



PHOTOS BY
BRITTA ARENDT
**GRPD K9 Radar is
retiring after eight
years with the
department. The
German Shep-
herd is leaving in
good health to live
with handler Gary
O'Brien (pictured
with Radar). A re-
tirement party was
held Dec. 6 at City
Hall where fellow
officers and friends
presented Radar
with several gifts
of chew toys and
Milk Bones as well**



'Happy Retirement Radar!'

GRPD K9 hangs up his leash

BY BRITTA ARENDT
HERALD-REVIEW

Life for the city's best employee is about to change - big time.

After eight years with the Grand Rapids Police Department, their K9 officer Radar, is headed for retirement. The early morning, mile-long runs along the squad car before work, will probably be later in the day now. Instead of sniffing around city hall, Radar will now lounge with the O'Briens' three other dogs at home.

This mature native of the Czech Republic will turn 10 years old on Groundhog's Day 2023. For his age, Radar is "in phenomenal health" says the vet.

"I don't think we could have got a better dog," believes O'Brien. "He's great with people, healthy and obedient."

Radar has only missed two shifts during his entire career with the GRPD and that was for a minor injury to his foot. As O'Brien explained, the German Shepherd breed is known for hip deterioration as they age but Radar has had no hip issues yet.

According to O'Brien, most K9 officers retire at about 8 or 9. He is happy to be finishing up this K9's service on top.

"He's retiring at the right time - we've had no issues or complaints," said O'Brien as he put it into perspective. "If a gun dog screws up, it doesn't get the bird; if [Radar] screws up we get sued."

If Radar could talk, he would most likely describe his job with the GRPD as "very rewarding."

The entire work of a K9 is reward driven. From the moment O'Brien appears dressed in his uniform to when they're headed home after a shift, Radar has his eyes on the prize - usually a bright red KONG dog toy.