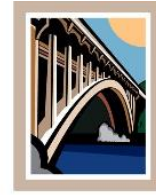




FOLSOM FIRE DEPARTMENT

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www.folsom.ca.us



CITY OF
FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

To Hearts 4 Heroes USA:

Folsom Fire Department cannot thank Hearts for Heroes USA (H4H) enough for placing “Blitz” with us. He is loved by everyone that meets him and we are having a lot of fun with him around!

It’s hard to imagine that it was a few years ago we had a causal discussion about getting a dog in the fire station. We met with H4H and formed a partnership with “Paw Platoon Placement”, your program that specifically places dogs with first responder agencies. Next thing we knew, January 2022 Blitz was being donated to us, the Folsom Fire Department! You reassured us that H4H would take care of his expenses as necessary to include food, vet, grooming, and training. How could we say no?

We first kept Blitz under the radar and after some training at the firehouse, we took the leap to bring Blitz to City Hall. Fingers crossed all would be ok. Well, when City leaders were lined up for “selfies” with Blitz, I knew we were good. Blitz continues to make visits to City Hall and is welcomed by all.

Blitz is a hard worker and a fast learner. His training is going well. He has already been deployed to help our members with some rough incidents. It’s amazing to see the affect he has in the room. You can just feel the tension and anxiety decrease. He brings out the biggest smiles. Each day. Blitz has his morning routine. He visits all the offices, front desk, the on-duty Battalion Chief, the on-duty crews, and his favorite place, the station kitchen!

There are more and more studies showing the benefits of dogs and reducing stress. Many fire departments, police departments, dispatch centers, hospitals, etc. are adding therapy or comfort dogs to their staff.

The Folsom Fire Department has a “Peer support Team” where some of our firefighters have been trained to assist their peers who may be having difficulty processing challenging or traumatic incidents. Blitz became our newest member of our peer support team.

When Blitz has a little more training under his belt (tail), our goal is to have him certified as a comfort therapy dog.

Again, I can’t thank you enough for making this all happen. As the lucky one who got to be Blitz’s’ handler, he is such a pleasure to work with. Even with a challenging day, all I

have to do is just look across my officer there he is, laying on the floor usually on his back with his paws in the air. All you can do is laugh! He just makes work not seem so much like “work”.

I have included some pictures of Blitz around the station doing what he does best!

Thanks again!



Mark Piacentini, Assistant Chief

May 20, 2022

Date



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