



**August 14, 2018**

**For Immediate Release**

## **NYS Department of Corrections & Community Supervision K9's Ryder, Rocky, Rodger, & BoBo Receive Body Armor**

### ***NYSCOPBA Partners With Vested Interest in K9s***

**Albany, NY** – NYS Department of Corrections & Community Supervision K9's Ryder, Rocky, Rodger, & BoBo have received bullet and stab protective vests thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Ryder, Rocky, Rodger, & BoBo's vests are sponsored by the New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association and will be embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc."

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton, MA whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K9 officers. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 2,400 protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a cost of over 2.1 million dollars.

The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months of age. New K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9 is \$950.00. Each vest has a value between \$1,744 – \$2,283 and a five-year warranty, and an average weight of 4-5 lbs. There is an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

"NYSCOPBA is proud to have partnered with Vested Interest in K9's. Providing four bullet and stab protective vests to our K9 partners working at DOCCS helps provide another level of protection to these trusted partners. In the last year alone, we have seen the important role our K9's have played in detecting and keeping dangerous contraband out of our facilities. Taking the step to work with Vested Interest and provide an additional layer of protection for our four legged partners was a simple and right choice to make." – stated Michael Powers, NYSCOPBA President

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts tax-deductible donations of any denomination

at [https://url.emailprotection.link/?aWOuf\\_B7NyQ9gnDze79Evy-86Bj2uiwAMbjHqVauA7L8~](https://url.emailprotection.link/?aWOuf_B7NyQ9gnDze79Evy-86Bj2uiwAMbjHqVauA7L8~) or mailed to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718



K-9 Rodger



K-9 Rocky



K-9 Bobo



K-9 Ryder