

August 12, 2015

## **W.L.E.C.H.A. Nomination for Rookie Handler of the Year, Officer Nick Eull**

Sgt. Goens,

I would like to nominate Madison Police Officer Nick Eull for the Rookie Handler of the Year Award

Officer Eull showed a strong interest in the K9 program one year prior to applying for a handler position. He showed a strong commitment to the program by assisting in any way he could. Officer Eull took part in: a MPD tracking/trailing workshop running three days of tracks for K9 teams, he attended team K9 trainings as a decoy training assistant, and worked with K9 handlers conducting their on-duty K9 training during his patrol shifts.

Prior to becoming a canine handler, Officer Eull was on the SWAT Entry team, the Special Events Response Team, and was a DAAT instructor. He was instrumental in developing the department's officer bike program and trained officers in bicycle patrol. Officer Eull was willing to give up his involvement in all these specialized areas to become a canine handler. This showed dedication to the K9 program.

The same day Officer Eull was informed he was selected as a patrol K9 handler he was also informed by his wife that they were to have their first child. Officer Eull went away to training for 4 weeks with his new patrol partner K9 Frees. He returned to complete his initial training period with me for another 4 weeks. During that time Officer Eull was committed to learning as much as possible. He eagerly and quickly took in information...reading, listening, and asking questions. He was open to feedback and developed a solid knowledge base and K9 handling skills quickly. In my 15 years working in police K9, I have not seen a new canine officer develop such a level of trust in his dog as quickly as Officer Eull did.

Officer Eull and K9 Frees began working patrol July 2, 2014, working the night shift 8p-3:30 am. His first deployment was a public canine demonstration and his second deployment was a homicide...so begins the variable world of a K9 handler. To date they have worked 116 patrol shifts (minus family leave and training days) and have deployed K9 Frees 261 times.

Some of their more notable K9 deployments were:

1. A track of a Hit and Run suspect from a vehicle crash on 7-26-2015. K9 Frees tracked a short distance to the suspect who was hiding alongside a building. The suspect was charged for OWI.
2. A track of an escapee from a maximum security mental hospital on 10-22-2014. 45 minutes after the escape, Officer Eull collected odor on a gauze pad from the vehicle the fugitive escaped from. Many people were searching the area on foot when K9 Frees tracked the suspect approximately ½ mile through woods and into a tall prairie field locating him.

3. On 2-21-2014 K9 Frees alerted to odor of narcotics on a vehicle exterior stopped by a Dane County Deputy. Officers searched the vehicle incident to the K9 alert and located 2.35 lbs of marijuana inside.

Officer Eull always maintains a strong work ethic and positive attitude. He assists other handlers when possible and takes care of the little things associated with training without being asked. He approaches each training experience with the desire to challenge himself and his K9 partner just enough to bump up their knowledge, skills and abilities another notch. Without reservation I wholeheartedly recommend Officer Eull as this year's W.L.E.C.H.A Rookie Handler of the Year.

Sincerely,

Sgt. Chris Boyd  
City of Madison Police Department