

# Flic ID# C-1022

by Natalie F. Fortier

**F**lic, a Belgian Malinois, began his career as a service dog for the San Diego Police Department in 1992. At seventy-five pounds, he was thick coated, stocky and always ready to work. His high play drive and intense work ethic qualified him to be trained in explosives detection as well. He was known for his white paws and preference for traffic cones as a toy. During his six years of duty, Flic and his handler, Ken Fortier, were commended for their devotion to duty, courage, police skills and team work.



K-9 Officer Ken Fortier and Flic

January 27, 1993, Flic chased down a suspect in the 5100 block of Towle Court. The suspect, wanted for rape, kidnapping, carjacking and attempted murder, was located underneath a car and taken into custody with assistance from Flic. The man was sentenced to eighty-seven years in prison.

September 9, 1995, Flic took a homicide suspect down near Market St. and I-805 allowing Ken to arrest him.

October 27, 1995, Flic encountered a deranged man with a knife near Balboa Park. The man had been released weeks earlier after spending ten years under psychiatric care for stabbing a doctor. This particular day, he had been harassing local merchants, including defecating on one of their cars. Three officers responded to the location and the man brandished a large knife and threatened to kill them.

Ken and Flic arrived within minutes. Flic was deployed as the safest force option for the officers as well as the subject. Flic attempted to take him into custody while being stabbed. The man charged at the officers and

claimed to "no longer be a member of this earth." The officers opened fire and the man collapsed, dead. Three of the blade thrusts had penetrated Flic's coat between his shoulder blades. He returned to duty three weeks later.

Flic's additional duties as an explosives detection dog had him working around foreign dignitaries, US Presidents, First Ladies and professional athletes. One of the San Diego Padres used to rub Flic's head for luck. He was also featured in Richard Rosenthal's book, "K-9 Cops." All of these experiences made for entertaining stories, to say the least.

Flic was retired in 1998. He enjoyed as many years off the streets as he did working them. He maintained his play drive and provided a source of comfort while patrolling the back yard. His warm brown eyes always expressed the character within. Flic's retirement came to an end February 15, 2005. What a life. Rest now, old boy. We will miss you....