



K9 Wazi, (Fello von Rapicar) was born on January 28, 2010 in Frankfurt, Germany.

Wazi started his K9 venture with the Cheektowaga Police Department in August of 2011 where he started training with his partner and handler, Officer John Duskocz. Wazi was acquired by the police department with the anticipation of the retirement of K9 Izo who served with Officer Duskocz for over seven years. Wazi was named in the memory of Detective Wasyl Potienko, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on October 29, 2002; he was officially renamed Wasyl-Fello von Rapicar ("Wazi") and became the department's new beloved K9 detection/patrol dog.

Wazi was trained in narcotics detection and patrol utility dog functions, which included criminal apprehension, tracking, evidence recovery and crowd control. Officer Duskocz and K9 Wazi attained certifications through the New York State Bureau of Municipal Police (BMP), North American Police Working Dog Association (NAPWDA) and the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association (NNDDA). For over six years in service, Wazi has touched the lives of thousands of people in the community. There were not too many children (and adults!) that didn't know Wazi, and often brought their Wazi trading cards with them to every demonstration where Wazi showed his dedication in training and perfecting his police K9 skills. Wazi participated in several events and meetings directly supporting the SPCA; in addition he has also participated in police-related community events such as National Night Out, Citizens Police Academy, Fire Prevention events, Elder Care Facility days, and Scouting group events ranging from Cub Scouts to the Police Explorers Program.

Wazi's life was unexpectedly cut short due to an acute degenerative heart condition. He passed away while in his partner's arms the early morning of June 23, 2017, 12 days after being diagnosed with this irreversible and inoperable condition. Wazi's partner and family were beyond heartbroken with Wazi's sudden passing.

Wazi's legacy of being a tough crime fighter and a gentle giant will never be forgotten by his partner, loving family, and community.

On a lighter note, here are a few fun facts about K9 Wazi:

*Wazi was a 'clown' at home – he enjoyed playing with K9 Izo and Beauty, even though he would terrorize them with his quick speed and maneuvers. Izo and Beauty would always give him the 'look' when he was clowning around trying to chase them!!

*Wazi LOVED to work all the time, and if left behind, he would pace the house waiting for his handler's return! Wazi didn't enjoy summer days off like his handler! ;-)

*Wazi LOVED eating ice cream!

