



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

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Four-legged retirement is bitter-sweet for LPPD



LPPD Canine “Lodka” stands proud with handler Officer Jesse Arenivas after former Cocaine and Marijuana seizure

In 2009, the La Porte Police Department welcomed a Belgian Malinois to their ranks, and ever since then, the K-9 team of “Lodka” and handler Officer Jesse Arenivas have been instrumental in the seizure of vast quantities of both narcotics and their cash-related proceeds. The LPPD K-9 team competed exceptionally in several State and regional drug-dog competitions during their tour together, including the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association’s (NNDDA) narcotic detection competition. Lodka and Arenivas consistently placed in the top 10 of all K-9 teams represented at the annual NNDDA training conferences, with a 1st place win in 2010.

While the department would love to have the team remain active indefinitely, Lodka will now live with Arenivas as a retiree. In April of 2013, Lodka was diagnosed by veterinary staff as having a degenerative arthritic condition in the right elbow, as well as both hip joints. Lodka was allowed to continue her K-9 duties, but was restricted to drug interdiction and barred from activities involving running, such as suspect tracking. At the time the department veterinarian estimated Lodka’s remaining useful work life to be approximately 2 years. With the assistance of specialized treatment and medication, the prediction of a 2-year remaining work life was extended an additional year.

Although Lodka remains of major value to her partner Arenivas, fighting crime is no longer feasible for the canine. As such, the City has officially retired Lodka and the Arenivas’ residence will serve as a permanent retirement villa for one of the agency’s hardest workers in history. Both the La Porte Police Department and her entire community are in debt to Lodka for 7 years of outstanding service. Meanwhile, LPPD continues to deploy two other active K-9 Teams, which will work hard to fill the void left by Lodka’s departure.