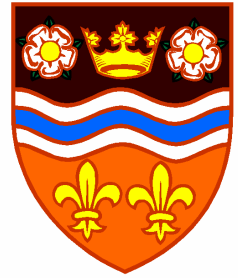


PRESS INFORMATION

DATE: 18th March 2009
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HUMBERSIDE
POLICE AUTHORITY

Animal Welfare Scheme Gets the Thumbs Up

Humberside Police Authority's Animal Welfare Scheme, introduced in September 2008, has been met with unanimous approval from members of the Authority's Communities and Partnerships Committee.

The Committee was pleased to learn that following monthly visits from the Animal Welfare Scheme visitors, positive feedback had been received on the way in which both Police Dogs and Horses are cared for, the conditions of the premises and the professionalism of the staff. The Scheme's visitors are totally impartial and acknowledged as experts in the welfare of working animals.

Alene Branton, MBE, Chair of the Police Authority, explained that the purpose of the scheme was to provide independent verification that Humberside Police dogs and horses are well cared for and to highlight any problems. "There is no suggestion that the animals are not well looked after, but it is good to have an independent opinion," she said. "The visitors have carried out nine visits in the first six months and their findings were a credit to both the dog and horse units."

Members were also keen to congratulate PC Mark Thompson and his police dog Sol and PC Paul Wallis with police dog Blue who between them won four awards at the Regional Assessment for Police Dogs at Sheffield. These assessments were based on operational work in three different phases, conducted against the new ACPO guidelines. They will now go forward to the National Police Dog Assessments in April this year.

Ms Branton added: "On behalf of the Authority I would like to congratulate Sol and Blue, and of course PC Thompson and PC Wallis, for their achievements. I wish them well at the National Assessments where I feel sure that they will be a further credit to Humberside Police."

For more information about the Scheme, or to find out how to become involved in the future, please visit Humberside Police Authority's website, www.humberside-pa.org.uk or contact Victoria Wise on 01482 307234.

- Ends -

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