

NEWS



Contact:
Jennifer Garnett
(408) 730-7535

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 2012
Release # 10 03 12

Sunnyvale Public Safety Team Sweeps Annual Police Canine Trials

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Public Safety Officer (PSO) Robin Smith and K-9 Colt took first place overall in the 29th Annual Witmer-Tyson Police Canine Trial. The canine trials, held October 17-18 in LaHonda, Calif., were aimed at demonstrating the skills and partnership of the handlers and their K-9s.

This year, the hard work and dedication really paid off for our Sunnyvale officers, as Smith and Colt won by accumulating points with first place wins in the categories of Obedience and Protection, second place in Obstacles and third place in Search. Last year, the duo won second place overall. Also representing the City of Sunnyvale in the competition were PSO Dan Pistor with K-9 Koa, who took fourth place overall, and the new team of PSO Si Mutz and K-9 Zac, who won third place in Protection for their first year competing.

Nineteen teams competed this year, representing police departments in California from Redding to Aurora Grande. Witmer-Tyson trainer and event organizer, Jim Stark, also noted that the competition had a unique outcome. “The top three teams were all female handlers,” said Stark. “That’s never happened before.”

~ more ~

Sunnyvale's Public Safety Canine Unit has up to four canines and their handlers. All of the canines are German Shepherds and are trained for patrol work. Two of the canines are cross-trained for narcotic detection work and the other two are cross-trained for explosive detection work. The canine officers patrol the streets of Sunnyvale; assist patrol officers during high risk calls and searches; and assist SWAT during their deployments.



Pictured: PSO Robin Smith and K-9 Colt

#