



832 K9's Deputy Dog
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“Saving Lives and Catching Bad Guys”

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Citrus County ,Florida

February, 2019

832 Heroic Hound 832's Dusty Roads

In January, 2019, an elderly woman with Alzheimer's went missing from a care facility in central Lake County, Florida. Responding deputies and facility staff made several searches of the facility itself, before determining that the woman had exited the facility and was considered endangered due to her advanced age and mental impairment. Deputy Jessica McGregor (SRO officer) and her bloodhound 832's Dusty Roads responded to the scene and began the search.

One of the initial strategies of a search is to determine what exit a person may have utilized. To do this, the bloodhound was presented with an article of clothing from the missing woman, and Deputy McGregor walked Dusty around the facility to each of the doors exiting the facility. On checking each possible exit point, Dusty clearly indicated that the person had not exited the facility.



Deputy McGregor advised the facility and deputies that the woman had not left the facility. Some serious discussion ensued, since the searchers felt that they had thoroughly searched each area of the facility. Deputy McGregor was asked to repeat the search with Dusty, using a new scent article from the woman. Once again, Deputy McGregor harnessed Dusty and performed a new search around the facility. Dusty repeated the 'no odor' signal, confirming that the elderly woman had not left the facility. After this second confirmation, a new search inside the facility was launched, and the woman was found huddled in the back of a closet, disoriented, hungry and thirsty, but unharmed.

It's easy to dismiss stories where all turns out well in the end, but there is a bigger picture here. The cost of mounting a 360 degree search for a missing person is immense, considering the number of deputies, vehicles and aircraft, and manpower necessary to conduct such a search. Deputies deployed on a search are also deputies not available to respond to other potential calls, and this cost is borne by the Sheriff's Office. The cost to maintain the Sheriff's office is born by the taxpayers, so in this instance, at least, Deputy McGregor and Dusty were extremely cost-effective for Lake County residents.

On behalf of Duke and Angela Snodgrass, co-founders of Deputy Dogs—to all of our volunteers, fosters, family, friends and financial supporters—we appreciate you very much. Because of your love and dedication since 2001, we have been able to provide over 250 trained bloodhounds to law enforcement worldwide. Our dogs are helping to find lost and abducted children, disorientated adults and giving closure to families 24/7. For information about Deputy Dogs, visit www.deputydogs.org.