Officer Larry Wooddell and K-9 partner Boomer epitomize Ut Prosim in career and retirement

by KATIE HUGER

Larry Wooddell's love for dogs started early. After a successful career working together, Wooddell and Boomer will retire April 1. Boomer will officially become a member of the Wooddell family.

Wooddell has many plans, but says his first priority is to help Boomer transition from being a working dog to a regular dog.

“Larry found his calling when he became a K-9 handler,” said Cook. “He is a true professional.”

No matter where the job takes them, they always operate as a team.

“It’s amazing to see how seamlessly they work together,” said Wooddell’s supervisor, Sgt. James McClain. “Boomer seems to understand what needs to be done. He is the best dog in the department.”

They also have been actively involved in the university’s community policing efforts, including holding demonstrations for employees and students, having lunch with elementary school children, and participating in Kids Tech University.

No matter which part of the campus they are patrolling, they always operate as a team.

“Larry truly cares about people and making sure they are safe,” said Curtis Cook, special projects coordinator for the Office of Emergency Management. “He is a true professional.”

Wooddell’s retirement plans are certainly different from his days as an officer; however, he says he doesn’t believe he will truly ever leave Virginia Tech or law enforcement.

“Larry has this genuine, down-to-earth way of interacting with people, making it easy for him to build good rapport with those in the department, surrounding departments, and our community,” said McClain.

He also plans to spend time with his family and main dogs for law enforcement. An avid fisherman and hunter, he is looking forward to spending more time outdoors.

Wooddell’s retirement plans are certainly different from his days as an officer; however, he says he doesn’t believe he will truly ever leave Virginia Tech or law enforcement.

“I may be retired, but I will always answer the call if they need me,” he said.

Watch Wooddell and Boomer’s video on YouTube: https://youtu.be/WJ4R1zD_ynA.

First published March 31, 2016.

www.hr.vt.edu/extraordinary_employees/2016/larry-wooddell/