

PROTECT & SERVE

Harrison K-9's highly trained, purebred European German Shepherds are the pick of the litter



THE TESTIMONIALS FROM CLIENTS of Harrison K-9 Security Services tell you everything you need to know about these exceptional protection dogs. And they go a long way toward underscoring the commitment of the 35-year-old company that is recognized as a pioneer of its industry and the originators of placing highly trained, purebred dogs in the homes of families for protection.

Consider the story of Dana, a European German Shepherd purchased a few years ago by an Ohio family with a home in a rustic and remote part of the state. Shortly after Dana's arrival, the family's two-year-old daughter wandered off into the woods. They looked everywhere for the girl, then called for the help of law enforcement with helicopters and a mounted patrol as the hours stretched into the night.

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A Harrison K-9 is always ready to play as well as protect.

“We eventually found our daughter two miles from our home, sitting by a stream with Dana by her side,” says the girl’s mother. “I honestly believe that had Dana not been with my daughter she would not be with us today. Dana protected her from the bears and mountain lions that could have harmed her in those woods and kept her from falling in the stream and drowning. She stuck by her side the entire time. Even when the police found our daughter, Dana stood in front of our daughter until she saw that my husband and I had arrived on the scene.”

A dramatic tale and one, thankfully, that does not come along that often. More typical, perhaps, is the story of Tessa, a European German Shepherd who lives with an Arizona family. Not long ago, the family’s young daughter, suffering a cold and a high temperature, fell out of bed and became disoriented.

“She couldn’t call for help because she had lost her voice due to the cold. And since our bedroom is at the opposite end of the house, we didn’t hear a thing,” says the girl’s mother.

“But Tessa heard. She kept nudging my husband and then me. We thought she needed to go outside, but then she started running from our daughter’s bedroom and back to us until we understood that something was wrong and were able to help our daughter.”

There are dozens of such stories from the files of Harrison K-9. The South Carolina company has carved

out a reputation as one of the foremost suppliers and trainers of protection dogs, loyal companions to clients that range from families and business executives to entertainers, professional athletes and law enforcement agencies throughout the world.

“Thankfully, most of our clients never encounter life-or-death situations,” says Harrison Prather, who was first exposed to the world of working K-9s while serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. After discharge, he earned a degree in business administration and founded Harrison K-9 in 1975. He has since gone on to train dogs for law enforcement agencies around the world and the U.S. government. Some of the canines trained by Prather and his staff have been used in counter-terrorism efforts and other covert operations in the U.S. and abroad. “Our clients have peace of mind, knowing that they and their loved ones are looked after by a faithful and intelligent creature that will be right there for them no matter what might happen.”



Women can feel safe and secure in their own homes when their husbands are away.

Why buy a protection dog and what should you know

When it comes to deterring crime and protecting the sanctity of a home, there is little argument that trained security dogs represent one of the most effective methods available. According to case studies by Harrison K-9 along with research from numerous law enforcement agencies:

- Canine hearing abilities pick up suspicious sounds earlier than alarm systems.
- Barking typically alerts homeowners and neighbors before any theft or harm can be done.
- Most criminals are deterred by the prospect of a dog attack.
- It's much more difficult to disable a dog than disable an alarm system.

Choosing the ideal protection dog represents a major investment with a lot at stake. That's why Prather advises potential clients to take a number of matters into consideration. Foremost, he suggests that you should buy only from trainers who employ "positive reinforcement" training, not the electric collar training used by many trainers.

"Dogs that are trained with the threat of electric shock are substantially different from those who benefit from one-on-one training," he says. "You can just see it in their eyes."

He also recommends that you should only choose a trainer who will allow you to inspect their facilities, if you should choose.

"It's essential that you know the conditions under which your dog was raised," says Prather. "You need to know that they have had adequate room to run and have not been subjected to the tiny 'rabbit runs' that some breeders use."

Exclusive Schutzhund-trained and titled dogs

In the canine world, the legendary and rigorous Schutzhund training regimen occupies a lofty and rarified position. Fearful that too many German Shepherds were being judged simply by their appearance and not for their working ability, dog owners launched Schutzhund (German for "protection dog"), as a sport in the early 1900s. While several other breeds now compete in Schutzhund, German Shepherds still dominate the field and they must pass numerous tests to determine if they are suitable for a wide variety of tasks, from police work and specific odor detection to search and rescue.

In addition to testing for strength, endurance and agility, Schutzhund awards titles to dogs that demonstrate their skills in numerous areas, including courage, a strong desire to work, intelligence, trainability, perseverance, a strong bond to the



A Harrison K-9 will watch over your children even when you cannot.

handler and protective instinct. Only a very small percentage of dogs that set out for Schutzhund titles ever succeed in winning them.

One of the many things that sets Harrison K-9 apart from others in its field is that it sells only European German Shepherds and only European German Shepherds that



A Harrison K-9 is a companion even the youngest member of your family can enjoy.

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Courage to pursue the bad guy is taught to all Harrison K-9s.



Training staff works on the “take down” in protection.

have been Schutzhund trained and titled.

“European German Shepherds are more expensive to import and train, but they represent the best of the best,” says Prather, who points out that while many other dog trainers say they specialize in European German Shepherds the claims are often hollow. “Our dogs come from the absolute purest bloodlines and have won titles that put them at the very top of their breed.”

Harrison K-9 imports its dogs from a single supplier in Germany, who is among the most prominent in his field and provides dogs exclusively to Harrison K-9. Also of importance: The supplier sends Harrison K-9 only those dogs that have been raised in homes in Germany, not in kennels, which makes them readily adaptable to the additional training they receive once they arrive in the U.S.

Custom training at a state-of-the-art facility

After they arrive in the United States, Harrison K-9’s dogs undergo a minimum of three months additional training at the company’s multi-million dollar, 25-acre facility in Aiken, South Carolina.

“We use over-sized kennels and all

of our dogs get to go out and train and play every day,” says Prather. “We have half-acre turn-out pens they run in daily and a full staff of professionals that each take a dog home with them every night and socialize them around their own family and friends. When you buy a dog from us you can always be sure that it has been trained to fit right in with family life.”

One key point that differentiates Harrison K-9 from its competitors – its training staff, under the direction of vice president November Holley, is almost entirely female. And there’s a

good reason for that.

“With a female training staff we can make sure that all of our dogs can be handled by you and your family,” says Prather. “Our staff handles with positive training and attention to each individual dog’s personality. You can be assured your family can handle our dogs whether they are children or a family member that would otherwise be intimidated by a large dog. Most training facilities use men for training, because men can intimidate dogs and force them to do the training, whereas female trainers must use their handling



A Harrison K-9 shows his ability to navigate through difficult obstacles.

skills and take the time to bond with the dog to train and control an animal that weighs almost as much as they do. Wouldn't you want a dog that has learned to behave around people, learned loyalty and devotion, and has learned how to be handled by the 'little' people in your life, versus a dog that has to be forced into training and only a man can make work right?"

Unique dogs matched to unique client needs

At any one time, there are usually 35 to 40 European German Shepherds in training at Harrison K-9 and waiting placement with clients. The large inventory of dogs is necessary, Prather says, because his company goes to extraordinary lengths to match clients with the ideal protection dogs for their needs.

"It's not a one-size-fits-all kind of thing," says Prather. "Each dog has a unique personality and skill set ... just like the people they go to live with."

And those clients have a wide variety of needs.

"Some of our clients have safety and security expectations which extend beyond the norm," says Prather. "Our celebrity clients sadly must contend with unwanted attention from overzealous fans who threaten their personal safety or the safety of their families. We have worked with people who face these situations routinely, and given them peace of mind through our expertly trained protection dogs. A canine might not be the first security measure which comes to mind for most people, but our clients have found that this is a highly effective choice, and one which presents benefits far beyond alarm systems, monitored surveillance, or personal bodyguards."

Prather and his staff spend a significant amount of time interviewing potential clients to determine which of their dogs will fit in best and perform the tasks expected of them. There is a long list of circumstances that must be considered: Does the client own any

per dog – tops the cost of many show dogs or winners at Westminster. But the European German Shepherds trained by Harrison K-9 aren't after blue ribbons or trophies.

"They are dedicated to the people they serve without exception," says



The training staff at Harrison K-9 Security Services, LLC

other animals – cats, dogs, horses? Will the dog accompany the family on trips, or travel often by private plane or boat? Does the family keep several homes – in the country, in the city – and will the dog be expected to adapt quickly to a variety of environments.

One recent client, confined to a wheelchair and on intravenous medication, was seeking a dog that could be a constant companion around the house.

"We settled on a dog with the ideal temperament for that particular client and then trained the dog to walk alongside the wheelchair, always on the opposite side of the I.V. drip," Prather says. "Whatever the circumstances, we can find the dog that will be most suitable for them."

Yes, the price for such bespoke treatment – an average of about \$40,000

Prather. "And there's no way you can put a price on that."

For more information about Harrison K-9 Security Services, call 803.649.5936 or visit www.harrisonk9.com



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