



Const. Murray Burke raised Maverick into an award-winning dog. ANDREA ROSS/METRO

Police dog tops national contest

ANIMALS

Canine beats 35 competitors from 15 police departments



Andrea Ross
Metro | Edmonton

An Edmonton police canine has been named the top dog in the country.

Maverick, a seven-year-old German Shepherd, placed first overall in the Canadian Police Canine Association Trials earlier this month in Medicine Hat.

The trials pitted 35 teams of police dogs and handlers from 15 police departments across Canada in categories including obedience, criminal apprehension, agility and evidence

searching.

"It was quite a surprise when they called our name. I wasn't expecting it," Maverick's handler Const. Murray Burke said.

"But he enjoys a lot of the stuff we do and he has fun, and I think that's a big thing for him."

The Edmonton police officer and his dog also placed first overall in obedience and criminal apprehension, and fourth in detection.

Burke raised Maverick from a puppy and the two have been with the Edmonton Police Service Canine Unit for five years.

They are one of 14 paired canine teams with the EPS.

First-time EPS competitors Const. Kelly Land and his dog Fozzy also placed fourth in criminal apprehension.

Maverick showed off his skills for reporters Tuesday, climbing steep barriers and racing through suspended tires in an obstacle course.

The obstacles are similar to those faced on the job, Sgt. Adam Segin said, and mastering them demonstrates the high expectations for police dogs.

"It's a significant accomplishment and speaks volumes to the dedication of our members and the pride they take in their craft," Segin said.



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"The dedication that they put forth daily to advance their skills and training helps them perform well at these events, but more importantly, provides the best service they can to the community."