

One Dazzling K-9 Duo

The Madison County Sheriff's K-9 Unit was pleased to participate and complete a weeklong canine/handler development class from September 28 – October 2, in Elko Nevada. Only 10 dogs and their handlers were in the class, and Deputy Birdsill and K-9 partner Shay proudly represented Madison County as the only out of state team.

The K-9 training school was put on by the American Society of Canine Trainers and hosted by the Elko Nevada Sheriff's Office. The Senior Master Trainer was Chris Aycock with assistance from trainer Jason Coutts.

The week of training kept both officer and canine partners constantly moving in physical and mental preparation for the next encounter. The team's attention and prior experience was constantly tested and honed, which yielded the Madison County Unit great successes throughout the class.

The advanced training course included educating the handler in teaching canine duos detection work (for both narcotics and cadavers), armed encounter response, and decoy development. The decoys were ultimately responsible in training the canines in master protection, civil protection and criminal apprehension. Shay's superior obedience allowed him a distinguished reputation throughout the week's duration.

Each day consisted of 8-10 hours of intense field training, with a minimal amount of time for classroom instruction and review. Several scenarios were presented to the canine/handler teams to test their skills. Teams encountered several street simulated situations, including exposure to various distractions such as people screaming and gun shots. Scenarios included searches of open areas, vehicles, and buildings for both hidden drugs and armed/dangerous suspects. Most importantly, a strong emphasis was also placed on exercising officer safety techniques for both handler and canine partners.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office is proud to actively expand the training of our canine team. This week long training is one of few training sessions available to K-9 teams.

Sheriff Schenk and Under sheriff Thompson continue to make the Madison County Canine Program a priority, as the substantial impact that our canine team offers the community should be appreciated by all.

Way to go Deputy Birdsill and K-9 Shay!