



# West Des Moines Police Department

---

To Whom It May Concern,

The Iowa Law Enforcement K9 Memorial has been a work in progress for the better part of a decade. Much thought and countless conversations have taken place during that time, looking to identify a way to publicly recognize the dedication and sacrifice law enforcement K9's make throughout their years of service. K9 teams play a major role in Iowa law enforcement and in many departments are some of the most well-known officers. K9 teams are commonplace at department sponsored events, school and daycare classrooms along with community and civic group meetings. K9 teams help to enhance community relations throughout the State by providing education about the K9's abilities and limitations and encouraging people to approach officers and to ask questions.

In addition to public relations events, law enforcement K9's are called upon to assist in locating lost or missing persons, narcotics or explosives. They are likewise called upon for arson detection, cadaver and wild game detection, and they can also be trained in handler protection and criminal apprehension.

As the number of law enforcement K9's continues to increase across Iowa, so does community support. Starting a K9 Unit is a financial strain on many law enforcement agencies. Community fundraisers and private donations help alleviate some of the financial strain and provide much needed equipment to help train and protect each K9.

Law enforcement agencies purchase the K9 and assigned to the handler. The handler cares for the basic needs of the dog to include housing, feeding, exercising and medical care. As a result of being around the dog constantly, a tight bond forms between the dog and the handler. In many cases this bond extends to the handler's family, fellow officers and to members of the community. When a K9 is injured or killed in the line of duty, the impact is felt by all. This design competition is intended to identify a design that will not only recognize the commitment and sacrifice of the K9, but also the dedication, commitment and love displayed by everyone who is directly and indirectly associated with the K9 Team. The winning design should represent this unyielding bond by identifying a memorial design that will complement the current State Peace Officer Memorial located on the SW corner of the Capitol Complex. This memorial will not only serve as a permanent reminder of those K9's that died or were killed in the line of duty, it will also complement the current Peace Officer Memorial and those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Good Luck!

Lieutenant Brent A. Kock  
West Des Moines Police Department  
Former K9 Handler

---

250 Mills Civic Parkway, PO Box 65320 West Des Moines, IA 50265-0320 (515) 222-3300  
[www.wdm-ia.com/government/police](http://www.wdm-ia.com/government/police)

