Law Enforcement Dog Encounters Training

The LEDET program is a culmination of two years of collaboration between the National Sheriffs' Association and law enforcement executives, legal consultants, and behavior experts to develop a gold standard for protecting officers, pets, and the public.

#LEDET

"LEDET is unique because it is the first dog training course developed by law enforcement officers, for law enforcement officers,"
Sheriff Harold Eavenson, Rockwall County, Texas and NSA Past President

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this course is to teach law enforcement officers the basics of canine behavior and body language, threat assessments of encounters involving dogs, alternatives to lethal force, making the decision to use lethal force, and how to deal with the after-effects of that decision, with an end-goal of being able to instruct other law enforcement officers on those key concepts.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Law enforcement officers and executives at the local, state, and federal levels.

TOOLKIT CONTENTS:

- Introduction
- Literature Review/Background
- Current State Legislation
- Training Curriculum
- Model Policies
- Dog Behavior Quick Reference Guide
- Additional Resources

LEDET & VirTra:

The LEDET program is based on canine behavior science paired with advanced officer safety measures. The combination will enable officers to make compassionate, safe decisions when interacting with pets under stressful circumstances. The course includes interactive scenarios where officers and dogs are placed in common situations.

Using VirTra's branched decision-making technology, these interactions will enable officers to experience conflict and make choices in real-time. The course focuses on the use of less- and non-lethal methods of keeping officers, the public, and pets safe during contact.

The content package includes five interactive scenarios and an additional training module that covers the basics of canine behavior. All six scenarios/modules are available in VirTra's content library for the V-300™ training simulator, and four modules are available for the V-180™ and V-100™ training simulators. The complementary training program is under final review, with an anticipated release later this year.

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE THE$E ENCOUNTER$!

These encounters are costly to law enforcement agencies, both in terms of their finances as well as their reputation. Last year, the city of Hartford, Connecticut, settled a case for $885,000 after a 2006 incident. Also last year, a Maryland jury awarded a family $1.26 million after its dog was fatally shot by county police officers.

OTHER LAWSUIT SETTLEMENTS/JUDGMENTS:

- Iberia Parish, LA: $75,000 (2018)
- City of Detroit, MI: $225,000 (2018)
- City of Atlanta, GA: $25,000 (2018)
- Anne Arundel County Police, MD: $1,260,000 (2017)
- City of Evanston, IL: $50,000 (2017)
- San Bernardino County, CA: $98,000 (2017)
- City of Hartford, CT: $885,000 (2017)
- City of Detroit, MI: $100,000 (2016)
- Commerce City, CO: $262,000 (2016)
- City of Des Moines, WA: $51,000 (2013)
- Frederick County Sheriff's Office, MD: $620,000 (2013)
- **AVERAGE AMOUNT: $332,000**

VISIT SHERIFFS.ORG/LEDET FOR MORE INFORMATION.

It's important to note that the purpose of this course is NOT to make each law enforcement officer a canine behavior expert.

Rather, the intent of this training is to give them the knowledge and tools to safely handle dog encounters during their daily duties, and to keep officers, the public, and pets as safe as possible.