

SPCA dog trained for K-9 police force

Katie was a rambunctious dog. She jumped, she played, she ran and she played some more.

She even ran away from home and ended up at the Lycoming County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Her owner never claimed her and she was made available for adoption.

Due to her high level of activity, the SPCA had a difficult time finding a home for her. However, a local trainer saw potential in Katie for K-9 education.

Roger Stipcak of Ideal Police Canine visited the Lycoming County SPCA and thought that she would be ideal for explosive detection. The labrador retriever mix dog was adopted from the shelter and spent 15 weeks of basic training under the guidance of Stipcak and Ken Munchower.

Katie was trained to surpass the standards set by the United States Police Canine Association. According to the USPCA Web site, the organization endeavors to establish



PHOTO PROVIDED

Above is McKeesport Police Officer Tim Bliss with canine Katie, who was adopted from the Lycoming County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and trained as a K-9 police dog.

a minimum working standard and improve the abilities of the canine in police work, thereby rendering better service to the community. Katie easily passed her certification test and was ready for duty.

This highly trained canine

there.

Ideal Police Canine trains dogs for explosive and narcotic detection as well as patrol duty. Owners Stipcak and Munshower also offer basic obedience training in the animal's home.

The two trainers recently adopted another labrador retriever from the Lycoming County SPCA with plans to train the dog in narcotics detection, according to the SP-CA.

was donated to the McKeesport Police and will be handled by Officer Tim Bliss. McKeesport has the unfortunate problem of gang-related activity in the schools. Katie will help the officers find weapons should they be brought into the schools