

## POLICEONE.COM News

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### New high-tech vehicle helps protect K-9s

By Ryan Harris  
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TRENTON, Ga. — When Dade County Sheriff's Deputy Tanner Clark went to serve a warrant at a home a few weeks ago, the suspect suddenly dashed out the back door.

The deputy's K-9 partner, Rossi, was still in the back of the squad car.

"I had to take off running back to the car, unlock the door, get him out and take off back around (the house). That's time," Deputy Clark said.

Now that time can be saved.

An anonymous donor gave the Dade County Sheriff's Office a device for Deputy Clark's car. The press of a button on his gun belt pops the car door open and allows his K-9 colleague to spring into action.

The high-tech system would have been an unaffordable luxury, Dade County Sheriff Patrick Cannon said.

"We've got a lot of citizens that support law enforcement in Dade County," the sheriff said.

Deputy Clark said he's used the device only once during an arrest, so far, but he expects it will come in handy.



"It's just like a gun or a Taser. You may wear it six or seven years and never use it, but there is that one time you will," Deputy Clark said.

The system, called Ace K-9 Hot-N-Pop, offers more than the high-tech doggie door for the 3-year-old Belgian Malinois.

It's also equipped with a carbon monoxide detector, a smoke detector and a heat sensor to help protect the dog.

If the patrol car interior temperature gets near 95 degrees, the system will activate the patrol car sirens, page the officer, roll down the car's back windows and activate a fan, Deputy Clark said. It keeps Rossi safe while he is away from the vehicle.

"He doesn't have a cell phone or anything like that to say, 'Hey, daddy, it's getting hot.' That's where this steps in and takes over," Deputy Clark said.

John Johnston, president of Radiotronics Inc. in Jupiter, Fla., said he developed the Ace K-9 brand 22 years ago