

POLICE DOG "RUMBLE"

Born: **12th March 2007**

Handler: **Senior Constable Mathew MULETTA**
Western Australian Canine Operations

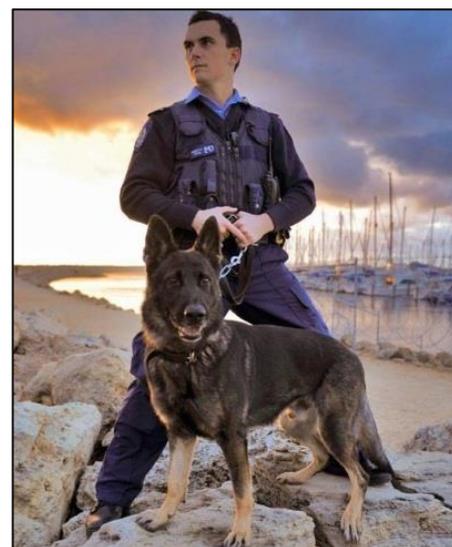
In July 2010 PD Rumble was purchased from Queensland. He was sourced by Vendo VINCENT who helps supply WA Police with quality dogs. Rumble commenced on a WA Canine Operations General Purpose Dog Course in July 2010, along with his new handler Senior Constable MULETTA. Rumble completed this course in September 2010 and was deployed to the Western Australian Metro region (Perth).



Rumble has tracked and apprehended numerous offenders for a wide range of offences including Stealing offences through to apprehending offenders wanted for Armed Robbery. Rumble also attended numerous Public Order, Crowd Control and Disorder incidents.

Rumble also attended schools, daycare centres and community events promoting the WA Police. He featured in an episode of "The Force" capturing one of his first arrests on the road.

On the 19th of July 2011 Rumble assisted two Police Officers, including his handler at an address in Kenwick. Officers had been called to the address and whilst there had been mobbed by a large crowd of people at the residence. They requested urgent back up with PD Rumble and myself attending the address. PD Rumble was deployed and was used to keep the crowd back with fellow officers behind us and being protected by PD Rumble as the crowd became violent towards Police and had armed themselves with weapons.



As we awaited further back up persons at the address have released two pit bulls from the rear of the residence and PD Rumble has taken these dogs on protecting the two Police Officers and his handler. The dogs violently mauled PD Rumble with Police Firearms being discharged to save PD Rumbles life.

PD Rumble suffered severe puncture wounds to his neck and front legs. PD Rumble required numerous surgery to repair muscles torn from the bone in his front leg. He required 14 weeks off the road to recover from his injuries.



Rumble's efforts on the night prevented any serious or fatal injuries to police officers.

In the first week returning to duty on the 4th of November 2011, PD Rumble apprehended two males for Robbery. The males had pulled a knife on a member of the public taking money out of an ATM. The offenders had taken off on foot with attending units cordoning the area for PD Rumbles arrival.

Rumble was deployed and located a scent into a Primary School and located the two males hiding within. Both males were charged and put before the courts and found guilty of Robbery.



Robyn Knuckey presents the GSDCA Service Award to Rumble's handler Mathew Mulletta

There have also been other numerous instances where Rumble has apprehended violent and unpredictable offenders, which if not for Rumble could have resulted in serious injury to Rumbles handler and/or other police officers attending these incidences.

Notable occurrences

5th October 2015

Multiple Armed Robbery Offences: Apprehension of the "Porsche Kid" who was wanted on a crime spree over a week in the Perth area. He was wanted on multiple Armed Robbery offences, Stealing with violence, Steal Motor Vehicles and Pursuits. Officers had cornered the offender into a bush area and called in PD Rumble. Rumble was deployed and located a scent into the bush area with the offender sighting the Dog Team approaching and immediately came out of his concealment and gave up to the dog team without incident.

2nd September 2015

Abduction/Assault/Firearms: A male was abducted from a vehicle in the early hours of the morning in Mandurah. He was taken at gun point by two males wearing balaclavas. Dog Team attended the scene with PD Rumble deployed and locating a scent and track into bush area. After approx. 750 metres located the abducted male under a tree semi-conscious with severe facial injuries after being beaten the butts of the firearms. Back up attended and assisted in getting the victim medical assistance.

22nd August 2015

Prison Escapee: A forklift has rammed through gates at the Rangeview Prison with 4 prisoners taking off on foot dressed in prison greens. A Hot Burg at 29 Bainton Road in Leeming was called through soon after. The Escapees have broken into the residence stealing clothing and dumping there prison greens. They have stolen numerous items with the home owner coming home and locating the Escapees in the house who have threatened the victim and his family before taking off on foot. Dog Team attended the last sighting and deployed Police Dog Rumble who located a scent and tracked to number 25

Heatherlea Pkwy and indicated the Escapee nearby by barking. All Police vehicles immediately cordoned the area and locked it down. The dog team was unable to enter the yard and flagged down Gang Crime Detectives who entered the rear yard and located the Escapee and took him into custody.

21st of July 2015

Commercial Burglary: 3 males on a secure building site with scarves on their faces and carrying torches are being captured on CCTV. Offenders have bags on their shoulders are inside the secure compound. Dog Team attended and deployed Police Dog Rumble into the business through a hole in the fence. He immediately picked up a scent heading in a southerly direction through the business and onto Forsyth Street through another hole in the fence. Rumble tracked over a kilometre to a cul-de-sac on Mooney Place where he indicated to a bush area by barking. The handler issued a challenge with the offender coming out of his concealment under the bushes.

15th of July 2015

Vehicle pursuit: Police have pursued a vehicle that has failed to stop. Vehicle has taken a bush track near the Port Kennedy Golf Course into the sands dunes with pursuing Police vehicles unable to continue. Vehicle has been located dumped with the Dog Team attending the scene. Police Dog Rumble deployed and has located a scent and tracked through the sand dunes and into residential streets. Rumble tracked east bound onto Dunns Way and has indicated the offender in the street. He tracked to the front of 12 Dunns Way and started barking at a boat in the front yard. Handler has issued a challenge with the offender located concealed under the boats trailer. The offender complied with the handler and was taken into custody.

11th of July 2015

Burglary: Caller has interrupted a male who has broken her front gate and entered her courtyard. The male has run off with local Police conducting patrols in the area. Business premises has been broken into nearby after further inquiries. Police sighted a male around 133 South Terrace, South Fremantle matching the description of the offender. They have cordoned the area as the offender has taken off on foot. Dog Team attended the scene and deployed Police Dog Rumble who conducted yard searches of the area and after a short time located the offender concealed in the front yard of 141 South Terrace.

22nd of May 2015

Burglary: Two males smashed the window of the Telstra shop situated on High Street, Fremantle. The two males made off on foot. Dog Team attended and deployed Police Dog Rumble who located a scent and tracked to 28 Holdsworth

Street locating a male concealed in the front yard. Dog Team also located a discarded black backpack. The backpack contained 10 mobile phones and one tablet. Some of the phones were still in their display cradles from Telstra shop. Second offender was located by the local Police.

21st of April 2015

Aggravated Burglary: Caller states that she can hear what sounds like someone trying to break into her house. The caller is "96" years of age. Dog team arrived at scene with local Police and heard a banging noise from the rear of the property. Police Dog Rumble deployed down a laneway and covered the rear of the property which backs onto South Street. Rumble has indicated the offender nearby with the offender attempting to jump over the back fence were Police Dog Rumble has attempted to apprehend him. The offender has retreated and jumped onto the roof and made off on foot were he has jumped off the roof and hidden out of view. Police Dog Rumble re-deployed into the rear yard of 12 Park Lane where he has located a scent and pulled to the back corner of the property. The offender has been located by Rumble concealed next to the fence. The offender had a large quantity of jewellery, cash and other items stolen from the victims address.

Above are significant arrests Rumble has been involved in during the last 6 months, he has many other notable achievements that have occurred during this period and also extend past this period and he epitomises the working ability of the GSD. During his service he was involved in 620 arrests and in over 200 of those Rumble single-handedly tracked and located the offenders.

On the 10th of October 2015 after working night shift PD Rumble was rushed to the Murdoch Veterinary Hospital for a twisted stomach. He suffered further complications including Meningitis, Pneumonia and Myasthenia Gravis. He lost his battle for life on the 2nd of November 2015 and was cremated and returned home to his partner Senior Constable Mathew MULETTA and his family.

Rumble made an exceptional contribution to policing in Western Australia and keeping the community safe.

You could say he was loved by the public and loathed by the crooks.

GSDCA Canine Service Award – presented posthumously in March 2016 at the 44th National GSD Show & Trial.

Images courtesy WA Police & Debbie Freegard