



SOMERSET POLICE



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SPD Adds Second K9 to Patrol Division

Recently, a 18-month-old black Labrador Retriever named Nixon was purchased to help SPD officers combat illegal drugs. Nixon was assigned to Officer Roger Estep, who was tabbed earlier this year to become the department's newest K9 handler.

Officer Estep and Nixon completed training and certification after a 40-hour course in Arkansas. Nixon is certified to detect the odors of marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin.

The new K9 team will assist patrol officers in sniffing out drugs on traffic stops and during the execution of drug-related search warrants.

This addition doubles the department's K9 teams. Officer Eric Moore and K9 Aras have been patrolling the streets for over three years.

"Having a second K9 team in the patrol division gives us more coverage in the constant fight to seize illegal drugs," said Major Doug Nelson. "Officer Estep has had a lot of success in drug investigations. With Nixon as his partner, he will be much more effective and successful."

Officer Estep's patrol cruiser has been outfitted with a special cage so Nixon will be on patrol and available for searches.

Nixon was paid for with asset forfeiture funds. These funds are made up of cash seizures and the proceeds of property auctions from previous drug investigations.

ATTACHMENT: Photos of Officer Roger Estep and K9 Nixon