



WESTMORELAND COUNTY OFFICE OF THE CORONER

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New addition to K-9 unit will help to locate bodies

Coroner Kenneth A. Bacha is proud to announce a new member in the Westmoreland County Coroner's Office. Kai, a 1 ½ year old Belgian Malinois, is not a Medicolegal Death Investigator, but a Cadaver Detection Canine. A cadaver dog is specifically trained to detect blood, hair, body fluids, and human remains during investigations. She was acquired as a puppy from Logan Haus Kennels in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

Deputy John Ackerman, D-ABMDI is Kai's handler and trainer, and the two completed 40 hours of intense Cadaver Recovery training with Law Enforcement Training Specialists, International Inc. in Seymour, Indiana last month. Deputy Ackerman and Kai successfully completed established L.E.T.S. International Inc. testing standards, and received their Certification in Cadaver Recovery. Kai will be completing water cadaver recovery training this year, at which time she will be able to detect the scent of a human body under water from the shoreline or moving boat.

Coroner Bacha believes our Cadaver Dog will be a valuable tool in locating and gathering possibly the most important evidence of a homicide – the victim, as well as other items of evidentiary value such as trace evidence and clothing from crime scenes. Cadaver Detection dogs help families in locating their loved ones and give them some sense of closure and peace.

Deputy Ackerman was also appointed by the L.E.T.S. International, Inc. Board of Regents as an Instructor and Certification Official in Cadaver Recovery. Deputy Ackerman has over 20 years experience in training and handling cadaver detection dogs. He has been an associate instructor with L.E.T.S. International, Inc. for the past 3 years and has over 200 hours of training with L.E.T.S. International, Inc.