



Canine Search Solutions

EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION
SINCE 2005

MARCH 2022

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

2021 CSS Search Efforts

-CSS responded to 15 Cases in 2021.

-We responded to cases in Wisconsin and Illinois.

-CSS responded to 4 suspicious missing persons cases, 1 drowning case, 5 homicide cases, 1 hoarder case, and 1 cold case. CSS had 3 consultations in Michigan, Iowa, and WI, however CSS did not respond.

-CSS also had a total of 5 scent specific trailing classes in 2021.

*See more information on Page 5.



Jason Baumgart and K9 Crosby-Landfill Search 2021

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K9 Lucy Locates Missing Man

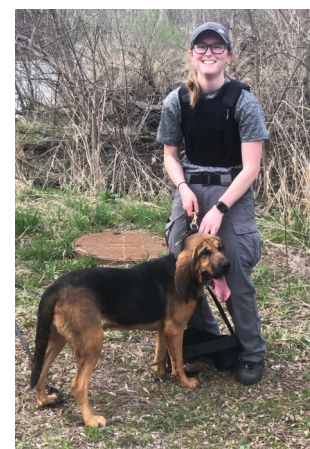
Just last year, Officer Shaylyn Louis began working with her tracking partner, K9 Lucy and they were quickly utilized by Richland Center Police Department.

In April, 2021 Officer Louis and K9 Lucy were called out to assist in a missing persons case. Officer Louis was able to acquire a scent article of the missing man. She presented the scent article to K9 Lucy and they started their track. K9 Lucy led away from the apartment building and started towards an area near the Pine River.

Officer Louis had been told that a citizen recalled seeing the missing male sitting on a bench near the Pine River approximately three days ago. K9 Lucy was on the right track!

K9 Lucy continued tracking and located the missing male in the Pine River deceased. K9 Lucy located the male approximately 1 mile from where he had last been seen.

Great teamwork by Shay and K9 Lucy.



Meet The New K9s

Alyssa Palmer & K9 Oso

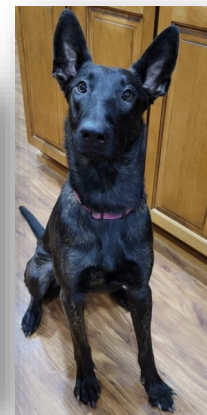
Alyssa has been looking for a future working dog since 2019 and after exploring several options, Eric Peterson came up with an offer she could not refuse!

Eric had a lead on a phenomenal breeding of Dutch Shepherds in France that would likely produce a future stud dog for Nemesis Dutch Shepherds, the only problem was that he already had his plate full with new dogs...enter Alyssa! Eric and Alyssa agreed to a co-ownership of this puppy where the he would be Alyssa's working partner and if all health tests pass, a future stud dog for Eric.

On 04/14/21, Alyssa picked up her new partner, Oso from the airport in Chicago, and it was love at first sight!

Oso has started his HRD training and is excelling very well. He is also training in Mondioring and loves all the challenges. Alyssa and Oso plan to certify in HRD in 2022.

Oso was beautifully bred by Steve Dard of Berger Hollandais Les Joyaux de Feu in France.



Eric Peterson and K9 Jada

Jada was born in Serbia and was imported in February 2021. Eric opened up her crate and at first Jada was fine but then decided to she was not ready to accept Eric just yet... Eric ended up with a bleeding thumb while trying to wrangle this 3 month old demon!!

Eric describes Jada as a dog that is not going to run up and love on anyone right away. Despite their first introduction, Jada warmed up to Eric and his family. He started imprinting her on human remains in December 2021. Eric says Jada has plenty of drive and when you engage it, it can be a lot for a little female.

Eric says his mantra for training Jada is, "Slow and steady wins the race." He says Jada is starting to understand the game, has an excellent nose, and he is looking forward to seeing her blossom!

Eric Peterson Becomes a K9 Handler



K9 Drago & Eric

In 2021 Eric was selected to be a K9 Handler for South Dakota State Patrol. Eric initially had a single-purpose 45lb Malinois for about 1.5 months, but circumstances changed for another handler and Eric went from the smallest dog on the unit to the biggest!!

K9 Drago is Eric's partner and he is a 95lb. dual purpose K9 and was imported from the Netherlands in March 2021. Drago is listed as Dutch Shepherd, but it appears he might be a mix because he has a unique gray/blue face.

Eric describes Drago as a big "meat-head," and usually tries using his

brute force before his brain!

Eric and K9 Drago certified in narcotics in May 2021 and then certified the rest of his skills in June 2021. The day after Eric and K9 Drago certified, they were sent to search for a gun that someone had thrown. So far K9 Drago has located a murder weapon, had a successful first track from a pursuit, and has been deployed on multiple large scale narcotic sniffs.

Eric says he's thankful he achieved this position early on in his career and will now focus on honing his craft and being the best team possible with K9 Drago.





Parker and Charlie

Parker Johnson Kruse went missing on 07/03/21, when he was knocked overboard after saving a boater in need on the lower Wisconsin River near Spring Green, WI.

On 07/04/21, Jason Baumgart with K9 Crosby, K9 Hela, and I responded to the scene. Both dogs gave consistent hits in the area of where the collision had occurred and gave an area for divers to focus their efforts. The river was extremely high and swift during this initial search effort.

This search effort has been arduous as CSS has been utilized multiple times to try and bring Parker home to his family. Carren Gummin and I have continued to work closely with the family to assist in checking areas in the river. Additionally many others have been involved who are experts in search management and side scan sonar. Rivers are notoriously difficult to

Promise Parker

Parker Johnson Kruse

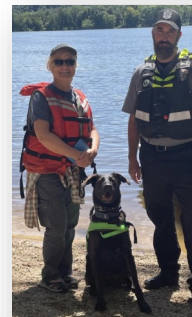
By Alyssa Palmer

search as the current is constantly burying and moving debris. Sometimes images seen on sonar will be there one day and then gone the next.

It is not often that I work so closely with the family of someone we are searching for. I have met many of Parker's family members, friends, and "river rats" (a term of endearment), and it is clear that when tragedy happens; this community steps up. Parker's mom, Jackie has been tenaciously searching for her son since July 3, 2021. I have had the privilege of getting to know Jackie and see her dedication and love for Parker. Day after day she continuously searches for him and it is undeniably extraordinary. I recall an interview where Jackie said she wanted people to know what an amazing son she had. I can assure Jackie that we know that her son was amazing, and we will continue assisting her search for Parker.

If you would like to donate, or offer any knowledge regarding river searching, and equipment please go to:

Promise Parker on Facebook



As I begin to write, I feel a lump in throat and deep sadness as I attempt to capture the story of missing person, Dylan Redwine. A case Bitty and I worked in La Plata County, Colorado.

Dylan, I am told was a vibrant 13-year-old boy caught up in his parents horrible divorce. Elaine Hatfield, Dylan's mother was court ordered to send Dylan to Durango, CO to visit his father, Mark Redwine. Dylan was last seen alive November 18, 2012. That date is significant to me as it is my older sister's birthday. The horror began after that fateful day as Dylan disappeared and his father claimed no knowledge of his whereabouts. A huge search and investigation began pulling people from all corners of the country.

In the spring of 2013, I received a request to assist from Gene and Sandy Ralston (side scan sonar heroes), to search a lake. One of my long-time colleagues and a dear friend, Sue Vieth picked up the leash and initially responded out with K9 Biba. After much discussion with La Plata County Sheriff's Office regarding how human remains detections dogs can provide information, Bitty and I flew out with Sue and Biba for another search effort. Prior to our arrival, a portion of Dylan's remains including his

skull were located. Bitty was utilized to sniff a residence and collected evidence. After four days we returned to our respective homes and back to our lives.

Months went by with no news until La Plata Sheriff requested Bitty and I fly back out to conduct a sniff of a vehicle in the winter of 2014.

Unbeknownst to me, Bitty provided vital information for the investigation which I would not learn until much later after the jury trial. Dylan's father was arrested for Second Degree Murder and Child Abuse.

I returned alone to La Plata County in 2019 to testify about Bitty's work in a suppression hearing. This was especially difficult because Bitty had passed over, and I spoke at length about what a remarkable partner she had been. The judge determined the evidence Bitty and another dog provided to the investigation would be allowed in the jury trial.

The trial date was set and canceled repeatedly and eventually in July 2021, I testified for the last time about Bitty, her training, career, and what she did for the investigation.

Dylan's father was found guilty and sentenced to 48 years in prison.

This case was an example of the worst of mankind and the best of mankind. I had the honor of working with an incredible group of prosecutors and investigators; a dream team by my standards. La Plata County victim witness coordinator, Joy Foy will be a forever friend.

I have learned a significant amount about what happened to Dylan and my heart aches for his family. After I testified, Dylan's older brother, Cory, spoke to me outside the courthouse. He shared that Dylan absolutely loved dogs and would have loved Bitty. I would like to believe that Dylan and Bitty play fetch every day in heaven.



K9 Bitty

Justice For Dylan Redwine

By Carren Corcoran Gummin

CSS K9s Lost in 2021



K9 Tulsa 2014- 2021

K9 Tulsa was unexpectedly lost in 2021. K9 Tulsa was dedicated to his job and had a five year career in Human Remains Detection. K9 Tulsa had certified with four different nationally recognized organizations, and with two different handlers. He participated in many missing person cases in Illinois and Missouri.

Run Free and Rest In Peace K9 Tulsa



K9 Caryk 2013-2021

K9 Handler Heidi Thaves was partnered with K9 Caryk who she got from North Michigan Canine in 2014. K9 Caryk was a dual purpose police K9, he enjoyed tracking, and was called out to area counties for many missing person searches throughout his career.

Heidi and K9 Caryk were going to retire together in January 2022, however the dog gods had other plans. K9 Caryk became suddenly ill on August 28, 2021 from a tumor in his stomach. Heidi had to make the heart wrenching decision to set K9 Caryk free from his pain.

Run Free and Rest in Peace K9 Caryk



Heidi Thaves Retires

Shawano Police Department



Heidi Thaves and K9 Caryk

Heidi Thaves began her law enforcement career in 1994 with the Wisconsin State Patrol. Heidi worked specifically as an Inspector in St. Croix County. Heidi then transferred to Juneau County as a State Trooper, and ended up as a Trooper in Shawano County in 1996.

In May of 2005 Heidi joined the Shawano Police Department. In 2013 Heidi became a K9 Handler. Heidi's first K9 partner was K9 Aldo who had originally been handled by another officer. K9 Aldo displayed some fear issues and struggled in the detection portion of his job. Ultimately, Heidi was able to acquire K9 Caryk in 2014

and never looked back! Heidi and K9 Caryk were partners for 7 years until K9 Caryk passed away unexpectedly. Heidi officially retired from Law Enforcement after serving 27 years.

Since Retiring and due to the experience of losing K9 Caryk, Heidi has started Riverside Pet Cremation, LLC. Heidi hopes to have this business running by June 2022. The mission of Riverside Pet Cremation, LLC is professional aftercare for pets and to get pets back to their family in 3-5 days.

Thank you Heidi and K9 Caryk for your service!

CSS K9s Assist in Double Homicide Case

The Dane County Sheriff's Office responded to a Missing Persons report from Chandler Halderson on July 7, 2021. Chandler was reporting both his parents, Bart and Krista Halderson as missing.

Eventually it became clear to detectives that Chandler was not being truthful and declared his parents missing status as, 'suspicious' on July 8, 2021. Detectives believed that Chandler may have killed and possibly disarticulated his parents.

This resulted in a call out to CSS to assist in attempting to locate Bart and Krista's remains. Jason Baumgart and K9 Crosby, Wade Gummin and K9 Talia, and Alyssa Palmer and K9 Hela all responded to multiple search efforts in various areas, including a multiple day

sniff at a landfill. All the dogs provided information indicating in areas where evidence was recovered as well as clearing areas.

By far the most grueling task was sniffing a landfill for days in the July heat. However, the dogs were vital in providing information on which piles of rubbish to sift through for Investigators.

This was a huge collaboration between City of Madison Police Department and the Dane County Sheriff's Office. Great work to everyone, especially K9 Crosby, K9 Talia, and K9 Hela.

On January, 20, 2022 Chandler was found guilty of killing both of his parents.



Alyssa Palmer and K9 Hela

Scent Specific Trailing Classes 2021

CSS conducted five scent specific trailing classes for 38 Wisconsin Law Enforcement K9 Handlers, 1 North Dakota K9 Handler, and 1 Minnesota K9 Handler. Classes were hosted by Polk County Sheriff Department, City of Sheboygan Police Department, Racine County Sheriff Department, City of Shawano Police Department, and Green County Sheriff Department. The host agency received a free slot and the course was three days long for a total of 24 hours of K9 training. All classes had a basic group and two classes also had an advanced group for those that had previously participated in the basic course.

Instructors were Carren Corcoran Gummin, Wade Gummin, Jason Baumgart, Jim Donnell, Terry Loose (all from the City of Madison Police Department either current or retired officers), K9 Handler Steve Clayton with Polk County Sheriff Department, and K9 Handler Heidi Thaves with City of Shawano Police Department.

During the three days teams are shown what the capabilities of their dog is by trailing a specific person on hard surface, through significant contamination, and over a 24 hour period. It is always enjoyable to see the "AHA" moments of the handlers. We received feedback shortly after the course by several handlers who had great success while utilizing what they had learned. Teams located a suspect, missing person, or evidence while on a track.

We are already booking classes for Law Enforcement K9 Teams in 2022!

If you are interested in hosting or attending a course contact Carren at coren0120@gmail.com or Jason at jasonbaumgart@gmail.com.

We are happy to share what we have been invited to instruct at the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handler Association State Conference in September of 2022.



K9 Gary locating Carren Corcoran Gummin



Thank You For All The Support!

Animal Holistic Care Specialist

Thank you to Julie Kaufman! Julie has been providing chiropractic care and herbal remedies for K9 Slim's aging body

Emergency Support Services, LLC

Thank you to Ken Anderson who has been assisting with his vast knowledge in search efforts, especially for his support and guidance regarding the search for Parker Johnson Kruse

Sandy Vernlund

Thank you to Sandy Vernlund of Brookings County K9 Search and Rescue, for hosting an incredible training on her property in South Dakota. "The focus had been on all buried problems and was one of the most useful and realistic trainings I have ever attended." - CCG



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Oldies, But Goodies

Currently CSS has a team full of "Oldies" as many of our working partners are getting up there in age, but still rocking it on cases. Check out all of our "distinguished" K9s and some have earned their gray hairs!



K9 Hela - 9 years young



K9 Crosby - 10 years young



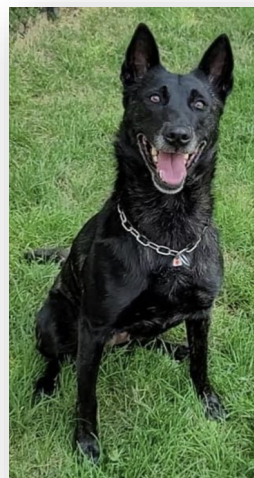
K9 Talia - 10 years young



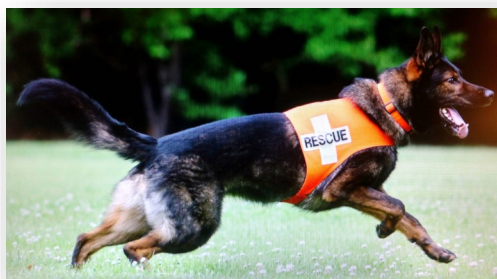
K9 Moxie - 8 years young



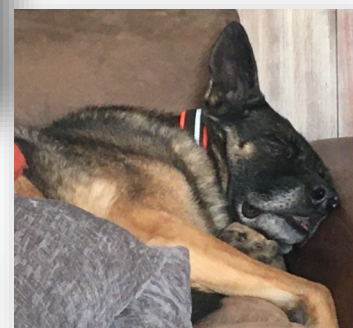
K9 Jet - 7 years young



K9 Ninja - 7 years young



K9 Gusto - 10 years young



*K9 Slim (Retired) - 13 years young,
an honorary member of CSS*