

Face art

Joy Tsunka paints rainbows and clouds on the face of three-year-old Kira Gerrits at Sunday's Holiday Market.



Photo by Anthony Forney

K-9

Continued from Page 10

After the dogs are trained, they are then sold to a buyer in Riverside, Calif., who sells them to the department for about \$5,000 each. Schulke said the department has received top dogs because of the "ruthless genetic engineers" in Europe.

The department selects a dog for its good temperament as well as for its aggressiveness. As Schulke says, the dog's bark is usually worse than its bite.

"They get portrayed as vicious man-eaters, but none of them are like that," Schulke said.

The department recently bought a Dutch Malinois, Nikko, and also a 95-pound Golden Labrador, Woody, that will be used to detect drugs. This brings the department's total to five dogs.

Schulke and Hans reflect just a part of the patrol. Schulke, 35, joined the police force in 1986 after he graduated from the University. He began working on the K-9 unit two years later and worked briefly with another dog, Trux.

But for the past two-and-a-half years, he and his wet-nosed, pointy-eared partner have been patrolling Eugene. Four nights a week from 5:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m., they drive around the city, waiting to be dispatched.

Hans is the co-pilot, sitting in the specially designed backseat of the blue and white Chevrolet Caprice. Inside the car, a plexiglass window separates Schulke from Hans. The backseat windows have been replaced with metal grating, and the back-

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— Tom Schulke
Eugene Police Officer

seat has been removed so Hans can stand.

However, during high-speed chases, Hans occasionally gets thrown around like a loose tennis shoe in a dryer. They still don't make seat belts for dogs.

With all of this time spent together, Schulke and Hans have grown attached to each other. Schulke said he prefers a dog instead of a human for a partner, and he even calls Hans his best friend.

"By working with the dog all the time, the bond between an officer and his dog gets pretty close," he said.

They certainly are no "Turner and Hooch" combination; nor does Schulke resemble Tom Hanks. But when the two aren't working, they are usually spending time with each other.

Hans lives with the single Schulke at his 11-acre home and often accompanies him on hiking trips and visits to the coast. Schulke said that he plans to keep the dog when Hans retires. By then Hans will be about 10 years old (or 70 in people years).

But for now, Schulke and Hans will continue to sniff out crime on the streets of Eugene.



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