



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service
Sheriff Pat Garrett

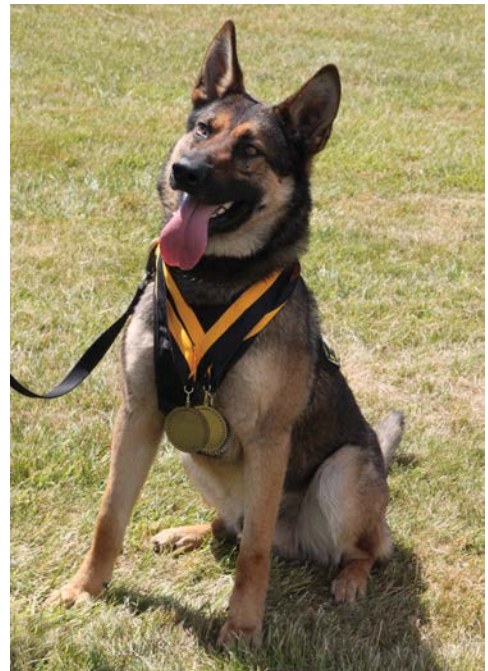
PRESS RELEASE

K-9 Stark Defends "Top Dog" Title at Annual K-9 Trials

The Washington County Sheriff's Office utilizes a wide array of tactics and tools to serve and protect the community. One of the most successful and popular is the K-9 Unit, consisting of seven highly trained canines and their handlers. These teams are responsible for apprehending suspects, searching buildings and vehicles, detecting narcotics and protecting deputies and community members.

This Saturday, June 20, the public is invited to watch K-9 teams in action at the 10th Annual Washington County Sheriff's Office and Police K-9 Trials. Defending their 2014 Top Dog title will be Washington County Sheriff Deputy Akin and K-9 Stark (see photo). The event is from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Washington County Fair Complex (873 NE 34th Avenue, Hillsboro) and is FREE to the public. Almost a dozen K-9 teams from around the region will compete in the following skills:

- Area Searches for Suspects and Evidence
- Agility Course
- Fastest Dog
- Suspect Apprehension
- Vehicle Extraction
- Handler (Officer) Protection
- Top Dog



Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the top three dogs in each event, with the Top Dog designation awarded to the dog with the overall fastest time in all six events. The event also features a Kids & K-9 Safety Fair from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. that includes bicycle and dog safety, emergency preparedness tips, and emergency vehicle demonstrations. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. **The public is asked to leave their pets at home.**

Staff from the Bonnie Hays Small Animal Shelter will be on hand and are encouraging people to support all the K-9 (and feline) friends that the shelter cares for. Please bring along any size bag or cans of premium dog or cat food.

Last year, the Sheriff's Office Canine Unit responded to approximately 658 incidents. To help ensure a high rate of success and longevity, new 'recruits' are specially bred and trained. Each handler and dog must complete a minimum of 400 hours of training and pass the Oregon Police Canine Association Standards prior to being deployed.

This past April, two new canines were added to the office: Chase and Oz. Like all Sheriff's Office K-9 teams, these dogs will live with the deputy and their family when not at work. The K-9 Unit participates in dozens of public demonstrations every year. If your group would like a demonstration from the Washington County K-9 Unit, please call 503-846-5956.