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE



Bartlett Police Department
228 S. Main St.
Bartlett, IL 60103
(630) 837-0846
April 1, 2009

Bartlett Loses First K-9

The Bartlett Police Department is sad to announce that the Villages first K-9, Bart, passed away today. Bart was 14 years old and suffered a sudden medical condition that paralyzed his back legs. After consulting with the veterinarian, the decision was made to euthanize Bart so he would not suffer.

The village purchased the 2 year old German Shepherd in 1996. Bart and his handler, Officer Hecker became the first police K-9 unit in Bartlett history. Bart retired in 2004. Officer Hecker purchased him from the village and Bart lived out his retirement, in leisure, until April 1, 2009.

Bart served the community of Bartlett very well during his 8 years of service. Bart was most remembered for assisting the Lake County Sheriff's Department find a fleeing suspect. Officer Hecker and Bart had just graduated from K-9 school in Grayslake and were driving home to Bartlett when the call came out.

The team was responsible for several felony arrests, in and out of Bartlett. During their career Officer Hecker and Bart received several letters of praise from surrounding police departments for their assistance in searches for fleeing suspects and narcotics. In 1997 they helped West Chicago Police find over 500 grams of cannabis. In 1998 they helped Carol Stream Police find a suicidal juvenile that ran away. In 2002 they assisted Warrenville Police by locating a man wanted for robbery and domestic battery in McDowell Forest Preserve. Officer Hecker and Bart were involved with the Nassim Davoodi homicide case in 2002. The team searched several areas and ultimately participated in the recovery of her body in Long Grove. The team received several more accolades from Bartlett and surrounding communities.

Bart became a popular member of the community. The K-9 team made appearances at National Night Out events, D.A.R.E graduations, and even did presentations for U-46 school improvement days. Bart's name was chosen by a village wide contest where elementary students voted. In 2001, 10-year-old Erin Doherty raised over \$400 to purchase a bullet proof vest for Bart.

Bart will be greatly missed by the village, the police department, and many of the citizens of Bartlett

Submitted by Sergeant McGuigan