



**The NFRSA Endeavour Trophy is presented to Police Dogs Scotland's PC McMaster & PD Amber**  
**A Special Recognition for performance and partnership at the National Police Dog Trials 2022**



On 18<sup>th</sup> November The Countess Bathurst, of Cirencester Park, visited the Police Scotland College to present The NFRSA Endeavour Trophy to PC McMaster and PD Amber of Police Dogs Scotland.

They are the first recipients of this incredible award, won at the National Police Dog Trials in May 2022, but it wasn't until now that the award was officially presented to them both at the College.

The 60<sup>th</sup> National Police Dog Trials were held this May at Cirencester Park, the home of Countess Bathurst. The trials see police dogs and their handlers from across the United Kingdom compete in a series of trials including agility, searching and obedience. This year the inaugural NFRSA Endeavour Trophy was introduced. It was presented to the officer and his/her dog who had performed well across the board in all categories, but just missed out on winning overall, a special recognition.

During the visit, Lady Bathurst watched an impressive display from the newest dog handlers in Scotland and met with dog handlers from all over Scotland, to share the work of the NFRSA. She also met two Scotland Police Horses and their riders, and enjoyed a tour of the Police College.

## About the NFRSA

Founded by The Countess Bathurst of Cirencester Park in May this year, the NFRSA supports the UK's 3000+ and growing, retired dogs and horses from the Police, Fire & Rescue, Prison, and Border Force, services, by assisting handlers and owners with medical and veterinary responsibilities - which, by default falls on the handler.

This incredible charity is unique in that it does not demand a joining fee, monthly subscription, or any compulsory financial contribution on the part of the owner or handler. Instead, it focuses entirely on helping the families of these courageous animals, who have given so much of their lives protecting the public, recognising that with insurance being largely unavailable because of the work they have done, it provides essential support in these current difficult times.

The charity has already had several incredible success stories. In Scotland they were delighted to support PD Corrie recently with a grant for nearly £1000 for her severe ear hematoma, and Lady Bathurst had the opportunity to meet Corrie and her devoted handler during her visit.

'To be able to meet Gail and her gorgeous German Shepherd, Corrie, and to see the bond between them, reminded me just how important it is we Protect Our Protectors in their retirement.' said Lady Bathurst.

'These extraordinary animals have given so many years of devoted service, often in incredibly difficult and dangerous situations, and it is an absolute privilege to be there for them, just like they've been there for us, when they need our help.'

'But we simply could be here without the amazing support we receive from the public, and I always remember we do this job on their behalf. We are merely the channel through which the deserved recognition travels.'

Another hugely rewarding success story for the charity was that of PD Keela, a retired Police Dog from Kent Constabulary. PD Keela's handler, Sam noticed her dog was in great pain one evening in late summer. Without any thought of the cost, Sam rushed Keela to the vet where she underwent emergency life-saving surgery, which she happily survived.

The total vets bill came to just over £6k, so she turned to the NFRSA for help. When Lady Bathurst contacted the vet and explained Keela was a retired police dog, they were so touched by her extraordinary career, they reduced the fee. The NFRSA were absolutely delighted to then pay the remaining bill on Sam's behalf.

Sam commented: 'I'd have re-mortgaged my home to pay the vets bill. Keela means everything to me and there is no way I was going to let her go just because of the fees. When I rang Lady Bathurst, she told me it would never come to that, and she knew the NFRSA could help. I can't tell you how much that meant to me as a dog handler, knowing my girl was going to be ok and there is this amazing help from such a kind and caring charity. It was a huge relief and I'm so grateful to them.'

The NFRSA will always be there to 'Protect Our Protectors'.

ENDS

For further information on NFRSA go to <https://www.nfrsa.org.uk>

For Press/Media enquiries [charlie@likemindedpr.com](mailto:charlie@likemindedpr.com)