

Police Dog“Bandit“

Vomkogelberg Xenon

- PD Bandit was bred by a local breeder (Vomkogelberg Kennels).
- At eight weeks of age, PD Bandit was assessed along with his litter mates to determine his suitability to enter the South Australia Police Dog Operations Unit Puppy Development Program.
- PD Bandit showed outstanding traits as a young pup, including stable nerves and a sound temperament in all environments. He displayed excellent drives which deemed him to be a suitable candidate as a potential General Purpose Police Dog.
- PD Bandit subsequently entered the Puppy Development Program in September 2018 and was allocated to his initial handler, Brevet Sergeant Matt Raymond. Another litter mate of his, PD Stoic, also entered the PDP at that time. Matt was responsible for developing PD Bandit through this program, ensuring that he was well socialised and exposed to a large variety of environments whilst training him in obedience, tracking, searching and criminal apprehension techniques.
- PD Bandit progressed through the development program and commenced his formal General Purpose Police Dog course in mid-2019, graduating as an operational police dog team with Matt in October 2019. This was Matt’s first general purpose police dog, having transitioned from his previous role as a detector dog handler.
- Soon after graduating in 2020, Matt and PD Bandit attended an incident involving a missing person who had left their home address after making threats to self-harm. PD Bandit was deployed and was able to track from the address, ultimately locating the person in a state of undress and suffering from the early symptoms of hypothermia. Police were subsequently able to organise urgent medical assistance and thereby ensure the safety of the missing person.



- In July 2022, PD Bandit showed signs of lethargy and an abdominal effusion which was suspected of being septic peritonitis. PD Bandit was diagnosed as being in septic shock and emergency veterinary care followed. During his treatment, 4 litres of purulent fluid was removed from his abdomen and a grass seed was discovered which was identified as the likely causative agent. Post surgery, PD Bandit developed a number of complications including haemorrhages in the abdomen and cardiac arrhythmias. A number of blood and plasma transfusions were required during his stay in hospital.
- PD Bandit remained in hospital for 8 days before being discharged into the care of Brevet Sergeant Matt Williams who had taken over the care of PD Bandit owing to Matt Raymond’s promotion within another section of SAPOL.
- An extensive rehabilitation program was commenced, slowly re-building Bandit’s strength and fitness and ability to recommence training. In March 2023, PD Bandit commenced a full general purpose training course with his new handler Matt Williams. This was an opportunity to gauge his level of recovery whilst Matt learnt the necessary skills of becoming a general-purpose dog handler. PD Bandit coped well

with the rigours of the training course and the pair graduated as an operational dog team at the end of May 2023. Since that time, PD Bandit and Matt have attended a number of incidents and been responsible for the apprehension of numerous suspects for a variety of offences including break-ins and stealing cars, thereby contributing to SAPOL's Vision of "Safer Communities".

- Throughout PD Bandit's career he has been deployed on 510 occasions. This has resulted in 73 persons being apprehended and 134 offences being cleared. 25 items of property have also been recovered by PD Bandit during his career.
- Further to PD Bandit's value as an operational police dog, he has also been used to be bred from on two separate occasions which has resulted in 4 puppies being selected to develop through the PDP. Three of these dogs have reached operational police dog status and one further pup is currently undergoing a general-purpose police dog course.
- Since PD Bandit's return to operational service, he has shown no ongoing signs of the ill effects of his serious medical condition that he sustained in 2022. Like all dogs within the SAPOL Dog Operations Unit, PD Bandit is a fantastic resource, and his inherent characteristics make him an ideal police dog that can be relied upon in all circumstances to assist other officers in the execution of their duties. It is hoped that he will continue to serve the South Australian community for some time yet.

