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Creative Canine Wins November Round of Nationwide Search for the “Top Dog”

Washington D.C. - Local German Shepherd Layla, a companion to Orlando, FL resident Ashley Shaughnessy, was crowned the November winner of the Top Dog: Canine Cop of the Year earlier today. The contest, presented by the National Museum of Crime & Punishment (NMCP) in Washington, D.C., aims to identify dogs that best serve their family and community both figuratively and literally. The museum, owned by Orlando attorney and entrepreneur John Morgan, explores the evolution of crime and punishment in America and features interactive exhibits including driving and shooting simulators and a crime scene investigation lab.

Of the many entries submitted to the contest this month, Layla was selected as the winner by judges representing the National Museum of Crime & Punishment (NMCP), The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and the Washington Humane Society (WHS).

This unique contest invites pet owners to submit a picture and caption of how their dog “protects and serves” within their community. The judges selected Layla’s photo based on creativity, quality of the photo, and Shaughnessy’s entertaining story. According to the entry submitted by Shaughnessy, “Although Layla is not a ‘true’ police dog, she likes to play the part. She is a tracking machine and will find anything you hide! When she isn't playing hide and seek, Layla is protecting the family. She is our guardian, loyal companion, and best friend!”

As this month’s winner, Layla will receive a featured spot on the NMCP website and e-Newsletter, an annual family pass to the museum, and her own Canine Cop Day, where the National Museum of Crime & Punishment will be devoted to glorifying Layla. Her winning photo will be posted at the museum, and guests that state “LAYLA” at the museum's front desk will receive half price admission. Layla will also qualify for the nationwide vote to determine the Canine Cop of the Year, who will receive a trip to Washington, D.C. with their pooch and the opportunity to march in the D.C. Independence Day Parade.

Entries are now being accepted for December’s Top Dog: Canine Cop of the Year. To enter the contest or for more information, visit http://www.crimemuseum.org/americas_next_top_dog.



In tandem with the contest, the National Museum of Crime & Punishment will raise funds for both The Humane Society of the United States and Washington Humane Society, as well as develop a temporary museum exhibit in 2011 featuring information about Crimes against Animals. For more information about crimes against animals, visit http://www.crimemuseum.org/Crimes_Against_Animals (information on this page is a collaboration between NMCP, WHS, and The HSUS).

Note for media: Winning photo of Layla is attached to this email. Photo credit should be "Photo courtesy of the National Museum of Crime & Punishment." For high resolution versions, please email lisa@bwfcom.com.

About the National Museum of Crime & Punishment

The NMCP's mission is to provide guests of all ages with a memorable insight into the history of crime, crime fighting and solving, and the consequences of committing a crime in America through a captivating interactive, entertaining, and educational experience. Some of the attractions include a CSI Experience, a high-speed chase simulator and FBI shooting range, Americas Most Wanted studio, and a room where visitors can try to hack into a computer, crack a safe and test their Wild West shooting range. The museum is located on 7th Street NW between E and F Streets in downtown Washington, D.C. at the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro (Arena exit). Learn more at www.crimemuseum.org.

About The Humane Society of the United States

The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization — backed by 11 million Americans, or one of every 28. For more than a half-century, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education and hands-on programs. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty — On the Web at www.humanesociety.org.

About the Washington Humane Society

The Washington Humane Society, the only Congressionally-chartered animal welfare agency in the United States, has been the leading voice for animals in the District of Columbia since 1870. As the only open-access shelter in the nation's capital, no call for help goes unanswered, and no animal is ever turned away. The Washington Humane Society provides comfort and care to more than 30,000 animals each year through its broad range of programs and services including: sheltering, adoption, humane law enforcement, spay and neuter, humane education, human – animal rehabilitation programs, and lost and found services. For more information please call or e-mail the media contact above or visit: www.washhumane.org

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