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K9 Team trains while members prepare for international deployment.

Members of the K9 Search and Rescue Team of Dolores have focused their time this winter on avalanche, medical and search dog training in numerous collaborative events. The team has also grown with the addition of several new members.

K9 Search and Rescue taught students of the Hesperus Avalanche School about K9 use in avalanche rescue. Team members have honed their avalanche beacon search and probing skills through recent trainings. K9 held a joint dog training with Rocky Mountain Search Dogs of Durango, and participated in the Jakes's Day event at the Montezuma County Fairgrounds.

The team welcomes new members Steve Maxwell, Moki Youngquist, and Bethany Maxwell. Members Chuck Melvin and Kimberly Kelly were placed on standby to respond with their dogs to the tragedy in Haiti, but were not deployed. Mrs. Kelly has been busy training rescue teams in Montana to improve their abilities to find wondering dementia patients, and she is a featured instructor at the upcoming National Conference for Responding to Missing and Unidentified Persons.

For more information about the K9 Search and Rescue Team, call (970) 882-4746 or visit their website at www.k9team.org.