
From: Mathena, Randall <randall.mathena@vadoc.virginia.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 7:54 AM
To: Bernocco, Matthew
Cc: Brandy Alfonso
Subject: Re: "State of the Unit" address

Ok

On Wed, May 12, 2021 at 6:59 AM Bernocco, Matthew <matthew.bernocco@vadoc.virginia.gov> wrote:
FYI, the email below are just a few things Chooch and I have been discussing and working out lately on the patrol side of the house. Everything is going well, just keeping you informed.

Also, I have canceled Bloodhound school for the rest of this week due to all of those guys drive to school every day. Alfonso, Tackett and I are working from home. And packages will be screened as normal unless the handler has to travel a considerable distance to do them or until we can no longer support because of fuel.

I have been told that we cannot use the pumps at facilities because our new cards with chips in them are unsupported and will not work. Officer Dix confirmed this yesterday evening at Nottoway. I am not sure if this is everywhere or only certain facilities.

In any situation if we cannot screen a package we will informed the facility. All special ops for the rest of the week have been canceled or rescheduled. We will review on Friday to determine if we will continue to cancel / reschedule events for next week.

Thanks,

Matt

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Robbins, Christopher <christopher.robbins@vadoc.virginia.gov>
Date: Tue, May 11, 2021 at 10:41 PM
Subject: "State of the Unit" address
To: Matthew Bernocco <matthew.bernocco@vadoc.virginia.gov>, Brandy Alfonso <brandy.alfonso@vadoc.virginia.gov>

Yesterday 5.10.21 Canine Williams dog, Sid, broke his last canine tooth. I found the tooth on the ground after I had Sid put up. The way the tooth broke I believe it was already broken and that bite was what it took to work it out. I had Williams put Sid in his kennel to let his adrenaline go down and give time for pain to set in, If he had any. I waited about 30 minutes and had Williams give him a sleeve bite. Sid bit and held without any problem and showed no pain. I notified Dr. Meister of what had happened and how I tested him. She was in agreement with me that Sid could still work but no bite training until the rest of the tooth can be pulled and gums sewed up to stop any infection. Sid is scheduled for May 25th to have the rest of the

tooth pulled. This allows me to have Canine Degener finished with her 80 hour school and cover while Sid is out.

This morning I had 2 canines bite the ends of their tails off. Canine Jeff and Canine Lord. Canine Jeff was taken to the vet and seen by Dr. Meister. She has recommended that his tail be docked to stop any further harm to it. His procedure is scheduled for next Tuesday. He will have to make up 2 weeks at the end of school. Canine Lord also bit the end of his tail off, When I checked it the blood was clotted and he did not appear to be in any pain. I had Dr Meister send extra gauze and cleaner to keep it wrapped.

Around 210 this afternoon I got a call from Canine Buchanan at WRSP that he had responded to an inmate fight with canine Rivan. It was a justified use of force situation but Rivan would not engage. Buchanan did try several times but Rivan would not.

I am going to have Rivan brought to this Patrol Canine school and will work with him to build his aggression up. I will also be taking him with me to Sussex May 18 thru 25th to take him in the empty pods they have to perform as much IET training as I can with him.

At the end of this school if he has shown improvement I am going to certify him on another handler and reassign him to another institution.

For Buchanan, when the travel ban is lifted, he will go to Sussex and get a certified patrol dog, Luther, and do an 80 hour school with him.

If the travel ban is not lifted and we have to take a week off school I am going to finish Degener and Hurricane at WRSP to get them back in service.

The dog I spoke with you about last week, Bear, that was donated has not shown any increase in aggression. I originally was going to give him till this thursday and if no improvement surplus him. I've decided to keep him at the school a little longer and continue working with him.

Chooch

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Patrol Canine Sgt. Chris Robbins

276.523.3310

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