



LEXINGTON POLICE
DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM
Lexington, Kentucky

DATE OF ISSUE

1/12/2016

EFFECTIVE DATE

1/12/2016

NUMBER

TO:

Lt. Brand
Bureau of Special Operations

SUBJECT:

Request to retire K9 Ory

FROM:

Sergeant Brian Peterson
Canine Unit

Sir,

This memorandum is to request consideration of the retirement of K9 Ory. K9 Ory is currently just over 5 years old and continues to show issues with tracking, building searches and general officer safety concerns. I have discussed K9 Ory's issues with his handler Officer Pat Murray, the Unit Trainer Officer Henry Hicks, as well as having observed these concerns firsthand in training and on calls for service.

Upon being assigned to the Canine Unit in January 2015, I began an inventory and accounting of the state of the Unit and saw several issues that needed to be addressed due to having been neglected over the years. One of those issues was determining which dogs needed to be retired either due to age or inability to perform their job. K9 Ory is the last dog remaining that was never truly evaluated and held accountable by the previous Unit Trainer and Supervisor for his continued inability to perform his job. For reasons unknown, K9 Ory was allowed to continue to operate as a Lexington Police K9 in spite of his demonstrated deficiencies.

Over the past year I have evaluated K9 Ory along with the Unit Trainer, asking Officer Hicks and Officer Pat Murray to attempt again to retrain K9 Ory before we considered requesting his retirement. K9 Ory continues to show a lack of interest in tracking and building searches, thereby putting Officer Murray at risk when he is conducting these searches. It is my strong belief that K9 Ory will not protect Officer Murray should he encounter a suspect during a search, nor can K9 Ory be counted on to track said suspect when needed. K9 Ory attempted to certify twice recently in tracking during our annual USPCA certification trials and failed both times. At that time, concerned that K9 Ory would not protect his handler, I advised Officer Murray that K9 Ory would no longer take any tracking or building search calls, only narcotics detection and article searches.

During the past year we have purchased three new canines, all three of which are performing extremely well and showing great potential. Part of this is due to our decision to change dog vendors, having evaluated several and chosen our latest vendor after long consideration and evaluation of their quality and reputation. Secondly, if a newly purchased canine appears to lack the drive or qualities that are needed, the dog is returned to the vendor during the initial grace period and another dog is selected free of charge. In the past, as with K9 Ory, that decision to return a dog with obvious deficiencies was not made, and the handler was told to make it work somehow, resulting in the situation we are facing today with K9 Ory.

Upon approval, I am requesting that K9 Ory be retired due to his continued inability to perform his job and protect his handler. When funds become available, a new Police Canine should be purchased to replace him, which would be assigned to Officer Murray.

I have attached memorandums from Officer Henry Hicks (Unit Trainer) and Officer Pat Murray (K9 Ory's handler). Please let me know if I can provide further on this, thank you.

 emailed
Sergeant Brian Peterson
Canine Unit



Lexington-Fayette Urban County
Division of Police
MEMORANDUM
Lexington, Kentucky

DATE OF ISSUE
January 11, 2016

EFFECTIVE DATE

NUMBER

TO:
Sergeant Peterson
Special Operations Canine Unit Supervisor

SUBJECT:
Canine Ory

FROM:
Officer Henry C. Hicks 33737
Special Operations Canine Unit Trainer

Sergeant Peterson,

This memorandum is with regard to Patrol Service Canine "Ory" that is assigned to Officer Murray. It is my opinion that K9 Ory should be retired as soon as practical and a new Patrol Service Canine be purchased to replace K9 Ory. The new Patrol Service Canine would then be assigned to Officer Murray.

K9 Ory was purchased in 2011. After his basic training and deployment to the street, K9 Ory began to struggle with the patrol work side of his training. K9 Ory was also struggling on the street with tracking and performing building searches. The trainer and supervisor at the time decided that the dog's behavior was due to the immaturity of the canine and that as the dog matured he would gain confidence and the focus needed to perform the patrol tasks.

Officer Murray has attempted several times over the past four years to get assistance with K9 Ory from the former Unit Trainer as well as myself when I assumed the Unit Trainer position with little to no success. Each time the dog was retrained Ory would perform during the sterile training environments, but once the training became more real world, Ory would begin to show signs of distraction or just fail to perform at all. It is my opinion that K9 Ory does not have the necessary drives to perform the patrol functions that we require our Patrol Service Canines to perform.

During 2015 K9 Ory attempted to certify in tracking twice, failing in both attempts. I believe that we have done everything that we can do with regard to remedial training of this canine and have seen no improvement. K9 Ory's poor performance in the areas of building searches and tracking while working the street have reached the point of being a safety concern for Officer Murray and anyone working with Officer Murray and his canine partner.

As stated above, I would recommend that K9 Ory be retired and a new canine purchased when funds were available to do so. If further is needed please let me know.

emailed

Officer Henry C. Hicks 33737
Special Operations Canine Unit Trainer



LEXINGTON POLICE
DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM
Lexington, Kentucky

DATE OF ISSUE
01-11-16

EFFECTIVE DATE
01-11-16

NUMBER

TO:
Sgt. Peterson

SUBJECT:
K9 Ory retirement

FROM:
Ofc. Murray

Sir,

I'm writing this memo to advise of the issues and challenges I have faced with K9 Ory since his purchase in 2011. After the initial basic training of K9 Ory, it was noticed that K9 Ory had a difficult time transitioning from the standard training at the training facility to real life situations. At some points K9 Ory would back down and sometimes completely shut down due to increased pressure from the decoy in certain situations. The real life training that K9 Ory was put through was standard for all of the canines in the Unit. K9 Ory also had a very difficult time with his tracking. Several different methods were tried, but a consistent desire to track was never seen during basic training.

I spoke with the trainer and supervisor of the unit at that time of my concerns. I advised that we had continued to have problems during building searches. I explained that K9 Ory would shut down in certain environments and would not search buildings that contained certain types of floors. When we would enter a building and get to a room with unusual environments I would have to help him through the room or take him out of the building all together. With these issues, I could not trust K9 Ory to protect me or any other officer in a building. I was advised that K9 Ory was maturing a little late and that as he grew in age, his skill would progress. I continued to train to try to get K9 Ory up to the standard we needed for patrol deployment.

After the retirement of the former trainer, I worked with the current trainer, and other senior handlers to try to improve K9 Ory's confidence and desire to track. Some minor improvement was seen in K9 Ory's confidence, however little to no improvement was seen in his tracking. There were several times where K9 Ory had to begin back at very basic training in attempt to take another angle to try to get him to track. No consistent improvement were seen. At his current skill set, K9 Ory is potentially an officer safety issue.

Officer Pat Murray 44987