

Tennessee Valley Kennel Club

AKC Member Club

www.tvkc.org

Beth White,

TVKC Corresponding Secretary

1922 Whitehall Street, Maryville, TN 37803

tvkc00@gmail.com

PRESS RELEASE



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Walter Sommerfelt, TVKC President

(865) 986-1614, loracvizsl@aol.com

Sue Wolfe

National Search Dog Alliance, Secretary

srtl530@starband.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL K-9 SEARCH & RESCUE GROUP TO BE HONORED \$2000 grant to be awarded Tuesday night.

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In recognition of their outstanding search and rescue efforts, the Tennessee Special Response Team - A has been selected to receive a \$2000 grant from the American Kennel Club. The grant, part of the AKC's Companion Animal Recovery Support and Relief Fund, will be presented Tuesday evening during an award ceremony hosted by the Tennessee Valley Kennel Club.

The Special Response Team - A is a search and rescue team specializing in K-9 utilization. Members are nationally certified as search and rescue technicians, first responders, and amateur radio operators. The team's dogs and their handlers were called out a total of twenty-four (24) times during the past year to assist in locating missing persons. In addition to the search and rescue work, the Special Response Team also provides public education programs to help the general public better cope with natural and man-made disasters. For more information, see www.tnsrta.org

"We commend the dedication and commitment of these search and rescue teams and sincerely appreciate this work," reported Walter Sommerfelt, president of the Tennessee Valley Kennel Club. "These volunteers play crucial roles during natural disasters and other emergencies when the unique talents of a highly trained canine and his handler can often mean the difference between life and death for a missing individual. We are honored to present this grant and hope this money will go a long way to assist these K-9 search and rescue efforts."

The award ceremony is open to the public and will be held at 7:00 pm in the Sequoyah Room of the Pendergrass Library, University of Tennessee School of Veterinary Medicine, Joe Johnson drive, Knoxville, TN. Representatives for the group will present information about their work. Directions and more information can be found at www.tvkc.org.