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Reba: Michigan Doodle Rescue Connect's Perfect Rescue
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Saginaw Police Department's Therapy Pup is in training. It is no secret that in times of stress or for those wanting to bring cheer to someone experiencing many different emotions, the gentle and loving companionship of a dog can alleviate anxiety, depression and help those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Specially-trained and certified Therapy dogs are, in many cases, lifesavers and for the Saginaw community, there is one such lifesaver on its way. Reba, a mini-American Australian shepherd who was rescued by Michigan Doodle Rescue Connect, is on her way to becoming a certified Therapy Dog for the Saginaw Police Department's Victims Service Unit.

Reba, who will formally be adopted by the city of Saginaw for \$1, will also provide comfort to officers at the Saginaw Police Department. Yes, therapy dogs help first responders, too. Emergency responders are exposed to stress and trauma in their jobs every day. Having the companionship of a trained therapy K9 will help officers and responders decompress during their workday. More importantly though, according to Nana Doodle of Michigan Doodle Rescue Connect (MDRC), a regional nonprofit pet rescue and adoption agency, Reba will provide comfort to victims of trauma, including young children.

Reba spent the first few months of her life at the MDRC Ranch where she received basic training and a solid foundation. She recently transitioned to her handler, a Saginaw P.D. Lieutenant, and is doing well. There are many reasons why Reba is the perfect girl for this job, says Nana Doodle. "As Reba approaches a person, her size will not be intimidating. Her tail is short so she won't knock over a glass of water off a table, for example. These are important factors when working with therapy dogs." Most important though, says Nana Doodle, is Reba's temperament. "She's smart and one of the sweetest and most gentle pups I've seen." "The Saginaw Police Department is extremely excited to bring a therapy dog into the Saginaw Police Department's Victim Services Unit," said Lt. David Kendziorski, Reba's handler. "Therapy dogs provide us with a unique opportunity to help ease the trauma experienced by victims of crime, reduce the stress experienced by first responders, and build stronger relationships in the community. We are very thankful to Michigan Doodle Rescue Connect for their work in ensuring this initiative becomes a much-needed reality." The expense, plus Reba's care at the MDRC Ranch has been made possible by donations from MDRC members and friends.

Michigan Doodle Rescue Connect rescues, transports, and provides medical, dental, and mental health services to dogs who have been surrendered from the states of Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana. Since its founding in 2018 MDRC has found forever families for more than 220 dogs. Michigan Doodle Rescue Connect, Matches Dogs to People.

For more information about Michigan Doodle Rescue Connect, please visit www.michigandoodlerescueconnect.org

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