

Wags Demos Since 2013

K9 Officer Julie Tannock



Officer Tannock with K9 Lord

Police Officer Julie Tannock has been entertaining & educating GSD lovers with her K9 demos at GSRNC's Wags to Riches since 2013. Even at this year's "virtual" Wags, Julie will be showing off her K9 chops (despite a broken foot!). In anticipation of this, we thought we'd let you know a bit more about her.

Julie decided, at the tender age of 40, that what she *really* wanted was to be a police officer. Not only that, but she wanted to be a K9 handler. Isn't this what everyone dreams of?!

Julie grew up with big dogs but had never had a GSD. So, when she was assigned to train with Lord, a large, regal, all-black male from Slovakia, she wondered what she'd gotten herself into. But, as is typical with Julie, she took a deep breath and dove right in!

Training a K9, Julie says, "is like Police Academy for dogs. It's a month of working with your dog 8 to 10 hours a day." She ultimately trained Lord in pursuit, tracking, evidence retrieval, and narcotics.

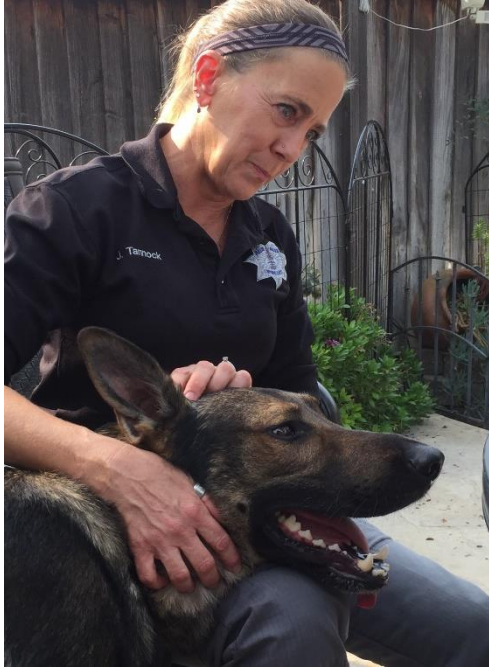
After 7 years of working together, Lord retired in 2016 and took over "policing" Julie's home. About that time, Julie decided to move from the Los Altos to the Palo Alto Police Department. After the standard year of probation, she was assigned a new K9, Bodhan.

Bohdan was from the Czech Republic and a lot greener than Lord had been. Julie had to start from square one, first teaching him basic commands. And to make things more of a challenge, he "spoke" Czech - she had to teach him commands in German, standard for K9s. "He was more of a challenge than Lord, but he's just as much fun to work," she says. He's currently trained in pursuit, tracking and evidence retrieval, and she hopes for more training soon.

Julie first got involved with GSRNC when she was asked to participate in a K9 demo for Wags to Riches



K9 Bohdan in the squad car



Julie at home with Bodhan

in 2013. In 2016, Julie's husband Duane, who is a retired K9 officer, lost his K9 partner Lukas and applied to GSRNC to adopt a GSD. He didn't know that we were the group Lord & Julie had been working with for several years! They ended up adopting a beautiful one-year-old sable boy they call Modi (Kennedy in our program). Shortly after, they found themselves with another GSD puppy, Osso!

Recently, Duane found himself wondering why all their fur-kids were boys and started cruising rescue websites looking at GSD puppies. Next thing he knew, he was driving 8 hours down south to the Riverside County shelter to adopt a little girl, who they've named Athena. Now that she's almost a year old, it's clear she's more Malinois than GSD – except for her HUGE paws!

One moment in their home with the 5 dogs tells you Julie & Duane are huge GSD lovers. As further proof, Duane has a tattoo portrait of Lukas & Julie has one of Lord's actual paw print. Even so, Lord, Bodhan, Modi, Osso & Athena have welcomed Julie's stepson's bomb-sniffing Lab, Illiad.

"I get paid to play with my dog!" Julie adds. "It's the best job you can get!"