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To Whom It May Concern:

K9 Apollo was noted to have rear leg pain by his handler in February of 2020. An exam and radiographs were performed on February 12, 2020. Most notable on radiograph was a shallow acetabulum on his right side. This is often seen in patients with developing hip dysplasia. Apollo was prescribed anti-inflammatory and pain medication and his handler was advised to restrict his activity for a short time.

Apollo did improve with medical treatment but was again seen on March 3, 2020 for right rear leg pain. Treatment was continued and another pain medication added to his regimen. On May 6, 2020, Apollo's handler brought him to be seen again, as his pain returned even with restrictions and limited duty. His radiographs from February were reviewed and were shared with Dr. George Edwards, who has special training in orthopedics. His diagnosis was hip dysplasia with remodeling of the femoral head. Dr. Edwards and I discussed treatment options for Apollo's developing arthritis and agreed that he would likely do best with pain management until the time he was no longer able to perform his duties fully. Surgical correction was also discussed, but would limit his job performance immediately and forever.

Apollo's condition is very common in high performance athletic dogs. Unfortunately, the condition will progress despite medical treatment and his ability to work effectively will be significantly affected. According to Apollo's handler, jumping in and out of his work vehicle causes an almost immediate limp. It is my opinion that Apollo has reached the stage in his arthritis that he is unable to work at the level expected of him and that he should be medically retired.

Respectfully,
Gretchen Ganas, DVM

