

Protective gear bought for Randolph police dog

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Wicked Local Photo by Teresa A. Franco

Norman and Kathleen Macleod of Milton pet Randolph Police K-9 Nero. The couple donated the protective vest his is wearing through the Taunton-based organization Vested Interest in K-9s.



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Wicked Local Randolph

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RANDOLPH — Randolph Police K-9 Nero happily trotted outside the police station, surrounded by a small crowd and wearing a black vest last week.

Nero was not participating in a dog show, but rather trying on his new custom-made protective vest for the first time. The bullet- and knife-proof vest was donated to Nero by a Milton couple through Vested Interest In K-9s, a non-profit fundraising organization for K-9 bullet-proof vests.

Norman and Kathleen Macleod donated the \$735 vest to the police department.

“We thought it would be a wonderful cause,” Norman said.

Self-proclaimed dog lovers, the Macleods said they often donate to animal charities, but this is the first time they donated a protective vest.

Kathleen said they chose this charity because police dogs face the same dangers as police officers.

“A lot of police dogs get injured,” she said.

Norman said they picked Randolph because they heard there was a need. Norman also has ties to the town – he said he spent a lot of time in Randolph while growing up in Quincy.

“We encourage others to help out,” he said.

Police Chief William Pace said the donation is beneficial because the police dogs go out in harm’s way while out on calls with police officers. He said the department’s other K-9, Rory, already has a vest similar to Nero’s new one.

K-9 Police Officer Stephen Morse, Nero’s owner, said Nero’s previous vest had expired and did not fit him well because it was handed down from another handler. He said Nero will wear the new vest when needed.

Morse said the donation is extremely helpful because it protects against bullets and knives.

“If it saves the dog’s life once, it’s well worth it,” he said.

Sandy Marcal, of Vested Interest in K-9s, has donated 200 bullet protective K9 vests in the past 10 years with the East Taunton-based organization. She said it’s important for police dogs to be protected.

“They are the first ones in and need the same protection as their human partners,” she said.