

UMATILLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"Conservators of the Peace"

Sheriff Terry L. Rowan



Undersheriff Jim Littlefield

PRESS RELEASE

K9 "Skoty" with Umatilla County Sheriff's Office Passes

May 13, 2025

Pendleton, Oregon

It is with heavy hearts and great sorrow that the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office advises the public of the passing of our K9 "Skoty".

Skoty was a Belgian Malinois, born in the Czech Republic on June 10th, 2018.

In 2019 Skoty was brought to the United States by Shallow Creek Kennels out of Pennsylvania, where he began training to become a police service canine. At about this same time, the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office was reviewing a proposal authored by Deputy Cody Marcum. The proposal was to reinstate the Agency K9 program and detailed the requirements regarding costs, training, and benefits to the Agency. In November of 2019, the proposal was approved.

The Shallow Creek Kennels program required Deputy Marcum to attend a six week academy. As part of the academy, Deputy Marcum flew over to Pennsylvania to pick out his partner before the training began. It is important to match handler and K9 personalities and compatibility for a successful partnership.

Once arriving at the kennel, Deputy Marcum was able to observe multiple canines in their training environment where they were being prepared to work as patrol canines. After two days of observation, Skoty stood out the most with his glowing personality and willingness to please his handler. Skoty continued his initial training and at the appropriate time, Deputy Marcum returned to Pennsylvania to begin his handler academy training with Skoty.

In February of 2020, Deputy Marcum and Skoty returned to Oregon to begin their career together as a patrol team for the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office. Shortly after their return, Skoty became certified for Patrol and Tracking through the Washington State Police Canine Association. Deputy Marcum and Skoty worked with local and Washington teams on a bi-weekly basis for training. Skoty was known for his loving personality, even in the middle of a training scenario.

Deputy Marcum and Skoty worked within Umatilla County and assisted in multiple apprehensions with multiple agencies. Throughout his career, Skoty assisted with the capture of over 50 subjects. We attribute this to Skoty's nose which would lead him to find those he was seeking. Skoty never had to employ

physical restraint on any of the subjects taken into custody, all surrendered before it became necessary for a bite situation.

This Sunday, K9 Skoty passed away while off-duty and at home with Sergeant Marcum. K9 Skoty was having a normal morning and seemed to be acting his normal self. Soon after being outside, K9 Skoty was observed to collapse with no warning or indication of anything that may have occurred to cause injury. Skoty was unresponsive and although he was transported immediately to emergency veterinary services, there was nothing that could be done to revive him. K9 Skoty had not experienced or displayed any significant medical or known health issues prior to this happening. At the time of this release, his cause of death is still unknown.

To many Umatilla County employees, Skoty was more than a dog. He was a deputy, a companion, a sense of comfort, and an all around happy dog. He brought smiles to the faces of many in their worst times and he will be truly missed. He was popular at many community events because of his happy, fun loving personality. Skoty will be missed by all.

End of watch, May 11th, 2025

