



Yukon Introduces K-9 Marley

January 13th is a special day for the Chester County Sheriff's Office. On that day in 2020, Sergeant Janis Pickell got Marley, a dog who became part of the office's Canine Unit, a group of K-9s and handlers who help people.

Marley is a comfort dog. When people feel scared or sad on a visit to the courthouse, Marley cheers them up. He is an English Black Labrador, a type of dog that is friendly and likes people. When he was a young puppy, he was trained to be a seeing eye dog, but he is better at being a comfort dog.

He is very smart. When Marley sees Sgt. Janis wearing her uniform or when she gets out his vest or bandana that says he is a therapy dog, he knows it is time to go to work. When he is in the court room, he knows he must be very quiet. After court, he naps in Sgt. Janis's office. Sometimes he snores.

He is part of a team of eight K-9s and their eight handlers—officers who work with the dogs and live with them. Marley is friends with K-9 Luke.

Marley is the star of programs for students, Girl Scouts and other groups. He shows kids how he sits and stays when Janis gives commands. Sometimes he is funny. He walks around the table when he gets bored on camera. One day, his paw accidentally turned off the computer during a program.

Students ask questions about K-9 Marley.

- **What is a canine (K-9)?**

A canine is an animal like a dog. Foxes and wolves are canines, too.



- **What does Marley like to eat?**

Marley likes raw string beans, peanut butter, sweet potatoes and other healthy snacks. Sometimes he is a sloppy eater.

- **What else does Marley like to do?**

He likes to play with toys. At home, he has a “sister”—a cat—but she doesn’t like to play.

Marley likes to watch people walking outside his window.

He likes to sniff. He can track people and things by their smell.

Marley would like to ride in the front seat of the car. But to be safe, he rides in the back seat with a special seatbelt.

- **Does Marley go anywhere else besides work?**

He loves to visit the dog park. Sometimes he goes to the dog spa to take a bath and to get his nails trimmed.

Now Marley is two years old. He weighs about 56 pounds. That is about as much as an eight-year-old child weighs.

Every year we celebrate K-9 Marley’s “got ya” day with Marley’s favorite treats and hugs. It is the day Sgt. Janis says to Marley, “We ‘got ya’ years ago. We are happy you’re with us!”

