

## Talking points for HB2650, Senate testimony

Good afternoon Chair Patterson, Co-Chair Knopp and esteemed members of the committee, thank you for having a hearing on HB2650. My name is Cpl Colleen Neubert and I am a K9 Handler with Morrow County Sheriff's Office. I have handled a dog for about 16 years, first in the military and then with the Sheriff's Office. My current partner is a 4-year-old Dutch Shepherd named Telly. She is a dual purpose K9, trained in patrol, which aids my county in finding suspects and lost citizens, as well as in helping me take suspects into custody when I have no back up. She is also trained in narcotics detection which is exactly what it sounds like. She is the only K9 in our county. We spend many, many hours together working and training. She is a valued member of our department who is very good at her job and most importantly she is my friend.

My patrol area is very large, rural and can easily be over an hour away from veterinary care in many places. We have worked hard to increase staffing but it is still not unusual to be the only Deputy on duty so I depend greatly for Telly's function as my back up until an adjoining agency can send someone. This can be from 10 minutes to an hour depending on who is coming and where I am. Often K9 works the night hours when a vet clinic is not open, for example my current shift is week-end nights, 1800-0400.

Common field injuries include but are not limited to punctures by snakes, sticks, wire injuries, knife and gunshot injuries, blunt trauma and fracture. Her Narcotic detection skills have their own hazards. While we try to prevent as much as possible sometimes things happen.

We do not have a 24-hour vet clinic in our county or the adjoining counties. Currently if there is an emergency protocol is that you call your vet first and if they answer and are in the area you go there otherwise dispatch goes down the list of area vets to find one that will come in. Normally this works and a vet is found/available but it can take time.

I carry quite a few first aid supplies for Telly, but I am not a vet and my skills are somewhat limited. I patrol in a dodge Durango with a 2/3 1/3 configuration as we are a smaller agency and must be able to transport a prisoner. She and I would not fit in her compartment very well, and if the worst occurred stabilizing her until we get to a vet could be extremely difficult. The ability for her to be transported by

EMS and the ability to continually stabilize her while traveling to the nearest available vet could mean the difference between life and death for her, especially at the farther edges of our county.

A point that came up in social media from the general public was why can't you just put the dog in the back and go? The following slides illustrate just what we deal with in terms of space in the patrol vehicle.

Thank you again very much for giving this bill a hearing and our police dogs a fighting chance if they are injured in the line of duty. Does anyone have any questions for me?