



St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office
Steven A. Hall, Sheriff
23150 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650



NEWS RELEASE

New K-9 Team Hits the Road: Deputy Jordan Wagner and K-9 Groot

LEONARDTOWN, MD (March 3, 2026) – The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce that Deputy Jordan Wagner and his K-9 partner Groot recently completed a six-week K-9 handler training program. This intensive, multi-week training includes classroom instruction and hands-on skills exercises designed to build a cohesive team between the handler and the dog.

Groot is a two-year-old Czech Shepherd trained in narcotics detection, tracking, and evidence/article searches. Czech Shepherds are known for their intelligence and generally have a protective and loyal temperament, making them excellent dogs for police work.

Following the successful completion of the training, Deputy Wagner and Groot are now on patrol duty.

“Deputy Wagner and Groot represent a significant addition, and the first of planned expansions, to our K-9 program,” said Sheriff Steve Hall. “Their training and professionalism strengthen our capabilities and enhance our ability to proactively combat crime, remove dangerous drugs from our streets, and support public safety.”

K-9 Groot is one of several specialized service dogs that assist the Sheriff's Office in criminal investigations and public safety operations, providing essential support in locating suspects and evidence, detecting illegal drugs, and tracking people.

