



11/8/2017

To Whom it May concern.

**Re: K-9 Boss of Tequesta Police Department**

I, Irene Howcroft, am a certified Master Trainer, and owner/operator of Ruidoso Malinois, specializing in Belgian Malinois and have 35 years experience with working dogs.

I have been apprised of K-9 Boss and his handler Officer Michael Valerio. K-9 Boss and Officer Valerio are a strong and committed team who have successfully completed many missions including 2 apprehensions of violent suspects.

Belgian Malinois, as a breed, develop exceptionally strong relationships with their handlers, more so than any other working dog breed and generally do not transition well to new handlers. In addition, K-9 Boss is now 5 and a half years old thus having only 2 and a half more years of service. He would lose 6 months of this 2 and a half years as he would need to bond with a new handler and also go through another handler school. No law enforcement agency will want such an old dog as he will then be 6 years of age. Furthermore K-9 Boss is NOT social, he does not accept other people into his "pack", in his mind his pack is himself and officer Valerio only. K-9 Boss has a history of being significantly aggressive to others, he cannot even be boarded in a normal manner but needs to be housed at a facility with a remote door so that he can go in and outside with no direct contact with the boarding facility staff. He is still suspicious of Officer Valerio's room-mate whom he has known for some time. K-9 Boss has a very experienced and competent handler (single, no wife or children) who understands him, whom he trusts and to whom he is exceptionally loyal. K-9 Boss is not a candidate for, and does not qualify as a K-9 for transition to another handler or another agency. He would be a strong liability. No Agency would want a K-9 like this by virtue of both age and especially because of his temperament, even if donated.

K-9 Boss does have a very strong, stable and calm relationship with officer Valerio and it is in the interests of both K-9 Boss and Officer Valerio that K-9 Boss is retired and lives out his retirement years with Officer Valerio. K-9 Boss has served his agency with hard and successful work as a narcotics detector dog and great courage as a patrol dog. He has earned his retirement.

Sincerely,

  
Irene Howcroft