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**Romeoville Police K-9s to Receive Pet Insurance Upon Retirement**

Most people in Romeoville are probably familiar with Spike, the current police K-9. He can be seen at numerous community events, in classrooms, or while he's on the job. He even has his own cop card! When the day comes to retire, he will go home with Officer Allen and go from full time partner to full time pet. Previously, any medical troubles that may arise during that retirement would have to be paid for by the officer, and medical bills for retired police dogs can be very high. Romeoville, however, is stepping up. As of last night, police K-9s will be covered by pet insurance as long as they are retained by their K-9 officer.



"Spike is just the latest in a long line of K-9s who have served our community well," stated Mayor John Noak. "Providing medical coverage in their retirement is the least we can do for the hard work and years of dedication these animals have given us."

This is not the normal practice. Pet insurance is not a typical benefit that is offered to retired K-9s and many handlers have to rely on nonprofit organizations that assist with the cost of medical care. Additionally, Mayor Noak announced plans are underway for a new memorial for all of Romeoville's K-9 and service animals.