

# Massachusetts State Police K9 “Kantor” receives donation of body armor

Massachusetts State Police Department K9 Kantor has received a bullet- and stab-protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from the non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. Kantor’s vest was sponsored by Madeline Hamersley of Sorrento, Maine, and embroidered with the words “In honor of Sandy Marcal.”

Kantor’s handler is Trooper Brian Soares of the Massachusetts State Police K9 Unit.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet- and stab-protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged partners of police officers is made in the United States, custom fitted, and certified by the National Institute of Justice. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided more than 3,980 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations. Several Massachusetts State Police K9s proudly wear vests provided by the organization.

The program is open to dogs who are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with United States law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$960 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1,744-\$2,283,

weighs an average of 4-5 lbs., and comes with a five-year warranty. For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org), or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.