FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Blue Heron Agility Dogs of Delaware

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Blue Heron Agility Dogs of Delaware Provides Canine Protective Equipment to Local Canine Police Dog

Blue Heron Agility Dogs of Delaware (BHAD), a local club of dog sports enthusiasts, presented a check for \$2,000 to the Berlin Police Department's Cpl. Jessica Collins and her canine partner, Dock, to be used to purchase protective equipment for the dog. The presentation was made January 28 at Williams Dog Park in Mardela Springs during one of BHAD's dog sports events.

"BHAD has provided funding for protective dog vests for several local police departments and the Delaware State Police. The club's goal is to have all canine partners in the community outfitted with the best equipment available," says Denise Jester who manages the vesting program for the Club.

K-9 Dock started his police career in 2018 as a Gun Detection Dog. He also is certified in Explosives Detection and Tracking. K-9 Dock has been deployed more than 100 times for explosion detection calls and is responsible for locating evidence to help solve homicides.

In one assignment, K-9 Dock located a dementia patient who had been missing for more than 24 hours in near freezing temperatures. K-9 Dock received a life-saving award for his part.

K-9 Dock is a valuable resource to multiple communities on the Eastern Shore and has been deployed to additional counties to assist other agencies. K-9 Dock is active in school programs meeting students and demonstrating how dogs are used in police work.

While K-9 Dock enjoys work very much, he spends his downtime like many other Golden Retrievers by hunting ducks, playing with his family and chasing ponies around their farm.

For more information about Blue Heron Agility Association of Delaware and its canine protective equipment program for police dogs, contact Denise Jester at <u>denise.jester@tidalhealth.org</u> or 302-228-4710.

## Captions

Photo 1

Blue Heron Agility Dogs of Delaware presents a check for canine protective equipment to Cpl. Jessica Collins and her canine partner, Dock. Pictured are: (L-R) Denise Jester, Debbie Thomas, Kathy Dorsch, Melissa Nance, K-9 Dock, Jess Bimonte, Jennifer Myers, Diane Spalding, Penny Denney, Cpl. Jessica Collins. Not shown: Leah Eicher, Pam Rutherford and Christina Dayton-Walls. (Photo by Sharon Denny.)

