

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=35407>

New K-9 Officer Joins Atchison Police Dept.

(KAIR)--The Atchison Police Department has added a new K9 officer to their ranks.

Rock, a two year old German Shepard, reported for his first shift last weekend after he completed specialized training with his new handler. Police Chief Mike Wilson says Rock has been in training for the past two years not only in Germany, but at the Canine Working Dogs facility located in Longford, Kansas. He is training in three areas--narcotics, patrol, and tracking.

His handler, Corporal John Ross says Rock is doing well in the short time he has been a part of the department. He says he is young and full of energy, and has already gotten a good idea of how things work, and Ross has no doubt at all that Rock will be a huge asset.

Ross adds that Rock cannot be treated like any other dog, as it can interfere with his job. Even though he does accompany Ross home, he cannot be treated as a pet, and cannot bond with other dogs. He has to stay bonded with Ross, since he is a working dog. It is important for him to realize when it is time to work, and when it is time to relax and stand down.

Ross says that Rock's predecessor Bear is irreplaceable, but they have to do what they can to keep the department going strong.

Bear passed away peacefully on January 1st, surrounded by members of the department.

Many Signals Communications