

Gretchen Ganas, DVM

All Animal Hospital

March 22, 2023

To Whom It May Concern;

As K9 Enzo's primary care veterinarian, I have noticed recent health developments that are concerning. During a routine wellness visit, it was noted that Enzo's canine teeth were significantly worn and discolored; especially the lower left canine tooth. It was discussed at that time that without a synthetic cap, Enzo's ability to bite and hold a bite might be affected. It is my understanding that due to Enzo's advanced age of 9 years, aggressive and expensive treatment of the teeth would not be pursued.

According to his handler and training partners, Enzo has worn his teeth down significantly more in a short time frame and is no longer able to hold an effective bite when engaged. Although Enzo's other abilities seem to be intact, I am concerned that continuing him as a working K9 will lead to significant consequences. Without the ability to bite effectively, even in a detection only situation, if the encounter escalates and Enzo is needed for protection, he will be seriously ineffective in protecting himself or his human partner.

Enzo also shows signs of his age in being less agile in his rear limbs with a mild degree of muscle wasting. He will likely progress to being reluctant to jump in and out of vehicles, maneuver in certain detection circumstances, or run for long periods of time.

Due to these aging processes, it is my professional opinion that Enzo be medically retired as a working K9, and allowed to enjoy his senior years as a loved pet.

Respectfully,

Gretchen Ganas, DVM