

Canine: Tonto

Handler: David Perks, UT TF1 FEMA Certification: 1996

Tonto was born in August of 1990 to a breeder in Draper, Utah. Little did anyone know that this pup would go onto be known, nationwide, for his heroics in the search world. Tonto was diagnosed with severe hip dysplasia at 16 months. Surgery was successful and Tonto certified as a Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog. He certified with F.E.M.A. in 1996 and 1998. He participated in nearly 100 searches Deployed with AZTF-1 to Oklahoma City. He spent 7 days searching the rubble. Tonto received many awards in his career but none more precious than finding someone and returning them to their family. Training and handling Tonto for ten years was an experience that will be hard to forget. Tonto passed away in March 2003. He will be missed.