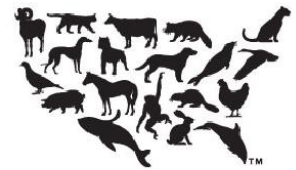




The Washington  
Humane Society



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **America's Next Top Dog: Is Your Dog the Canine Cop of the Year?**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Whether it be protecting the sofa from any fallen crumbs, or serving the neighborhood by keeping the grass fertilized, all dogs serve their families and communities in their own unique way. To honor the special protection that dogs offer, the **National Museum of Crime & Punishment (NMCP)** is partnering with **The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)** and **The Washington Humane Society (WHS)** to present ***America's Next Top Dog: Canine Cop of the Year***, a nationwide contest to identify the dog that serves its community best.

“Since the museum opened in 2008, we’ve hosted several guest speakers related to animals in law enforcement,” said Janine Vaccarello, Chief Operating Officer of the National Museum of Crime & Punishment. “What these animals accomplish is amazing, it’s easy to understand why people feel more secure with a dog in their homes. This contest gives typical dog owners the chance to showcase how their dogs contribute to society, whether it’s something serious like a K9 police dog, or something a bit more tongue-in-cheek like patrolling the backyard for intruding cats.”

All dog owners that are U.S. residents are eligible to enter the contest. Creativity and props are encouraged in submissions, as long as the image is considered appropriate for all ages. The museum and its partners will not tolerate any animal being treated inhumanely to elicit a unique picture, so they urge contestants to not put dogs in any situation that is dangerous or would appear to be dangerous.

### **"QUOTE FROM HSUS"**

Submissions for each month must be received by the 25th at 5:00PM EST. All submissions received after that date will be considered for the following month. Winners will be announced on the 29th of each month. Monthly winners will receive a featured spot on the NMCP website

and e-Newsletter, a press release sent to the local newspapers and TV stations in the monthly winner's hometown, an annual family pass to the museum including your potty-trained canine, and **Canine Cop Day**, where the National Museum of Crime & Punishment will be devoted to glorifying that month's selected winner. The dog's winning photo will be posted at the museum, and guests that state the winning dog's name at the museum's front desk will receive 1/2 price admission.

In tandem with the contest, the museum will raise funds for both HSUS (online) and WHS (within the museum); as well as develop a temporary museum exhibit featuring Crimes against Animals.

For more information about the contest, visit [http://www.crimemuseum.org/americas\\_next\\_top\\_dog](http://www.crimemuseum.org/americas_next_top_dog). 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 HSUS).

### **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](http://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 [humanesociety.org](http://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](http://www.washhumane.org)

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