

SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

J. PAUL PARKER
SHERIFF-CORONER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Monday, May 05, 2008

SUBJECT:

Sutter County Sheriff's Department K-9 wins recognition in dog trials.

TEXT:

Sutter Sheriff's K-9 "Rudie" and his handler Deputy John DeVries recently won awards in two police dog competitions.

The first trial this year was in Stockton on the 5th of April. Rudie was 3rd in protection and 3rd overall. There were 27 K-9 teams at the Stockton trial. Stockton PD hosting and their dogs team competed along with Sacramento SO and PD. Most of the other teams that competed have department owned dogs.

On the 26th of April in Manteca, Rudie was 2nd overall, 4th in agility, 2nd in the search, 5th in obedience and took the Agitator Choice Award as the hardest hitting dog. In the Manteca trial there were 31 teams competing.

Last year, Rudie ended the season in 8th place in the Western States. There are approximately 11 individual competitions per year. Rudie is a six year old Dutch Sheppard that has been in service since 2005. His handler, Deputy John DeVries has been with the Sutter County Sheriff's Department for six years.

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MISCELLANEOUS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The search phase is held in an open area. Vehicles were placed out in the field some had bite equipment in them one vehicle had a subject hiding in it. The K-9 is sent on a search and has 90 seconds to find the subject. Points are awarded on time, how well the dog alerts and how well the handler directs the K-9.
- The agility phase is how the handler controls the dog while the dog navigates the agility equipment. The equipment normally consists of a six foot wall, a teeter-totter, a cat walk, barrels, a tunnel and window and hurdle jumps.
- The obedience is how the dog follows the handler's directions while heeling and when the handler uses tactical hand signals. The protection phase consists of sending the dog on suspects and how the K-9 engages them a courage test with gun shots and call offs.
- All designed to test the dog's courage while stressed and the handler's control of the dog. The dog with the most drive who hits the decoys the hardest is awarded the decoys choice award.