

LAFD

Ranger, taking a break during an *Alive!* photo shoot in February 2010.



Remembering Ranger

One of the world's best urban search and rescue dogs, Ranger, passed away Aug. 25. He partnered with LAFD Inspector/Paramedic Deresa Teller, Club Member.

Some information courtesy the Search Dog Foundation

On Aug. 25, the LAFD and the United States lost one of its best urban search and rescue dogs, Ranger, who died from cancer. His leader, Inspector/Paramedic Deresa Keller, LAFD and USAR California Task Force One, and others were at his side.

After his training through the Search Dog Foundation and achieving Advanced FEMA Certification, Ranger and Deresa deployed to a deadly mudslide in La Conchita and to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike. Calling on his boundless energy and great "bark alert" – the bark sounded when finding a live victim – Ranger always performed with excellence. Ranger, a border collie, grew to be one of the best urban search and rescue dogs in the nation.

As Deresa tells it: "Ranger was an incredible Search Dog, and that was his true passion in life. When he would search a rubble pile for a test or training in front of people who had not seen him before, they would always ask me, 'Where did you get this dog?' and 'Do you breed any more?'"

"When we would travel by plane and Ranger would wear his Search Dog vest, he would often go and smell certain people's luggage. Of course they would ask me, 'What does he search for?' I would tell

them he searches for drugs! The looks those people would get were sometimes priceless, but I would let them suffer for only a few seconds before telling them that he loves cats and they probably had a cat that helped them with their carry-on luggage. Laughter quickly replaced the stares and the person-in-question would say that their cat(s) love to sit in their luggage.

"Ranger had a special bond with my 19-year-old daughter, Jesa. Jesa was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was eight.

Ranger became part of our household when Jesa was 10. I was divorced at that time and on the nights Jesa stayed at my house, Ranger always slept in her room. Even though Jesa was very aware of the diabetes



Deresa Teller, Inspector/Paramedic and Team Supervisor, with Ranger.



Deresa Teller, Inspector/Paramedic and Canine Coordinator, rewards Ranger with a tug-of-war toy.

and would wake up if her blood sugar started to drop during her sleep, Ranger would start jumping on and off her bed. She knew if that was happening she needed to get up, check her blood sugar and get a snack. Talk about an amazing boy!

"Ranger's last day was filled with some of his favorite things. A short walk with mom, a little direction control, some 'bunny vision' – he was actually let in with the bunnies instead of watching from the outside – and a trip to the duck park.

"We will certainly miss this fantastic dog. He was a great partner and friend."



Ranger on duty during a training exercise.

Ranger