



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Pleasanton Police Welcome Newest K9 Officer

*'Vader' Joins 'The Force' as Pleasanton's 18<sup>th</sup> Police Dog*

*Pleasanton, Calif.* – The Pleasanton Police Department is delighted to introduce 'Vader,' the latest addition to its K9 program. Vader is a 20-month-old Belgium Malinois and the 18<sup>th</sup> police dog for the City of Pleasanton. Despite his namesake, Vader will not be joining the dark side. He and his handler, Officer Michael Wilson, recently completed their five-week basic training course where they trained to search for missing persons, locate contraband and apprehend criminal offenders.

"The best part is finally becoming a team after all of the training," said Officer Wilson. "It's awesome to know that I have a partner right here in the car with me" he said. While most of Pleasanton's K9 teams have spoken German or Dutch for their commands, Vader and Wilson use French.

Officer Wilson and Vader will patrol Pleasanton as a functional K9 team beginning today. Vader's first community appearance will be later this month in an exclusive meet and greet with winners of the Pleasanton Police Department's Trading Card Game.

Vader lives at home with Officer Wilson and his family. When he is not working, Vader enjoys long walks, tug toys and watching the occasional Star Wars movie with his human siblings.

Pleasanton's police K9 program began in 1974 with K9 Cubby and his handler, Officer Jay Graves. The duo was honored late last year in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Pleasanton's newest dog park, named 'Cubby's Dog Park at Bernal' in a community-wide park naming contest.

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