



By Erin Shields — Maryland Gazette

Owner and partner Jason Jett helps Grim, a Belgian Malinois, sign his paw print as he is sworn in as a deputy sheriff by Clerk of the Circuit Court Robert Duckworth while Sheriff Ron Bateman looks on. Grim is trained as a bomb, fire and utility dog, and will aid Jett in serving warrants, tracking criminals and searching for explosives.

Deputy dog joins force

Pooch, men sworn in as deputy sheriffs

By ERIN SHIELDS
Staff Writer

At 22 months old, Grim is just a puppy and loves to play with his favorite toy.

But, unlike most dogs, he only is rewarded with his toy after he completes the mission at hand — which can range from sniffing out a bomb to tracking a criminal.

Grim, a Belgian Malinois, is 70 pounds of furry love and energy that is trained in fire, bombs, tracking

and apprehension. He's from Slovakia, answers to commands in Czechoslovakian, and now has added the title of deputy sheriff to his resume.

Greg Imhoff and Greg Kles were joined by Grim on Thursday as all three were sworn in as deputy sheriffs by County Court Clerk Robert Duckworth at the County Courthouse in Annapolis.

Imhoff, of Severna Park, who retired from his position as captain for the Annapolis Police Department after 27 years, said being sworn in with a dog is "kind of neat." He added that dogs are an important part of policing since they can do things humans cannot.

That's what Sheriff Ron Bateman is banking on.

Bateman bought the already trained Grim with a \$12,000 grant, and said he brings a little more to the table than Rocky, a black lab only trained to search for bombs and explosives.

Grim is "very equipment oriented" and is trained to scan for bombs and explosives, as well as apprehend and track criminals. Bateman said Grim will alternate among working at the courthouse, sniffing for explosives, and on the road serving warrants and searching for criminals.

"Dogs add another component of safety to the courthouse building,"

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DOG

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Bateman said. "And Grim is going to help me find people who run from us."

The courthouse has had dogs as a part of its security team for about 20 years, and both Rocky and Grim sweep the entire courthouse building each day to check for explosives and hone their skills.

Grim knows what his assignment is depending on what collar he has on. When he is in a thin, 1-inch collar, it is time for bomb-sniffing or socializing. When he is put in a thicker collar, he knows it's time to be aggressive and ready to apprehend.

And when he's put in a harness, he knows he needs to get ready to track something or someone down.

Grim's "landlord" and partner, Deputy Sheriff

Jason Jett, spent four weeks training with Grim in North Carolina. During their time in North Carolina, Jett and Grim bonded, practiced trailing and apprehension and Jett said it was a lot of fun.

Bateman said he plans to put Grim to work as soon as possible, adding he will be off to cross-train with the county Police Department in the next two weeks.

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