



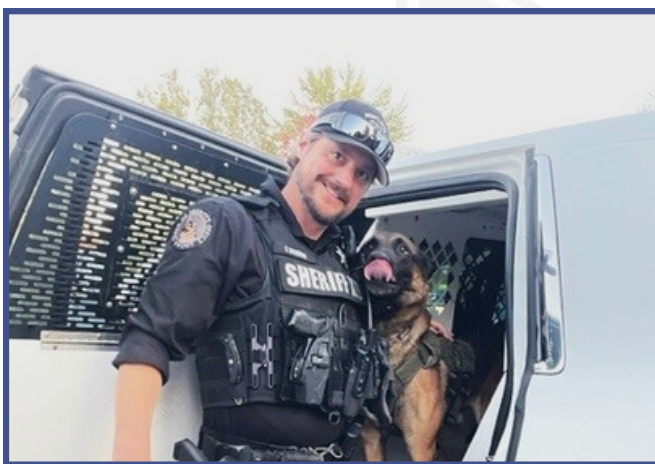
Clark County Sheriff's Office

# PAWS PATROL

*Enhancing Community Safety and Livability*

March 2024

## K-9 Corner



This is an exciting time for the Clark County Sheriff's Office K-9 unit. We recently selected three new dogs and handlers for our unit, and training began in January! Deputy Preston will handle K9 Maddux; Deputy Gonzalez will handle K9 Knox and Deputy O'Hearn will handle K9 Flash. These new teams will complete their training by mid-April and be ready to hit the streets.

Remember, as you're paw-trolling the streets, trust your instincts. If something doesn't feel right, pay attention to that intuition. Look out for your neighbors and each other, and we will see you out there this April!

-Deputy Dunham & Riggs

## SAVE THE DATE

**CCFD6 Open House  
at Station 63  
June 1st, 2024  
K-9 Demo!**

**Bark n Park Event  
June 8th, 2024  
DOGPAW Off Leash Parks  
Details to come...**

## Here's Your Sign!



We have a limited supply of Paws on Patrol yard signs available. If you want one for your neighborhood, favorite park, or walking trail, please email us.

[CntySheriff.CommunityOutreach@clark.wa.gov](mailto:CntySheriff.CommunityOutreach@clark.wa.gov)

# In the Spotlight

From the beginning, I became interested in participating in the Clark County Sheriff's Office Paws on Patrol program. I have been an avid pet owner for more than 60 years! My two furry canines, Brittany Spaniels, are energetic, sociable, and great companions. Cinnamon is a 10-year-old American Brittany; Cinnamon became blind at 7 ½ years. The other is my French Brittany, LaKota, who is 19 months old and hyperactive. Every day, they sit beside me and become my shadow until I take them out for some exercise. They are natural bird hunters, but we only do that about three months out of the year.

During one of our walks near the Clark County Fairgrounds, the Clark County Sheriff's Office noticed Cinnamon and LaKota and introduced me to the Paws on Patrol program. They told me it was a crime awareness volunteer program for dog walkers to assist as extra eyes, ears, and paws for our routine walks. Naturally, I was highly interested and signed up right away.

When we received our Paws on Patrol pet tags, we changed our habits from being a typical dog walker to being aware of our surroundings and looking for suspicious activity. We also became ambassadors to other dog walkers, especially when they inquire about LaKota's & Cinnamon's "Paws on Patrol" badges. Because one dog is blind, running our patrols on trails like LaCenter, Fuller Park, Vancouver Lake, and Klineline is easier. Cinnamon can navigate these trails like no other, and folks find it hard to believe she is blind. LaKota usually takes the lead and pretends like we are on a hunt.

We meet many runners and walkers on the trails. When you make eye-to-eye contact with another, it entertains some conversation about dogs and what we do. It brings about a positive response from the community. We also patrol our local school campuses: Skyview, Alki & Chinook. On a few occasions, we have encountered homelessness and students skipping school. I let it be known that eyes are watching. It is an enriching and educational experience to be part of this great concept, "Paws on Patrol."

-Mike Plinski



"Hello, I am Cinnamon, 10 years old and blind. I love going for my daily walks. Life comes with challenges.. With those challenges comes opportunity."



"Hello, I am LaKota. I am a 19-month-old French Brittany. I am a bit stubborn, and Cinnamon lets me know who the Boss is. We love our job on Dog Patrol."

**Would you like your Paws on Patrol pet(s) to be featured in a future newsletter? Send info and photos to:**

[CntySheriff.CommunityOutreach@clark.wa.gov](mailto:CntySheriff.CommunityOutreach@clark.wa.gov)

# Snow Much Fun!

A big thank you to everyone who shared photos of their dogs enjoying the snow in January. Several of them were showcased on the Sheriff's Office [Facebook page](#). Here are a few more photos to enjoy.



## Claws and Order: The Feline Force

Paws on Patrol isn't exclusive to dogs. Meet Mr. Roarke, a 5-year-old Flame Point Siamese who enjoys short walks, Doritos, and Cheetos! Despite being a cat, he is fond of dogs, favors dog toys, and boasts exceptional hunting skills. True to his Siamese nature, Mr. Roarke is incredibly vocal. He proudly stands as the third feline member of Paws on Patrol.

Dogs have long been heralded as the ultimate protectors. Their loyalty, keen senses, and intimidating bark make them an obvious choice for guarding households. However, amidst the canine spotlight exists a silent but vigilant guardian—the cat. While often perceived as independent and aloof, cats possess qualities that make them remarkably effective watchdogs in their own right.

**Heightened Sensory Perception:** Despite their smaller size, cats have incredibly acute senses. Their exceptional hearing allows them to detect subtle sounds that might escape human notice, such as footsteps approaching the house or unfamiliar noises. Their keen sense of smell enables them to detect environmental changes, alerting them to potential intruders or disturbances.

**Natural Instincts:** Cats are instinctively territorial animals. They form strong attachments to their home environment and are naturally inclined to defend it against perceived threats. This territorial nature translates into a protective instinct, prompting cats to be vigilant to potential dangers that may encroach upon their territory.

Mr. Roarke loves short walks, Doritos and Cheetos!

**Stealth and Agility:** Unlike dogs, which may announce their presence with loud barks, cats are masters of stealth. They can silently move around the house, surveilling their surroundings without alerting intruders to their presence. Their agility allows them to navigate tight spaces and high vantage points, enabling them to monitor the environment from various angles.

**Communication:** While cats may not bark like dogs, they possess a repertoire of vocalizations and body language to communicate with their human companions. When they sense something amiss, cats may vocalize distinctively, such as growling, hissing, or meowing insistently, to alert their owners to potential threats.

**Bond with Their Owners:** Despite their independent nature, cats form strong bonds with their human caregivers. They are attuned to their owners' emotions and behaviors and can pick up on cues that indicate distress or danger.

While cats may not fit the traditional image of a watchdog, their silent vigilance and unwavering loyalty demonstrate that when it comes to protecting their territory and loved ones, cats are more than capable of rising to the occasion.

Welcome to Paws on Patrol, Mr. Roarke!

# It's *Your* Neighborhood



## Dynamic Duo: A Senior and Her Dog Team Up for a Safer, Cleaner Community

My name is Krista, and I joined Paws on Patrol at the beginning of January. I go to a private school, where, as seniors, we each get to choose a volunteer program to participate in. The Paws on Patrol program was perfect for me. I loved how it combines learning about personal safety and being situationally perceptive. It's a great way to support your community.

I also wanted to collect litter along my routes while walking my dogs. I have filled two 90-liter trash bags over the last few months. I've collected the litter from various neighborhoods throughout Clark County and Salmon Creek, where I live. Overall, I've enjoyed being a part of the Paws on Patrol immensely and have found it to be a great way to connect with my community and maintain the safety and cleanliness of our neighborhoods.

Here's a photo of my dog, Johnny, patrolling during one of our snowy days!

**Setting out to eliminate trash enhances community morale and turns your neighborhood into a nice place to call home. Ready to make a paw-sitive impact like Krista and Johnny? Here are some tips to get you started!**

**Safety First:** Before embarking on a litter pick-up adventure, ensure your pet's safety by using a sturdy leash, harness, or carrier, depending on the pet's species and size. Also, please make sure your pet is up-to-date on vaccinations and flea/tick prevention.

**Choose Pet-Friendly Locations:** Choose safe and suitable litter pick-up locations for pets. Avoid areas with heavy traffic, toxic substances, or aggressive wildlife. Parks, trails, and neighborhoods with sidewalks are ideal choices.

**Equip Yourself and Your Pet:** Equip yourself with gloves, trash bags, and a litter picker tool for collecting litter safely. For pets, consider bringing water, snacks, waste bags, and any necessary gear, such as a collapsible water bowl or a pet carrier.

**Provide Positive Reinforcement:** Encourage and reward your pet for participating in litter pick-up. Praise them with treats, verbal praise, and affectionate gestures to reinforce their cooperation and make the experience enjoyable.

**Respect Wildlife and Habitats:** Be mindful of wildlife habitats and nesting areas while collecting litter. Avoid disturbing wildlife and vegetation, and dispose of collected litter responsibly in designated waste bins.

If you regularly pick up litter in your neighborhood, consider joining a program. Adopt One Block is a volunteer program that lets you select the area you want to keep free of litter and delivers free supplies to your door. For more info, visit [Adopt One Block](#).

Another resource is [Keep WA Litter Free](#).



# Spring Pet Safety Tips

Spring is the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors with your furry companions. However, amidst the beauty of this season, potential hazards can pose risks to your pets. Here are some essential tips to ensure your pets stay safe and happy during the springtime:



**Watch Out for Allergens:** Like humans, pets can suffer seasonal allergies. Monitor for symptoms such as excessive scratching, licking, or sneezing. Pollen, grass, and various blooming plants can trigger pet allergic reactions. Consult your veterinarian if you suspect your pet is experiencing allergies.

**Beware of Toxic Plants:** Many plants that bloom in spring are toxic to pets if ingested. Lilies, azaleas, daffodils, and tulips are just a few examples. Ensure your yard is free of these plants, and if you're unsure about a specific plant's toxicity, research it or consult your veterinarian.

**Pet-Safe Gardening:** If you have a garden, be cautious with fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. Some of these products contain chemicals that can be harmful or even fatal to pets if ingested. Opt for pet-friendly alternatives or keep your pets away from treated areas until it's safe.

**Prevent Fleas and Ticks:** Warmer weather means increased flea and tick activity. Keep your pets on year-round preventatives recommended by your veterinarian. Check your pets for signs of fleas and ticks, especially after outdoor adventures. Consider landscaping your yard to reduce tick habitats.

**Stay Hydrated:** Hydration is crucial as temperatures rise. Always provide plenty of fresh water for your pets at home or on the go. Bring water and a portable bowl for your pet if you're out for a walk or hike.

**Mind the Heat:** Pets can quickly overheat, leading to heatstroke, which can be fatal. Avoid strenuous exercise during the hottest parts of the day, and never leave your pet in a parked car, even with the windows cracked. Provide shaded areas and access to cool, indoor spaces.

**Practice Responsible Pet Ownership:** With more people spending time outdoors, there's an increased risk of encounters with unfamiliar animals. Please keep your pet leashed in public areas and ensure they have proper identification, such as a collar with tags or a microchip.

**Spring Cleaning Caution:** As you embark on spring cleaning, be mindful of the products you use. Common household cleaners, antifreeze, and other chemicals can harm pets. Please store these items securely out of your pet's reach.

**Check Your Fencing:** After the winter months, inspect your fencing for any damage or gaps that your pet could slip through. Ensure your yard is securely fenced to prevent escapes and keep your pet safe.

**Be Prepared for Emergencies:** Accidents can happen, so it's essential to be prepared. Keep a pet first-aid kit at home and know the location of the nearest emergency veterinary clinic. Familiarize yourself with standard pet emergency procedures.

By following these spring safety tips, you can ensure that your pets enjoy the season to the fullest while staying healthy and protected from potential hazards.