



# WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service  
Sheriff Pat Garrett

## PRESS RELEASE

### Washington County Sheriff's Office K-9 Stark Celebrates his 100<sup>th</sup> Capture

November 18, 2015-Deputy Micah Akin and his dynamic K-9 partner "Stark" reached their 100<sup>th</sup> capture.

On November 13, 2015, deputies responded to a disturbance with a gun call in an Aloha neighborhood. It was reported shots were fired following a verbal altercation and the three suspects fled on foot. After deputies cleared the exterior of the property, Deputy Akin and his K-9 partner Stark began to track the suspects. Stark tracked one suspect through a greenspace, an apartment complex and ultimately located the suspect in a field where he was attempting to hide. Stark barked and alerted his partner, Deputy Akin to the location of the suspect. This capture marked Stark's 100<sup>th</sup> capture during his first three years on the job. The other two suspects were also caught and all three were charged with disorderly conduct, and one was charged with Unlawful Use of a Weapon.

Deputy Akin and Stark are dually certified to support regular patrol operations through the [Oregon Police Canine Association](#), and the [Pacific Northwest Police Detection Dog Association](#).

Once he locates a suspect, he barks to alert Deputy Akin to the suspect's whereabouts. If commanded by Deputy Akin, Stark is trained to bark at a suspect or "hold a suspect". Additionally, Stark can locate articles with fresh human scent and alerts by lying down near them.

Each law enforcement agency has its own standard of what constitutes a capture. The Washington County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) follows a conservative approach and only considers it a capture if the K-9 tracks and immediately locates a suspect, a suspect surrenders or a containment capture. Captures are one of the most effective ways to show the success of a K-9 team and the WCSO K-9 Unit will often discuss events to determine if they warrant being deemed a capture.



**Deputy Micah Akin & K-9 Stark**

Deputy Micah Akin joined the Sheriff's Office in 2005 and became a member of the K-9 Unit in 2012. His partner Stark, a male Belgian Malinois/Shepherd, was born on April 01, 2011 in California. The team successfully completed a 400 hour basic K-9 school in December of 2012 and continues to train a minimum of 16 hours a month.

The Washington County Sheriff's K-9 Unit consists of four tracking canine teams and one canine team dedicated to narcotic detection. The tracking canines are trained to locate, follow, and alert on fresh human scent, which includes suspects who walked or ran away from crime scenes or who barricaded themselves in a building or house. Narcotic detection teams are trained to locate narcotics in a variety of different locations (i.e. buildings, vehicles, outside areas and more).