

HJR

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Research Paper

The Development & Use of Police Dogs

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PART I

A Condensed History of K-9 Dogs

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A Condensed History of K-9 Dogs

"As far back as the Stone Ages, the dog has been made a part of man's home. Man fed the dog and was rewarded by the faithful service of the animal. During the day, the dog helped man hunt; at night, while man rested, the dog guarded the entrance to his cave. The dog did all of this for nothing more than a steady, altho sometimes skimpy, supply of food. Earliest historical records go back only as far as about 5,000 B.C., but by that time dogs were definitely domesticated and used as guards of man. The use of dogs as both offensive and defensive defenders of man, is as old as war itself.*

Prior to World War II it was not uncommon to see entire formations of attack dogs, doing nothing more than harrassing and causing a general disturbance among different groups of people. During Napoleon's reign he used dogs to warn of oncoming danger, and also a means of protecting his men.

Dogs became a vital part of man's fight for protection and survival; and because of this we find that through-out history, dogs have been used for not only security and guard duty, but also as scout dogs, messengers and casualty dogs. The flexibility of dogs is found to be a great asset to the protection of man and his property.*

During World War II and the wars that followed, we find that the use of dogs in its varied capacities grew to a heightened peak of varied importance. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, a group of civilians with an interest in dog training, formed an organization known as "Dogs for Defense, Incorporated." This is possibly the first organized group of civilians in the United States to pave the way for the broad and exciting future of Police Dogs.*

Although the organization, Dogs for Defense, was primarily concerned in aiding our Military Forces; they did prove to be a stepping stone for the local lawman versus the criminal is as old as history itself.*

*The foregoing information is partly quoted and condensed from the U.S. Air Force Sentry Dog Handler Manual (1960) JP77150-S, p. 2-1.

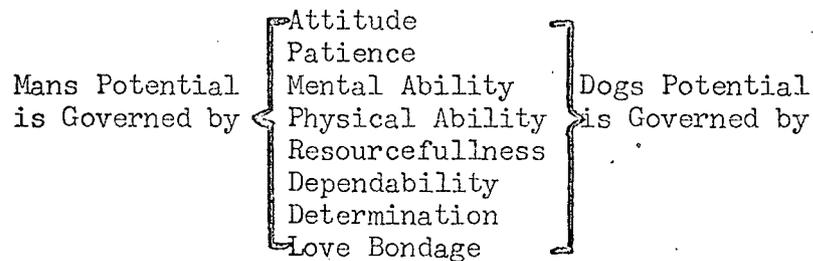
PART II

The K-9 Handler and His Importance

The K-9 Handler and His Importance

It has been proven through countless past experience that men and dogs hold alot in common. The fact remains that to get absolutely excellent working team of a handler and his dog, one must draw out the finest of qualities from each and work it into a definite suppression of Crime Combination. The real test of the matter comes to light, as we realize who the handler is, and who is the highly trained obeyer of commands.

This is a very important, but yet preliminary factor, of who's going to be the boss in the utilization of the K-9 team.



The Handler

The successful care and training of your Police dog depends to a great extent upon your personal characteristics. When possible, the dogs and handlers are matched according to their individual characteristics as well as their physical traits. For example, a large dog is usually assigned to a large man because a small man may not be able to physically control the dog. Past experience has shown and been proven that most of the traits which will follow, are essential in being a good dog handler.

Attitude

In the training and handling of your selected dog, it is most important for you, the handler, to have a genuine fondness and definite interest in your dogs welfare. In other words, the dogs immediate care and welfare should come first and ahead of everything else in your life. Because of this, you will find that this highly trained companion of yours, may some day soon save yours and or a fellow officers life; in the line of duty.

Patience and Perserverence

The process for a dogs learning is much like that of a little child. There must be a lot of patience and slow reptition in all that you do and say. You, the handler cannot force habits or behavior traits upon your dog. You must gain the unprecedented confidence of your dog and his abilities; and when this is satisfactorily done, your dog will want to gladly do everything you want him to do, and especially when you want it done. Teach slowly and always repeat the commands precisely as you would want them said. Only through constant and continued over and over again action will your dog finally get the idea of whats expected of him. When this is accomplished, then and only then is the learning process completed, and the handler - dog team can function smoothly together in police work.

Mental and Physical Coordination

A good dog handler must be able to make decisions quickly and effectively, but most important of all, he must be able to evaluate any and all situations, so as to be able to apply he and his dog correctly

to any given situation, or what ever task maybe at hand. The handler must be in full control of the dog and the situation by both voice and gesture commands. This is why Mental and Physical Coordination is so important for effectiveness.

Physical Endurance

Your dog, if properly trained is always in top physical conditioning, and should be ready for any type of action at any given time.

This should also be true of the handler. But we find that it takes alot more of hard work at training to get a handler into good physical shape, than it does a dog. In fact, the training of the handler should be at least twice as much as that which the dogs get daily. Unless the handler - dog team are well coordinated, they could prove to be a dangerous hazard as well as ineffective in certain situations. And its in these questionable situations, to which life or death is the imposing factor.

Resourcefulness Through Evaluation

As a handler progresses with his dog, he will find many situations arise, that are not covered in any set down policies. This comes to past as the dog and handler relationships have grown together, to form an exceptionally professional police team. Just as no two dogs are alike or in anyway similiar; this is also true in criminal situations. You the handler must be alert at all times, and always be able to evaluate your dogs abilities, and essential traits, under any pressures and given situations, or when ever immediately needed.

Dependability

The entire welfare of your dog is in your hands. By now your dog should be very much dependant upon you, for his physical well being. Its up to you to see to his proper feeding, housing, cleaning and or veterinary care. Your failure accomplishing these important phases of your local Police K-9 Program.

Duties and Responsibilitys

The principal functioning duty of the Police K-9 team, is to be a highly trained and effective means of protecting the public and preventing crime thru both psychological methods and or the actual committements of police force through the dogs ability to Search, Locate and Detain, those unauthorized individuals who are potential threats to a peacefull, and law abiding society. In order for the public to have a correct and proper understanding of the Police K-9 Program, the officers and their dogs should be engaged in an extensive demonstration schedule at all times.*

If this is being accomplished, it will prove to be an excellant means of improving Public Relations and the informing the public of this very important and often times critical part of Law Enforcement Programs.*

* U.S. Air Force Sentry Dog Handler (1960) JP77150-S, p. 1-2

PART III

USE OF POLICE DOGS

Use of Police Dogs

Outline of Important Points to Remember:

- I. Purpose of your dog
 - A. To detect and alert the handler
 - B. Upon command; pursue, attack and hold suspect
 - C. Extremely usefull at night and during fowl weather
 - D. Your dog is an unequaled psychological deterrent

*Don't depend on your dog's eyesight, it's the weakest of his senses
- II. Securing an area or building
 - A. In outside and open areas patrol down wind
 - B. To check buildings, cover each floor and rooms thoroughly
 - C. Allow your dog full advantage of his senses of smell and hearing
 - D. Watch for your dogs signs of alerting
- III. Use proper dog equipment
 - A. Choke chain
 - B. Leash (either 6' or 1½')
 - C. Leather Collar
 - D. Muzzlé (if necessary)
 - E. Brush and comb
- IV. Handler - Dog Ratio
 - A. One man and one dog for a K-9 team
 - B. Dogs loyalty and affection will be undivided
 - C. This is proven a most effective system

The Police Dog

The dog usually chosen for police work is usually a German Shepherd breed. This is because of his versatile characteristics and keen attitude to learning the job. Other important reasons for selecting this breed is for his availability and his adaptability to climatic conditions. Besides, he has a long tireless gait; he is a strong, agile and well-muscled dog. Most important of all, he is especially alert and fearless.

It is found that most German Shepherds have a natural distrust of strange persons and of strange conditions.

Besides these factors mentioned, this particular breed of dog has a double coat: the outer coat is long, course, and some what water resistant; the under coat is soft, furry, and thicker in the winter than in warm weather.

The dogs sex makes no difference in his working ability, as long as he or she is properly trained.

It should be noted at this time that veterinary care for your dog is at all times necessary a must.

Releasing the Dog

A primary function of your trained Police Dog is to detect and alert the handler to suspicious persons or objects in an area being checked.

The secondary function of your dog is to pursue, attack and hold any individual that the handler may feel is a threat to life and property. This also includes a suspect who attempts to escape.

Your dog will only do what you the handler want him to do; so whether the command is by voice or gestures, be sure you give proper and clear

commands in directing your dog's action. Your dog is considered a dangerous weapon and should always be handled as such in all situations. Never use your dog to scare or bring undue fear to adults or children alike.

Alerting Range of Your Dog

The capabilities of your dog is widely ranged and its up to you the handler to recognize this at all times, and use effectively. Your dog can alert up to 250 yards in open and unobstructed areas. Inside of buildings your dog is restricted to just the area within the building; but he will alert you to persons in closets, other rooms, and even hidden in certain areas. The only factor that will hinder your dogs effectiveness is an excess of fumes and noises.

Outline

Purchase, Conditioning & Training the Dog

- I. Dog Bought or given the Department
 - A. By any person or persons
- II. What to look for
 - A. Alertness of dog
 - B. Agresiveness (Internal Challenging)
 - C. Steady and Responsive Disposition
 - D. Dog must not be afraid of extremely loud noises and gun shots
- III. Basic Obedience
 - A. Heel, sit, stay, down, come, cover, crawl, etc.
 - B. On leash
- IV. Intermdiate Obedience
 - A. Same as basics but off leash
- V. Advanced Obedience
 - A. Serious agitation
 - B. Pursue, attack and guard (hold)
 - C. Persons search and Auto search
 - D. Disregarding gun fire
 - E. Suspicious Movements and objects
 - F. Re-attack
- VI. Elective Training
 - A. Searching buildings, auto's, houses and property
 - B. Culverts, pipe, bush and junk
 - C. Locating bodies, guns (weapons), etc.
 - D. Notify handler of suspicious things or objects

Proper Deployment of Dogs

Throughout our country today we as law enforcement officers are faced with a steady increase of the crime rate since the end of World War II. We have the nasty job of trying to overcome the wide gap found between the Criminal Elements and the decent citizen. Because of the influence into our society of those persons who want to gain something for nothing, we as officers of the peace must find other means of suppressing the ever rising crime problem. Each City, County and State has its own individual type problems, but all these problems still mean one thing; we must all find better means of preventing crime in our areas.

One of the newest and most rewarding crime prevention devises of this century is the use of K-9 Police Dogs. By the time you get to this portion of this report, there should be no question in your mind of the purpose and effective function of the K-9 program.

Many major cities and their departments have adopted the K-9 Police Dogs to serve a multitude of purposes. It doesn't matter where you go today, from Portland to Salt Lake City, Baltimore to St. Louis, and Hampton to Washington, D.C., these and many other cities have proven the necessity of using dogs in police work.

Every city and state has a slum area or a park area. They also have its share of roving gangs or hot rodders and in the big cities, muggings and robberies, felonous assaults and burgulries prevail.

Because of these existing types of crime it is most important to have a piece of equipment that can aide the police officer in preventing the crime, and most important of all, save his life as he attends to these assignments.

This is where the K-9 Police Dog comes into the picture. Your dog will check out any building, car or large object that you need to have checked.

In the case of a demonstration of a large group, you and your dog can cut the group in half and start to disperse them immediately.

Or, if your down on the waterfront looking for a suspect that ran away from the scene of a crime, your dog will locate that person before he can get the jump on you.

And what happens if you come upon an open window or door, which could mean a burglary in progress. Then just send your dog in with the command to get 'em and if they're in there, they will be out real soon.

Today there are very few situations in police work where dogs cannot be used effectively. It is up to the department and the handler to place the dogs in a position to be used as often as possible. Only in this way can you gain the maximum efficiency out of your K-9 Police Team.

Remember - "Just driving around the city with your dog provides a psychological effect in suppressing crime."

PART IV

Authors Remarks

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After handling K-9 dogs for over ^{4 1/2} one half years, I've come to a definite conclusion that a highly trained K-9 dog is just as good as the 38 caliber gun we all carry.

Can your gun smell or hear the hidden criminal? No, of course not, but your dog can and will if you let him. Are you willing to enter a darkened warehouse to find a fugitive from justice? The answers the same, and will continue to be the same as long as we the police officers are looking for better methods of protecting our own lives besides the life and property of others. To really get a true picture of this program you must try it some time.

Carl Sorensen

PART V

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