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## Police Dogs Demonstrate Skills

*Riverside Police K-9 Unit Participates at Event*

The Riverside Police Department Canine Unit attended the annual Inland Empire Canine Association show that took place on Saturday, June 22, 2013. The specialized police dogs and their handler's from law enforcement agencies throughout Riverside and San Bernardino County arrived at the University of Redlands and conducted numerous demonstrations in front of the public. "We are always glad to attend this event and demonstrate the proficiency between the K-9 officer and the specially trained police dog," said Sergeant Patrick McCarthy, who supervises the police department's specialized unit. "We enjoy the camaraderie with the other K-9 officers and really like to see the police dogs from other agencies perform," McCarthy said.

One of the main attractions was the Riverside Police Department helicopter landing on the field with a K-9 suspended from a SWAT officer. Riverside Police Officer Dave Taylor and his loyal partner, "CHACKO" rode on the landing gear of the helicopter with two other SWAT officers as the helicopter quickly maneuvered into the stadium. A simulated vehicle chase ended on the field as the helicopter came in for a landing. Officer Taylor carried "CHACKO" in a specially made harness and immediately disembarked from the helicopter. This allows the helicopter to go airborne and fly overhead. The Canine Unit Commander, Lieutenant Chuck Griffitts said, "the close working relationship between the helicopter crew, the SWAT officers and the K-9 demonstrated the results of constant and consistent training. The progression of our program is geared to be prepared for the worst case scenario."

"We are very proud to be a part of this organization and participate at the event, and we are looking forward to next year's event," said Sergeant McCarthy

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