

# WICKED LOCAL BELLINGHAM

WITH NEWS FROM THE COUNTRY GAZETTE

## Bellingham's K9 Officer Spyder gets suited up

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/LORIE-LYN PHOTOGRAPHY

Bellingham's newest police dog, Spyder, recently got a new bullet- and stab-proof vest, thanks to donations from Vetmed, a Franklin-based premium pet food supplier, and the Kauker family of Bellingham. At the presentation, left to right (back row) are: Sandy Marcal, president, Vested Interest in K9s; vest co-sponsors Karen Walsh, Vetmed and Sherri and Joe Kauker, and (front row) Bellingham Officer Len Gosselin and K9 Spyder.



### Wicked Local Bellingham

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**BELLINGHAM** — The goodwill of a local business and family made a Christmas wish come true for Bellingham's newest police dog, Spyder, a 4-year-old German shepherd dog who hails from Germany.

Vetmed, a Franklin-based premium pet food supplier and the Kauker family of Bellingham co-sponsored a \$1,006 bullet and stab protective vest for K9 officer Spyder. They worked with 501C(3) non-profit, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. of East Taunton, MA, to arrange for the designation.

Officer Len Gosselin and Spyder graduated from the Boston Police Academy in March of 2011 and are certified in patrol and narcotics detection. Gosselin has worked with K9s for 18 years and previously handled three patrol and narcotics detection K9s and two bloodhounds.

"K9 Spyder is the first recipient of a multicam colored vest from Vested Interest in K9s. Most dogs will require two vests in the span of their career, which come with a 5-year warranty. It's terrific to work with local businesses and folks within the community to protect the working dogs who put their lives on the line," said Sandy Marcal, president of the non-profit organization.

Vetmed also sponsored a vest for K9 Ehre of Franklin earlier this year and continues to accept donations at their location to assist dogs that are on the waiting list of Vested Interest in K9s.

A special dedication was made by including embroidery on Spyder's vest in memory of the Kaukers' family pet, Duke.







"Individuals and businesses have opted to honor a loved one who has passed by having the vest embroidered. It's become very popular," said Marcal.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a national fund raising vesting organization run by volunteers. In 2011, they have outfitted 65 K9s with bullet and stab protective vests. They maintain a waiting list.







Tax deductible donations are welcome via the website: [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org) or by mail: Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. P.O. Box, 9 East Taunton, MA 02718. Volunteer opportunities available by calling 508-824-6978.

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