



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Canine Against Crime

Contrary to public belief, not all police dogs are German Shepherds. They can be any breed, like Cottage Grove's Police Department's Narcotics K9, Kimber, a beautiful and skilled five-year-old black Labrador retriever.

Drug detection dogs cost between \$4000-\$7000, but luckily, for our city's budget, Kimber is the offspring of our community's first narcotic canine. Her extensive training serves the public by detecting the subtle odors of methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine. Most dogs in her paw-ition work 8-10 years before retiring.

"Narcotics dogs are a valuable asset," said her proud partner, Corporal David Burgin, "in aiding officers, during search warrants for narcotics, or after officers have searched a location without successfully uncovering any drugs."

The dogs highly toned "sniffers" detect paw-tential odors emanating from "secret" locations exposing hidden narcotics. Kimber is rewarded for locating them with her favorite toy.

"When an officer encounters a vehicle that may contain narcotics," adds Corporal Burgin, "a detection K9 sniffs the vehicle's exterior seams, known as a 'free air sniff'. Once the K9 alerts to a drug's presence, then the officer has legal cause to search the vehicle."

Kimber's sensitive skills allow officers to gain entry into vehicles, offices, and homes based on her alerts, resulting in the successful seizure of illicit drugs and currency that may otherwise not have been located.

Kimber lives for the "thrill of the hunt" as she helps rid our city of poisonous drugs that destroy our community members' lives, and her impressive and scary bark commands attention!

"As a police officer, father and human," said Corporal Bur-

gin, "I take it personally when this poison steals our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and children from us. Seeing its devastating results, first hand, fuels my passion for bringing drug sellers to justice."

Corporal Burgin and his canine also engage in public demonstrations illustrating his dog's special abilities.

"Kimber is the star of the show," proudly said Corporal Burgin, "and the events help the public understand what our specialized police team is doing."

As partners against crime, they had to attend 200 hours of training in a course that only passes those with a 100 percent score through the Oregon Police K9 Association. Their monthly homework, a requirement of their job, is an additional 16 hours of training based on current law, plus yearly certification with California's Narcotics K9 Association.

"A great deal of work, training, studying and attention goes into being responsible for a narcotics detection dog," adds Corporal Burgin, "Luckily, Kimber and I enjoy working as a team and we have developed a rare telepathic communication after our focused time together."

Also, it is wonderful having a partner that is always happy, and happy to see you. As a police officer we see many difficult or inhumane things. Kimber's bright spirit lights up our officers, even on our darkest day."

It is not only the officers' moods that Kimber touches. She loves lifting peoples' hearts with her best "puppy dog" look. Children flock to her and people who are apprehensive about approaching a police officer, will more easily approach an officer with a dog. In hard cases, where children are involved, Kimber disarms their fears, as she accepts their pats and hugs.

At home, Kimber is family," said Corporal Burgin, "and she acts like any goofy family dog making us laugh doing silly things. She loves her toys and shamelessly does just about



Photo by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Cottage Grove Police department's Corporal David Burgin and narcotic detection dog, Kimber.

anything for one. Occasionally, while hanging out with us, she suddenly superman-leaps onto our kitchen counter and starts searching. I don't know if she is bored or just practicing her skills for additional treats!"

When Corporal Burgin pulls out Kimber's "work" harness," she barks with excitement and joyfully wags her tail because she knows that its time to go to work with her best buddy. It is obvious to all that this team was made for each other.

Note: Cottage Grove Police Department has two dog teams: Kimber, who is our Narcotic Detection Dog, and Corporal Joyce's Patrol Dog, Torq. K-9's have partnered with our officers for 19 years. Torq will be featured in a future Pet Tips 'n' Tales.

TIPS

Fun Facts! Four Chicken Soup for the Soul books, "My Very Good Cat, Very Bad Cat", "The Joy of Christmas", "Dreams and Premonitions", and "Oh! Cana-

da" feature six of Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe's" stories. She is author of "Expect Miracles" and "A Christmas Filled With Miracles" and she and her articles are featured in over 20 other books and magazines, plus a pet columnist for 12 years!

Note: Sherry at Happinest Wildlife, which rescues birds, writes, "Please do NOT use red hummingbird nectar!"

We getting so many hummers who can't fly because they are very sick and ALL are peeing red dyes. It is very hard on their kidneys,= and I don't know what it will take to stop stores from selling it.

Boil your own sugar water: four parts water, one part sugar. Red feeders will attract the birds and the hummers will thank you!" happinestwildlife.com

Share your pet tips and tales. angelscribe@msn.com

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Public Health seeks public's help to fight the flu

Lane County Public Health is urging Lane County residents to take preventative action to reduce the occurrence of influenza after a recent spike in influenza like illness, primarily centered in the Florence area. This cluster of over 100 cases is the first of its kind in 2016 and the illness has spread to a significant number of middle school age children.

"While we deal with the flu every year, it's troubling when we see a sharp uptick, especially in school-age children, as is the case in Florence," said Cindy Morgan, Lane County Communicable Disease Supervisor.

Influenza is a highly contagious viral infection. While most people who contract influenza experience no more than fever, chills, aches, cough and congestion, it can lead to hospitalization or serious medical complications, mostly among people with other health issues as well as the very old and very young.

Fortunately, community members can help keep themselves and their loved ones

healthy by practicing simple steps like hand-washing, and by getting a flu vaccine. Influenza is a respiratory illness that is most commonly spread through coughing and sneezing, and for that reason people are urged to follow these practices:

Stay home when sick. Maintain distance from other people to prevent the spread of illness.

Don't return to work or school for a minimum of 24 hours after your fever has resolved without the aid of fever reducing medicines (e.g., Advil or Tylenol)

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Wash hands often with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are also helpful in reducing the spread of the flu.

Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Wash hands after blowing the nose or coughing into a tissue and dispose of tissues after use.

Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth to prevent the spread of germs.

SENIOR MEALS PROGRAMS

Offering Meals on Wheels and Cafe 60 at the following locations: Anyone age 60 and older is served, regardless of income, suggested donation is \$3. Guests under age 60 are welcome to attend for \$8 per meal.

Cottage Grove Riverview Terrace
925 W. Main St., Cottage Grove
Noon: Tues., Wed., Thurs.

Creswell Cresview Villa
350 S. 2nd St., Creswell
Noon: Mon., Wed., Fri.

THURSDAY, NOV. 10:
Hamburger or Hot Dog on a Bun
FRIDAY, NOV. 11: Closed for Honoring our Vets on

Veteran's Day
MONDAY, NOV. 14:
Chicken a la King or Pork Sausage Gravy over Whipped Potatoes
TUESDAY, NOV. 15: Turkey Loaf w/Gravy or Beef Patty w/Gravy
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16:
Chicken Salad or Tuna Salad Sandwich Halves

Drain/Yoncalla area

Served at 400 Main St., Yoncalla. (For Douglas County Meals on Wheels eligibility, call 541-440-3677.) Suggested donation \$3.50

THURSDAY, NOV. 10:
Homestyle Pork Patty w/Gravy
FRIDAY, NOV. 11: Closed for Honoring our Vets on Veteran's Day
TUESDAY, NOV. 15:
Breaded Baked Fish w/Tartar Sauce or BBQ Chicken Breast



Everything you need this holiday season without leaving town.

The weather outside can be frightful but a good deal can be delightful. Stay close to home for the holidays with your local online business directory provided by your home town newspaper.

We say let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

Cottage Grove Sentinel



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Fill out the form below to have your organization's holiday bazaar included in the bazaar listing in the Cottage Grove Sentinel each Wednesday during the holidays. Cost for this service is \$40.00 for a 1x3 advertisement, 50 words or less. Please enclose check or money order if mailing in this listing.

Call us at 541-942-3325 for more information.

Deadline is NOON, Thursday for the following week's publication.

Must be pre-paid to be accepted.

ORGANIZATION: _____

DATE OF EVENT: _____

LOCATION: _____

TIME: _____

FEATURED ITEMS OR ATTRACTIONS:



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