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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

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Deputy Dog

Sheriff Gabe Morgan has sniffed out a new security tool for the city jail. And it did not cost taxpayers a single dollar.

Kwade is the newest member of the Newport News Sheriff's Office. It is the 4-year old Czech Sherpard's sense of smell which will make him an invaluable tool against illegal drugs.

"Since I took office in January, we have had three separate incidents where drugs have been intercepted before coming into the jail," said Sheriff Morgan. "It illustrates the need for having a trained K-9 officer."

Kwade came to us free of cost. He was given to the Sheriff's Office by a police department in Arizona. He was trained to be a patrol dog by the Tempe Police Department. Locating illegal drugs is an entirely different skill. But before Kwade can be trained for his new, highly specialized field, he needs a dog handler.

The Newport News Sheriff's Office is in the process of hiring two K-9 handlers and is working to acquire a second dog.

In cooperation with the Sheriff's Office, the Newport News Police Department is lending its K-9s for one phase of the interview process. Candidates for our handler positions will be using police dogs at the agility test. That will be held Wednesday, June 7 at 5 p.m. at the City Farm training facility.

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