HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL K-9 VETERANS DAY

1. **Adopt a retired K-9 dog**
   K9 dogs are loved and appreciated, but unfortunately, there are some that are left without homes after their service ends. If you're ready for a new pooch, adopt one of these dogs instead of buying one from a breeder! One organization that helps you find these dogs is linked here.
2. **Give your own pooch a treat**
   While we'd love to give every retired K9 dog some TLC this holiday, sometimes you can't locate one for the purposes of treat-giving. If that's the case, show your own furry friend how much you love him! He'll appreciate it, and you'll be honoring the spirit of the holiday. It's a win-win!
3. **Teach your dog a new trick**
   Old dogs can't learn new tricks — but your dog can! Celebrate the incredible training of a K9 dog by training your own dog a bit. You'll have an excuse to spend time with your dog, and you'll feel great when you finally get him to perform the trick. Try starting out with getting your dog to roll over or shake your hand.

WHY NATIONAL K-9 VETERANS DAY IS IMPORTANT

1. **They're here to protect us**
   Dogs already bring us such joy by being lovable and loyal. However, they bring us even more joy when they're working toward justice. From the first sentry dogs in Dogs of Defense to dogs that are trained to sniff out contraband or follow criminals, K9 dogs can do it all. And they have. Historically, K9 dogs have comprised Search and Rescue teams at Ground Zero, served as Security Dogs, and more. We thank them for their service!
2. **They're adorable as anything**
   You know the expression "there's nothing cuter than a man in uniform?" We'd like to adapt to that, because whoever coined it was clearly talking about dogs. We have two points to back up this argument. Firstly, there's something so precious about how serious
   K9 dogs get when they're doing their jobs. Secondly, they get tiny little police vests. Case closed.
3. **They're incredibly well-trained**
   In a time when some parents can't even get their own children to regularly take out the trash, K9 dogs are impeccably trained. Don't believe us? Some K9s are trained to bite down on the arms of criminals to keep them in place upon command. However, dogs are not allowed to draw blood. So, they know exactly how hard it is to bite down to hold without being violent. That's incredible! K9 dogs, we salute you.

WHY K-9 VETERANS DAY IS IMPORTANT

1. **K-9s keep us safe**
   K-9s are essential in law enforcement and military operations, meaning they actively keep countries and communities secure. They also assist in search and rescue operations, saving lives in emergencies. These four-legged friends stand at the front line, ensuring we can live in a safer environment.
2. **They serve every day**
   Just like human soldiers, military working dogs are always on the clock. They're active in combat zones worldwide and help the police protect and serve back home. These K-9s deserve recognition for their hard work, whether on active duty or retired.
3. **Dogs make the world a better place**
   Can you imagine a world without dogs? We would undoubtedly be duller for it. Dogs keep us active, help lower stress, and are pleasant to be around overall.