



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Ann Arbor Police K-9 Earns Highest Honors at National Certification Trials

ANN ARBOR, Mich., June 6, 2014 — The Ann Arbor Police Department's newest K-9 took home the highest honors recently during the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) annual certification trials in Port Huron, Mich. K-9 Murray, a Belgian Malinois who was born in Germany and brought to the U.S. when he was one year old, and his partner Officer Pat Maguire, a K-9 handler for the past eight years, have only been working together since January 2013. This short time together as a team did not seem to faze either partner, as not only were they recertified in all their detection and tracking skills, but did so with style.

In the USPCA Trials, K-9 teams from all over Michigan and Ontario recertify in both detection and tracking skills. In addition, there is a competition during this event for K-9 teams to have the highest scores as judged by master trainers within the organization. With over 50 K-9 teams attending in Port Huron, AAPD Officer Maguire and K-9 Murray finished first in narcotic detection, fourth in tracking and first place overall as a K-9 team. This was a great accomplishment for a K-9 team with as short history as they have together. It also was a testament to the hard work put into their training by this team and the Washtenaw Metro K-9 Unit, of which AAPD K-9 teams are members. In addition to the initial five months of training for K-9 Murray, they also train several times a month to ensure that K-9 Murray is a high-quality police dog who is able to help fellow officers and the citizens of Ann Arbor and surrounding jurisdictions.

K-9 Murray is a multipurpose police dog who services the community through several honed skills. He is trained in narcotic detection, suspect tracking and evidence/article location. He can also be used to help police locate missing, lost, or injured children/persons who have wandered away and cannot be located. When not at work, K-9 Murray enjoys relaxing and playing at home with Officer Maguire and his family.

Since hitting the streets last summer, K-9 Murray has been used to assist not only AAPD, but also law enforcement agencies throughout the county. He has found narcotics on traffic stops numerous times and also assisted on multiple search warrants. Some notable incidents included K-9 Murray's assistance in locating narcotics which had been smuggled into the jail. He also successfully tracked suspects who had burglarized several stores in multiple jurisdictions, led officers on a high-speed pursuit, then fled on foot into a neighborhood. The information gathered during this track assisted investigators in identifying all suspects.

K-9 Murray is named in honor of AAPD's own Officer Vada Murray who passed away in 2011. With their performance at the USPCA Trials, AAPD's newest K-9 team continues to carry on the tradition of its K-9 Unit by serving Ann Arbor and its community to the highest of standards.

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