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## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Explosives K9 Donated to State Bomb & Arson Section**

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – On Tuesday, September 1, representatives from the State of Tennessee Bomb & Arson Section traveled to the Putnam County Sheriff's Office to receive a very special gift. Three-year-old Raz, a USPCA certified K9 who specializes in explosives (gun powder, bomb agents, and related odors) was given a new home and an exciting new job.

"She is a great dog and I've really enjoyed working with her," said Lt. Tony Branch, her handler on the Sheriff's Office K9 Team. "I'm going to miss her but I know that she will be really happy being busy again. She loves her job. That's what she really loves to do."

Raz joined the Putnam County Sheriff's Office when she was 18-months old and has been a valued member of the K9 Team ever since. However, with two explosives K9s in the Department and her handler being recently promoted, Raz was underutilized. When Sheriff Farris heard that the State of Tennessee needed another bomb K9, it was a perfect match.

"This was a tough decision because these dogs are such a valuable asset to the Department," said Sheriff Eddie Farris. "But you never want to see such a highly trained animal sit idle and the fact of the matter was that we did not need two explosives dogs. We know that Raz will be very happy in her new home. She is happiest when she is busy working."

As a result of two recent K9 retirements and the transfer of Raz to the State of Tennessee, the Putnam County Sheriff's Department is currently looking for two new K9s to add to the unit. According to Major Greg Whittaker, commander of the K9 Team, "we are in the process of looking for two additional dual purpose dogs. When you are dealing with animals that have a working life span of approximately 8-10 years, you always have to be on the lookout for new talent."

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