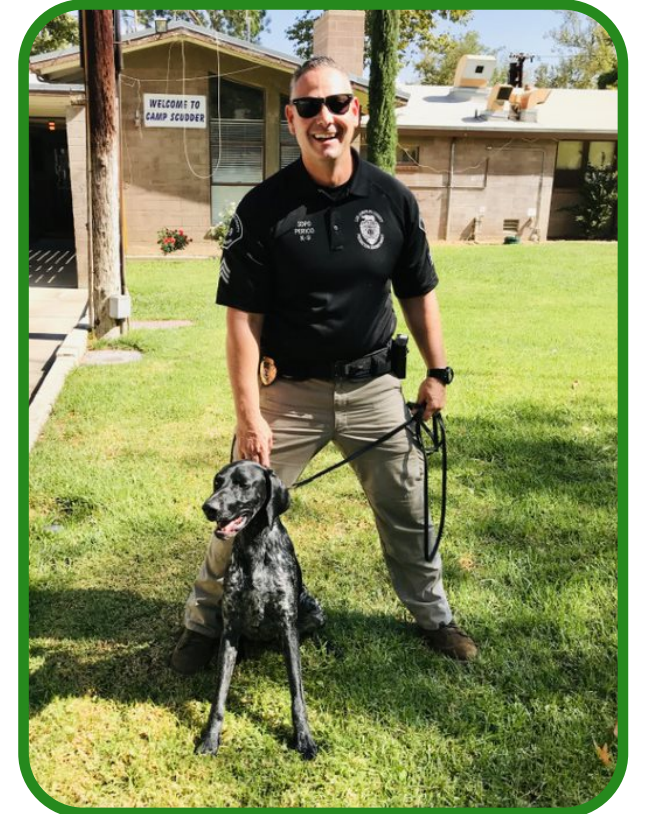


MEET LA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT'S K-9 UNIT

THE DEPARTMENT'S LOYAL K-9'S WORK CLOSELY WITH SEO DEPUTIES

The Los Angeles County Probation Department K-9 unit, was established in 2017 under the Unit's visionary, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer J. Perico. SDPO Perico shared that while on duty, he'd often walk into department institutions and see signs that read, "this facility could be searched by K-9's at any time." However, he'd never seen any K-9's. After inquiring, he found that the Sheriff's Department would come in and conduct searches every once in a while. His discovery sparked a motivation to pursue starting a Probation Department K-9 unit. SDPO Perico began contacting partner agencies and gathering information about their units. Mr. Perico submitted proposals, and it was during a ride-along with the Special Enforcement Unit, a member of the LA County Board of Supervisors saw the immediate need and how helpful a K-9 program would be. Through the generosity of that Board members' discretionary fund, the Department purchased its first K-9 partners and started its K-9 Unit. Initially, the Unit only served the probation department's institutions. Eventually, SDPO Perico would witness his vision expand to the field and ultimately assist other law enforcement organizations. The Unit falls within the Department's Special Enforcement Operations Program and is an essential variable to the Department's efforts to keep our communities safe. Meet the Department's K-9 Unit:



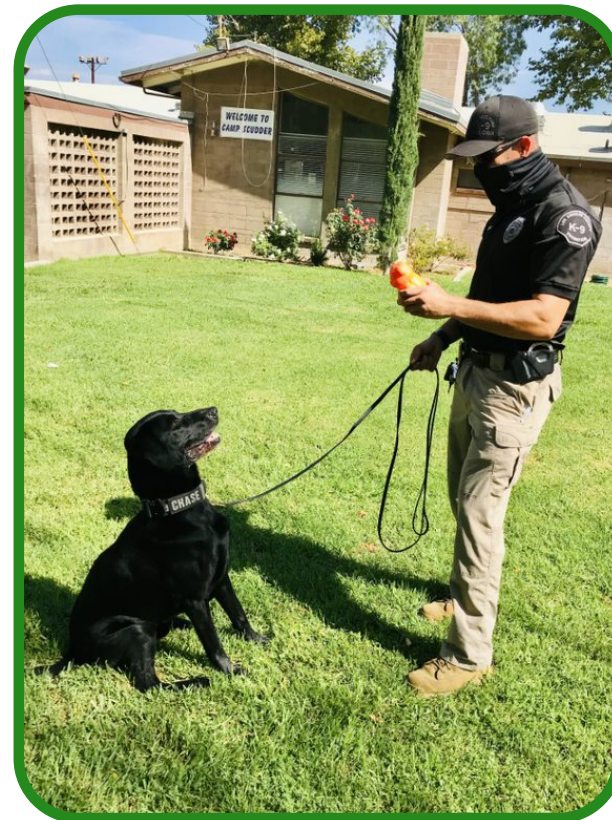
-SDPO Perico and K-9 Paco, male, German Short Hair Pointer



DPO Chong and K-9 Chloe, female Springer Spaniel



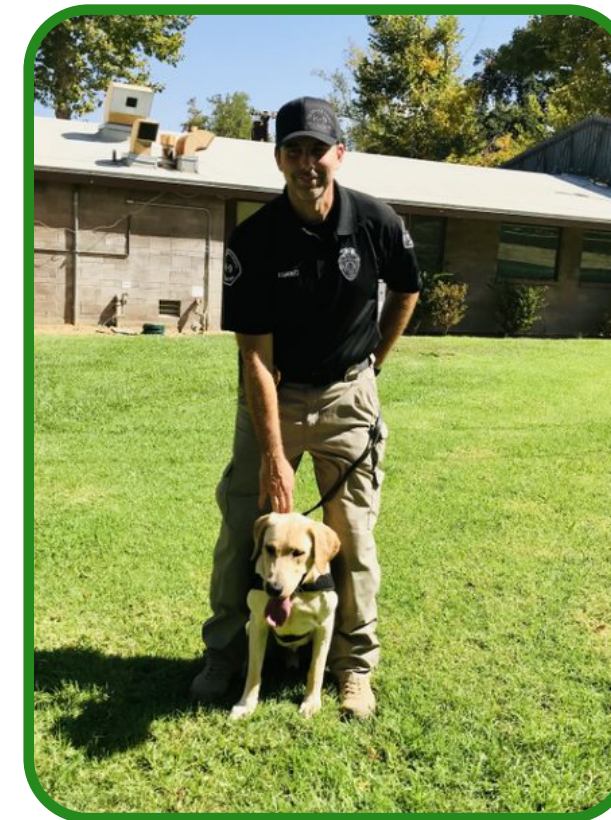
DPO Ochoa and K-9 Pablo, male Labrador Retriever



DPO Robinson and K-9 Chase, male Labrador Retriever



DPO Tatley and K-9 Penny, female Labrador Retriever



DPO Ramirez and K-9 Gig, male, Labrador Retriever

MEET LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT'S K-9 UNIT (CONT)

THE DEPARTMENT'S LOYAL K-9'S WORK CLOSELY WITH SEO DEPUTIES

"The K-9's provide a tremendous amount of public safety to the communities we serve by enforcing the absence of narcotics and firearms amongst those that the department supervises."

- SDPO Perico



Deputies being trained on K-9 safety

The LA County Probation Department's K-9 Unit consists of six Deputy Probation Officers, two narcotics detection dogs, three-gun detection dogs, and one digital media electronic detection dog. "The K-9's provide a tremendous amount of public safety to the communities we serve by enforcing the absence of narcotics and firearms amongst those that the department supervises," shared SDPO Perico. "K-9 Gig, which is short for Gigabyte, is the newest to the Unit."

The Department's loyal and dedicated K-9's work closely with SEO Deputies and partnering agencies' compliance teams. They assist them with routine probation compliance checks. Serving as an additional layer of public safety, the K-9's alert Deputies of firearms and the smallest increments of narcotics under houses, inside televisions, and other places officers would not typically suspect. "It's a tremendous tool that helps to keep the community safe; if we can take a gun or contraband off the streets, then who knows how many people you've saved," expressed Mr. Perico.

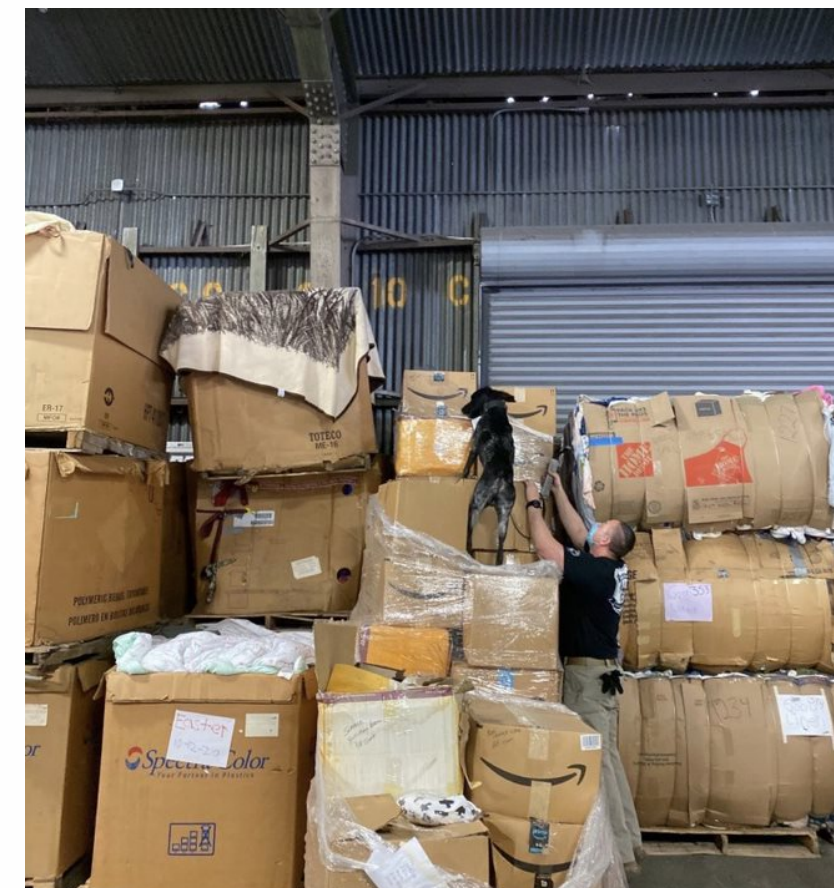
The Deputies and K-9 partners participate in ongoing training at Camps Scott and Scudder and with the Sheriff and Police Departments, sometimes utilizing local Thrift shops to practice search drills. K-9 safety is also of the utmost importance to the Deputies. Therefore, they are trained in-depth on the opioid reversal drug Narcan and are educated on the proper way to administer the medication to the K-9 partners if needed.

The K-9's live with the officers and become instant members of their families. Thus, developing extremely close and unbreakable bonds between officers and the K-9's. The dogs are rarely placed in kennels. When Officers take vacations, unit members care for each other's dogs.

"What I love about working with the K-9 Unit is it's always a new challenge. It's always something exciting happening, and we get the opportunity to work with everyone within the Department," shared SDPO Perico. "We aren't tied to just one operation. We also conduct searches in the community and with partner agencies."



DPO Ochoa and K-9 Pablo participating in a training drill



SDPO Perico & K-9 Paco training at a local thrift shop

MEET LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT'S K-9 UNIT (CONT)

THE DEPARTMENT'S LOYAL K-9'S WORK CLOSELY WITH SEO DEPUTIES

Community members often approach the Deputies to chat. The K-9s serve as a good conversation starter and bridge builder, granting officers the opportunity to interact and engage with the community. The Officers use those opportunities to educate people on the K-9 operation. They also use the moments to share information on what the Department does in its entirety. "It's a great catalyst for community policing and community relations," said Mr. Perico.

The Special Enforcement Operations K-9 Unit is an asset to the Los Angeles County Probation Department, partnering law enforcement agencies, and the community. These Deputy Probation Officers have demonstrated their commitment to the probation department and public safety by assuming responsibility for providing, training, and tirelessly working closely with our K-9 partners. SDPO Perico envisions the Unit's continued growth and is dedicated to them continuing to be in the forefront of aiding in public safety efforts.

Thank you, Los Angeles County Probation Department K-9 Unit, for your service. Your steadfast fidelity and hard work are instrumental to Los Angeles County. We salute you!

Probation News



Los Angeles County Probation Department Special Enforcement Operations K-9 Unit