

## Chef the Wonder Dog

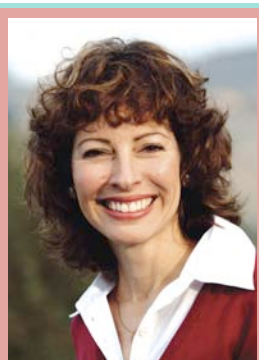
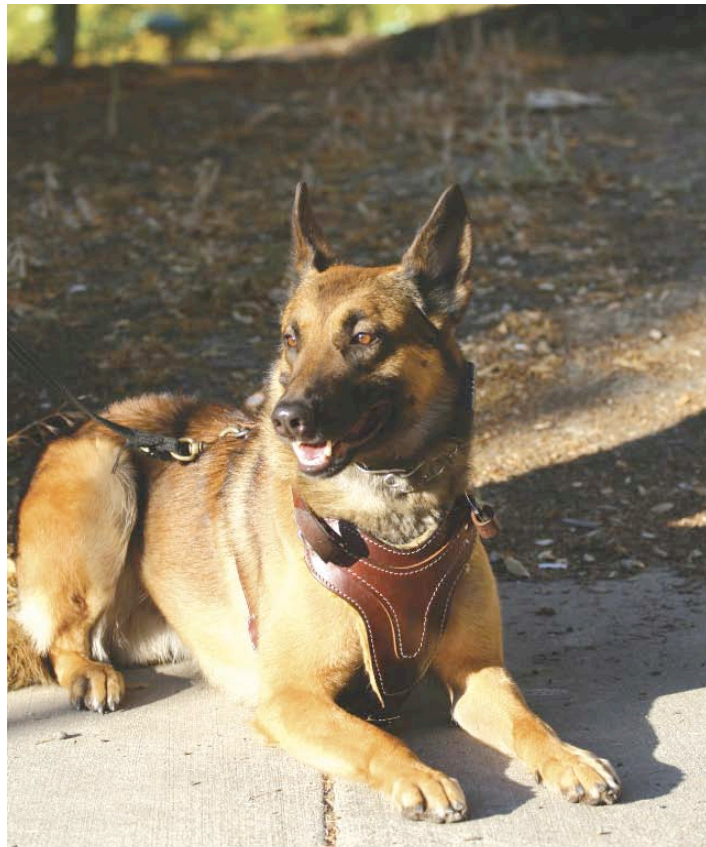
By Cathy Tyson

**H**e works for free, has no benefits package, and goes home with his partner every day. Not your average police officer. Chef the Orinda Police Department's dog, shares his shift with Officer Danny Vargas. Chef is only one of eight police dogs in the county.

"He is definitely handy, I use him to help find missing kids, burglary calls, drug detection. Just the other day, there was a burglary at the Moraga Safeway, the suspect ran near the creek on Ivy Drive. We caught the guy."

A Belgian Malinois, one of the varieties of the Belgian Shepherd, Chef was trained by Dan Moore K-9 Services, to do man-work and dope-work. He will alert on marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine. He walks around a vehicle and stops when he smells any of those. "Just having him there is a tremendous help," says Officer Vargas. "He is constantly watching me, its really weird, and will only take commands from me. He will bite you and drag you out of places on command. If a suspect is hiding on a roof, he will start barking and jumping."

The City of Orinda owns Chef and pays for food and vet expenses, although they have a mutual aide agreement with the county. It's the least they can do for an employee that doesn't complain, doesn't get overtime and never calls in sick.



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