

Pressrelease

PRESS RELEASE

8.7. 2013

Dog belonging to both Viking Line and Finnish Border Guard given name Viikinki ('Viking' in Finnish)

Viking Line has decided to show its support for the operations of the Finnish Border Guard and has acquired a dog with them. This charming puppy, which has been given the name 'Viikinki' – Finnish for 'Viking' – has started his orientation in Border Guard Sergeant Pekka Aho's training programme at Porkkala Coast Guard Station.

Viikinki began familiarizing himself with his job under the guidance of Border Guard Sergeant Pekka Aho on 12 June, and also lives as the family dog at the home of his trainer. Viikinki's workplace is situated at Porkkala Coast Guard Station, but if required the dog patrol is naturally also summoned to external tasks outside the station site at, for instance, various ports.

"The Finnish Border Guard is an important partner for us, and we wanted to show our support for their operations by this gesture," says Viking Line's Marketing Communications Press Manager, Christa Grönlund, with satisfaction.

The activity with dogs supports border guard efforts, and Viikinki – as a dog mutually owned by Viking Line and the Finnish Border Guard – will be able to fulfil his duties as a real coast guard canine. Viikinki's training will last about two years – after which he will be ready for demanding work tasks.

"Viikinki will always travel along with Pekka and will in this sense be just like Pekka's own dog – but a good workmate at the same time. Pekka is training Viikinki himself, and the behavioural and obedience exercise has been initiated from day one in the form of fun and games," explains Anjuta Haapa-aho, Information Officer for the Finnish Border Guard.

The operations engaged in with dogs in the Finnish Border Guard have long traditions extending all the way back to 1920, and currently there are over 200 frontier canines. The border dogs are classified on the basis of their training into four groups: border control, border inspection, coast guard and specially trained border dogs. The Finnish Coast Guard dogs assist in waterway-based searches and detect the most usual illicit drugs as well as individuals hidden on board or in vehicles.

Viikinki

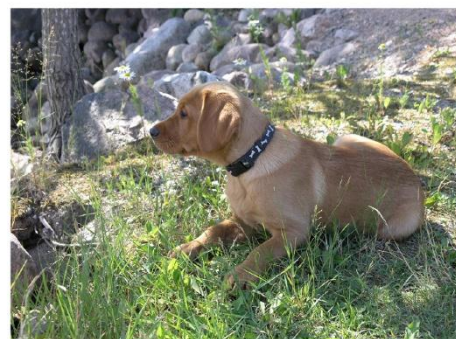
Breed: Labrador Retriever

Kennel name: Varjoahon Derrick

Gender: male

Date of birth: 14 April 2013, Varjoahon Kennel

In addition to Viikinki, two other select individuals were chosen from the same litter for work duties: one for Finnish Customs and another dog for the Finnish Border Guard.



Little Viikinki dog in sunshine

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