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

Washington D.C. - Local Husky/Australian Sheepdog mix Hershey, a companion to Cape May, NJ resident Beatrice Blood, was crowned the October 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. Of the many entries submitted to the contest this month, Hershey 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 Hershey’s photo based on creativity, quality of the photo, and Blood’s entertaining (albeit tongue-in-cheek) story. According to the entry submitted by Blood, “Hershey is a dedicated crime scene investigator, though she works for mere biscuits. Make no mistake: this top dog doesn't monkey around when it comes to catching a perpetrator. She makes it her business to keep the streets safe.”

As this month’s winner, Hershey 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 Hershey. Her winning photo will be posted at the museum, and guests that state “HERSHEY” at the museum's front desk will receive half price admission. Hershey 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 November’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 January 2011 featuring information about Crimes against Animals. For more information about crimes against animals, visit [http://www.crimemuseum.org/Crimes Against Animals](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 Farside 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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