



Volunteers play trade game at fencing venue

By ZHANG CHUNMEI
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — The most popular pastime at the fencing venue must be the exchanging of pins. Volunteers who wear numerous pins earn admiring glances from others.

Wang Zhiwei, 24, a junior at Shenzhen University, has collected 22 pins in three days.

“The school gave us 16 pins with Chinese scenery and the Universiade mascot. I wore some of them just to decorate my belt and volunteer card,” Wang said.

The first day he served at the fencing venue, Aug 13, he saw some French fencers swapping pins with fencers from other countries.

“I was curious about that. I asked if I could also exchange with them. We made the deal. I was very excited at that time. I could not believe that it worked out,” Wang said.

He quickly told his peers and they have since worn all their pins to the venue every day in the hope of making trades.

The 369 fencers from 47 countries and regions provide a big “market” for them, but swapping pins is a skill. You need to choose the right time and right place to improve your chances.

Chen Jiawei, 20, a freshman majoring in law at Shenzhen University, wears more than 30 pins on his belt. He revealed his secret.

“The best time to change the pin is when they just get off the bus to the venue in the morning. Most of them are in a good mood as the competition has not begun, and they have enough pins to change. If you ask in the afternoon, some have lost

their matches and are not happy, and some have already run out of pins,” Chen said.

Besides, you also need to pay attention to the pins they are wearing. “Some have several of the same pin they always like to exchange with you. If their pins are different, they seldom want to deal,” Chen said.

How to start the conversation is also important. Directly asking to trade pins can be regarded in some circles as impolite. Wang’s trick is to ask them to sign his “volunteer passport” first.

“They always like to leave a signature, and then I will praise them like ‘I love your writing very much’, or ‘you are so beautiful’. They are happy to hear these words, and then I ask to exchange a pin.”

Fencers from Japan and the US are their favorites. They have brought a lot of pins and sometimes give them to volunteers as gifts.

To get precious ones, you need to give up more. Chen has a leader pin from the US team. “I used four different pins in that exchange. It is worth it as there is only one leader in a team. It is so special,” Chen said.

They sometimes “earn” pins for their hard work, patience and hospitality.

“Once, a Russian fencer asked me the way to the metro station. I walked 15 minutes under the hot sun to take him there, with sweat all over my face. He was touched and gave me a national team pin as a sign of appreciation,” Wang said.

The wheeling and dealing adds fun to the volunteers’ work at the fencing venue. They also communicate with fencers and explain the Chinese culture of the pins to them. They are excited when they get a special one, and share their triumph with their peers.



ZHANG CHUNMEI / CHINA DAILY

Wang Zhiwei, 24, (left) and Chen Jiawei, 20, have collected dozens of pins between them at the fencing venue.

Dog days of summer? Then just bring in more dogs

By SHI YINGYING
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Even a dog needs a break from the sun.

That’s why 200 extra police canines have been in town, keeping veterinarian Du Xiaopeng quite busy since June.

“They came from 27 provinces of China, including Xinjiang, Qinghai and Heilongjiang, to support the Universiade’s security check,” said Du, who came from Kunming’s police dog base with more than 25 years’ experience of looking after dogs.

Those 200, plus another 100 sniffer dogs from Shenzhen, are checking for explosives at all the Universiade’s venues, Universiade Village and some of the official hotels.

Looking after all of those dogs is not easy.



All of the doghouses have to be sterilized seven to eight times every day to guarantee the cleanliness of the environment. We can’t risk any accidents — you have to realize they’re the top police dogs from all across China.”

DU XIAOPENG
VETERINARIAN AT THE SHENZHEN UNIVERSIADE

“We started to prepare doghouses at the beginning of June — two weeks before these dogs came,” said Du. “All of the doghouses have to be sterilized seven to eight times every day to guarantee the cleanliness of the environment. We can’t risk any accidents — you have to realize they’re the top police dogs from all across China.”

Some of the dogs came from the coldest areas of China, while others came from the

driest, leading to varied reactions to Shenzhen’s high temperatures and low pressure.

“One case of heat-stroke can kill a dog because, unlike human beings, who regulate heat with skin, a dog uses its tongue.”

Yu Na, a policewoman from Beijing, said her dog was sick due to the high temperature.

“I was lucky as there’s a vet with each car, along with all of this equipment such as oxygen, to help my dog avoid sunstroke,” she said.

“There’s a reason why we sent so many dogs to Shenzhen this time. They can’t work that long in such hot weather, so we transferred more dogs than they needed to make sure the service was adequate,” said Yu.

However, Du said many of the dogs didn’t have good appetites, and there was a risk of infectious disease. “We spent 100,000 yuan (\$15,500) on vaccines to counter distemper, canine parvovirus, hepatitis and rabies,” he said.

Apart from that, Du collected every dog’s medical history to make sure they didn’t miss any vaccines.

“Tiny ticks are another big problem for us,” said Du, adding that ticks thrive in Shenzhen’s weather. “That just gives us one more reason to clean the doghouses one more time.”