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Dynamo Junee pair claim victory

THE dynamo Junee team of Chontal Barber and Gypsy have trounced elite competition to emerge victorious at the Australian Service Dog Trials.

Representing the Junee Correctional Centre, Chontal and border collie Gypsy excelled in the substance detection category of the competition to secure the perpetual trophy for the trial win. The trials attracted 40 handlers representing nine agencies – Corrections Service NSW, Victoria Corrections, Royal Australian Air Force, Army, Military Police, Australian Federal Police, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Police and the GEO Group.

Handlers competed in five

fields, tracking, bite work, offender location within a building, obedience and agility and substance detection, and were judged by highly-regarded dog trainer Steve Austin.

"Over half of the handlers competed in substance detection, which ranged from narcotics, to accelerant, explosives and Cadaver, deceased persons," Chontal said. "With detection you had to pick three searches of the five being assessed, those were person, box, room, vehicle and field. "I chose person, box and room." Each search was scored out of 100 with a total score of 300."

In a huge achievement for 10-year-old Gypsy and Chontal,

the pair secured perfect scores for two of the categories.

"Gypsy's first run was box and she located the odour on the first pass," she said.

"The judge's assistant confused herself as to where the odour was, so the judge checked the box that gypsy indicated to and confirmed that she was correct and she scored 100. "Gypsy's third run was a person search.

"It was up to the handler to line the people up where they wanted them and we had a five minute time period. I lined the people up and started the search with Gypsy. "She started her low search and at about the fifth person in the line she stopped and put her nose up around the

waist area of that person. Gypsy proceeded to indicate and we scored 100/100 for that search too." As well as taking home the top prize, Chontal and Gypsy attracted plenty of positive attention over the course of the two day competition held at Kirkconnell in Sydney. Fellow competitors and judges alike were shocked to learn the attentive and clever border collie was 10 years old.

"No one could believe that Gypsy is 10 and how well she is still working," Chontal said.

"A competitor came to me and said, "she goes alright for a pup"... When I told him she was 10 he couldn't believe it."



PERFECT PAIR: The talented Junee Correctional Centre team of Chontal Barber and gorgeous border collie Gypsy celebrate their victory at the Australian Service Dog Trials.