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Canines Active Role in Diminishing Crime

INQUIRY PROJECT PART I

Inquiry Topic

My inquiry about canines began when I purchased my very own and I saw how incredible smart and reliable they are. My dog is a German Shepard, Baylee, a female and is very protective. She is almost one year old and I have seen this quality since she was a puppy. I wonder if it is something natural or if she learned this behavior while growing into an adult dog. Not only is she a good guard dog but she is a great companion. Canines are always excited to see their owner, and try to please them any way possible. Certain dogs have certain qualities that enable them to be used to help people. Dogs are used for many different types of things, leading the blind, doing tricks, companionship, helping the disabled, competing, hunting, and much more; but what interested me is the work that dogs do for the police department. In the police K-9 department dogs are used for patrol, search and rescue, drugs, bombs, and locating missing people.

Sources to Use

I want to find out as much information as I can to help me understand the importance and contributions that canines give to the police force. As Albert Einstein, a visual thinker, said, “To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires
creative imagination and marks real advance in science,” I will visually try to understand the importance of K-9s in our lives. Steven Hawkings, another visual thinker, who researched the black hole, once said, “My goal is simple. It is a complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all.” I will try to use Hawkings’ perspective to help me find all possible answers to my inquiry.

My hypothesis is: Why are canines needed in police work? My approach to this inquiry is going to be based on empirical knowledge and theoretical knowledge from Modes of Inquiry Across the Fields of Study (Martinello, Cook, and Whitson, eds, 2002). Empirical knowledge is based on direct sense experience (Martinello, Cook, and Whitson, eds., 2002, 27). As in the book, The Double Helix Rosalyn Franklin was an empirical thinker because she did experiments on the electron microscope to help find a breakthrough in the field of science. I plan to have first hand experiences with my dog and ride with a K-9 police officer to experience the perspectives of the police officer and the criminal. “Theoretical knowledge is a device for interrupting and modifying laws to fit new data” (Martinello, Cook, and Woodson, 2002, 28). The Double Helix also shows theoretical thinkers. James Watson and Francis Crick were both theoretical thinkers because they based their research on past experiments of other scientists in order to modify the existing theories.

In The Search for Emma’s Story Martinello (1987) used humanities detective work and a signpost artifact to begin and continue her research. Humanities detective means focusing on people and what they have done in their life (Kimball, personal communication, 2003). Martinello inquired about a photo of a woman in a wedding dress named Emma and thus began her research. The
photo was considered a signpost artifact; it was a symbol that leads to other information (Kimball, personal communication, 2003). I consider my signpost artifact to be my dog, Baylee. She is the starting point of my inquiry and leads me to ask many questions.

I will also use analogical thinking, comparing my perspective with those of the police officers and trainers, visual thinking, forming images in my mind, and anomalies, another way of thinking or something out of the ordinary (Martinello, Cook, and Woodson, 2002, 30-31). These all will help me to have unlimited research and find many enduring questions about my inquiry. As Richard Feynman did in his research about the space shuttle, Challenger, I will try to investigate and incorporate my own personal experience into the research I find. Feynman (1988) was known for including personal stories about his life into his book, What Do You Care What Other People Think? and being one of the greatest scientists in physics, he was a theoretical thinker. “The theoretical broadening which comes from having many humanities subjects on the campus is offset by the general dopiness of the people who study these things…,” he said (Feynman, 1988)

Police Perspective

As I began my research, I thought that the first place I should start would be at the San Antonio Police Department. I want to talk to a police officer who works with canines to find out more information about what job and duties the K-9 has. The police officer would be the first perspective that I will inquiry about. Many questions come to mind about the use of canines in police work. I want to know the basic steps for having a dog in the police force. How does a dog begin working for the SAPD? Are there any qualifications in order to enter the force? Does the dog have to pass a medical exam? How old does the dog have
to be to begin working? What age does the dog retire? What happens to the dog after retirement? Does the dog have to be American Kennel Club (AKC) registered? Does the dog need to be a purebred? What is the cost of a dog in police force? Who pays for it? How many dogs get declined and how many dogs are accepted into the force? Is there an easier or smarter breed? Does the dog enjoy working? What types of dogs are used and what are their duties.

I want to ask questions about the person who actually handles the dog. Who owns the dog? Where does the dog stay when their not working? Who can work with a dog? Do they have to have some kind of special training? Do they get to pick out the dog they work with? What type of equipment is used for and on the dog? What happens when the dog makes a mistake? Do the police dogs actually help to diminish crime rates? Are the dogs always successful at finding missing people? What does the typical work day include for the K-9 and the handler? How many dogs does the SAPD have? How many dogs does each handler have? I found some articles on Pro-Quest to help me answer my questions: “Conservation Officer on Patrol,” by Keith L. Isles, and “Using Drug Detection Dogs,” by Jayne Walker.

Not only do I want to inquire about the police perspective but I also want to know about the criminal’s perspective as well. I wanted to know if they like the use of dogs or not. Does it hurt to be bitten by the dog? Do they feel the dog is a threat? Are they scared when the dog is chasing them? Do they think they can get away? Do most people give up to the dog or keep running? Do they ever hurt the dog? Would they rather have a police officer after them or the dogs? Has anyone ever killed a dog?

Train Perspective
My next perspective is on the person who trains the dog. I want to know how training is performed. What kind of basic commands does the dog need to learn? Does the dog need regular exercise? What language is the dog taught in? Can anyone train a dog for police work? Does the trainer need certification? What type of dog is best used? What form of punishment is used? What types of rewards are given? At what age does training begin? At what age is the dog too old to be trained? What behaviors are good and bad? Are different dogs trained for different tasks? What motivates the dog? What distracts the dog? Does the dog learn to answer to all people? Who is in control? Does the dog learn any tricks?

I have found two videos of training dogs called Woof! A Guide to Dog Training and Dog Care and Training Tips; these will help me to learn how to train my dog and perform experiments on her as well as see the perspective of a true dog trainer and what is required to be a trainer. Also, I plan on visiting local pets stores where training dogs are taught by a certified trainer. I have found that PetsMart in San Antonio will allow me to observe in their training class. I will also interview the trainer that they have on hand. Next, I have found a place called Texas Hill Country Training Center that trains dogs used for police work and other duties. They have successions of training dogs for center duties like drug sniffing, patrol work, and cadaver locating. I plan to visit this place to see first hand training being done. I will ask them the same questions that I plan to ask the people that train dogs at PetsMart but also go in more detail about the certain things that are taught for a dog that is going to be a police dog.

I have found articles on-line as well: “Advanced K-9,” the Texas Hill Country Web page.
**Personal Perspective**

The last perspective I want to inquire about is my own personal perspective. Would I like to place my dog in this program? Do I feel that dogs are being taken advantage of? Are the dogs made to work even if they don’t want to? Are dogs an easier target than police? Is that why they are used? Is my dog a good candidate to enter training for a police dog? How many dogs get hurt? Would I want to train a police dog? Would I want to own a police dog? Do I agree with the training methods used? What do I feel that I learned from this research? What was the best and worst thing I liked about my inquiry? What did I learned from the interviews of the trainers and police handler? Will I ever think of dogs as just animals again? Will I be afraid of dogs now?


**Concluding Remarks**

And that is how my inquiry project began.
**INQUIRY PROJECT PART II**

**Beginning My Research**

Canines have an active role in helping to diminish crime in an effective manner. I inquired about the nature of canines and what causes this behavior. What drives a canine’s instinct and senses? Reflecting on the history of canines helped me to understand the behavior of canines and their instincts and senses. “Man has utilized the scenting power of dogs for thousands of years; we know this because it is documented throughout literature,” explains Charles Mesloh from the University of Central Florida in his paper, “Scent as Forensic Evidence and its Relationship to the Law Enforcement Canine,” (2). A canine’s ability to detect scent is far greater than humans. “They live in a world entirely different than we do,” suggests Detective Steve White from the Seattle Police Department, (2). The dog’s ability to smell compares to ours like our power of reason compares to theirs (White 2). The natural state of the dog’s scent, olfaction, is used to obtain data that is important in order for their survival. For example, the smell of a rabbit stimulates the drive to hunt, the smell of a female stimulates procreation, and the smell of an enemy stimulates fight behaviors (White 2). Almost 12% of the dog’s brain and 50% of the nasal chambers are devoted to olfaction; approximately 220 million cells compared to humans 5 million cells (White 3). All of these characteristics make canines an important tool in law enforcement. By training the dog to pay attention to certain odors enables us to use them in law enforcement and decrease crime.

**Perspectives**

I wanted to research several different perspectives for my inquiry about canines used in diminishing crime. First, I wanted to find what the police handler’s perspective was and how
they feel about using canines in their work. I decided to interview police handler, J.R. Fiste and his associates David Moravits, and Randy Walter; they all work for the San Antonio Police Department in the K-9 Unit. Along with the police’s perspective, I wanted to establish a perspective of a criminal that was caught by a K-9. This would help me to see both sides; one of the person controlling the dog and the other of the person being attacked by the dog. Next, I wanted to find a person who actually trains these K-9s to perform their duties, so that, I would understand the in-depth process that the dog goes through before becoming a police dog. The San Antonio Police Department gets a fair amount of their K-9s from the Hill County Dog Center, an establishment that trains all types of police dogs. Lastly, I wanted to explore my personal perspective to see whether I would support this type of work for my dog and other dogs.

**Police Perspective**

In my local yellow pages I found the number to the San Antonio Police Department and immediately started calling to see who I could speak with in order to find out information about my inquiry. I got directed to the K-9 department that is supervised by Sgt. Cole, she allowed me to come in and speak to one of her best K-9 police handlers, J.R. Fiste.

As I arrived at the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) many questions arose in my mind. I decided to start with J.R.’s personal and background information. J.R. had been with the police force for 8 years, but not always with the K-9 department. The K-9 department was started in 1963 and has been an essential part of the police force. In order to be a police handler you must have at least 4-5 years experience with the police force, but there is no formal training in becoming a police handler; it is just acquired with time.
As I interviewed J.R., two other K-9 handlers’ came in to help him answer my questions, David Moravits and Randy Walter. I inquired about the types of police dogs that the K-9 department uses. J.R. stated that two main types of dogs were used by the SAPD. First, the patrol dog, this dog is one that is used to help locate criminals and attack when necessary, another name for this dog is “the biting dog.” Second, is the narcotic detector dog, “the drug dog,” just like the name implies this dog helps to locate drugs in all situations. The other types of police dogs that could be used are bomb detector dogs, cadaver dogs, or tracking dogs. These dogs also help with locating missing people or locating bombs. For the SAPD each K-9 handler has two dogs, a patrol dog and a drug dog.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Handler</th>
<th>Canine</th>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Job</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officer James Fiste</td>
<td>ASTER</td>
<td>Russian Shepherd</td>
<td>Narcotics Canine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>RASHA</td>
<td>German Shepherd</td>
<td>Patrol Canine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Officer Randy Walter</td>
<td>KAZAN</td>
<td>Dutch Shepherd</td>
<td>Narcotics Canine</td>
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<td>Officer David Moravits</td>
<td>KALING</td>
<td>Chinese Shepherd</td>
<td>Patrol Canine</td>
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<td>BUBBA</td>
<td>Belgian Malinois</td>
<td>Narcotics Canine</td>
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<td>Officer Sandy Trout</td>
<td>RINGO</td>
<td>German Shepherd</td>
<td>Patrol Canine</td>
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<td>Officer Rick Villarreal</td>
<td>BLACK</td>
<td>Belgian Malinois</td>
<td>Narcotics Canine</td>
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<td>Officer Lee Tappan</td>
<td>TONJA</td>
<td>Belgian Malinois</td>
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I asked about how the dogs were transported and about their basic needs: shelter, food, exercise, and companionship. Each K-9 handler has a truck with a camper on the back with two individual cages in it, one cage for each dog. The dogs are the responsibility of the handler, but all expenses come from the city. The K-9 handler takes home their two dogs and keeps them in kennels for resting. All the dogs are given Science Diet food and have a regular veterinarian. As for companionship, there is only a bond between the K-9 and his/her handler. “There must be a bond if you are going to trust the dog that you are working with and the bond must be between
the dog and the handler, not like a pet,” explains J.R. At home, the dogs are said to be at rest, off-duty, and are not to be played with as if they were family pets. This was hard for me to accept because I felt like the dog wasn’t getting enough attention or love, as they usually would if they were a pet. But I was quickly redirected to the fact that these dogs love to work. They are excited to go out and find someone bad or locate drugs; it is like a game to them that they look forward to. The dogs are rewarded only by verbal praise, fetching a toy and/or physical contact, not by food treats.

Randy Walter had just received a dog in training, Turbo. Turbo is training to be a patrol dog. I had asked if I could watch them train Turbo, they said “whenever you’re ready.” In the police parking lot, I watched Randy work with Turbo. Turbo was totally concentrated on Randy, the handler, and nothing else. As they walked around the parking lot, Turbo was instructed to be on the left side of Randy and not too far in front. Turbo was purchased from Europe and was instructed in German. Randy and the other handlers showed me some basic training techniques that helped to keep the dog in the handler’s control. When Randy was done, J.R. brought out his drug sniffing dog, Aster. This dog was so excited that he could hardly stand still! Drug dogs are dogs that have less formal training than patrol dogs. They are called fetch dogs, dogs that love to fetch are perfect for this job. They are trained by hiding drugs with a toy ball and are focused on the scent of the drug. Aster was 6 years old and was instructed in English. J.R. hid a drug pipe that was two years old without any drugs in it, on the police truck. Aster was given the command to locate the drugs and within seconds he found the pipe. As his reward, he gets to fetch a Kong, a type of dog toy. If there are no drugs found then no reward is given, that way the dog knows that he must complete a task before receiving a reward.
Next, I asked J.R. about the patrol dogs training. He stated that the dogs are trained on an agility course, by hide and seek, and with the biting arm. The dogs are trained at the police academy’s agility course that consists of jumping a four and five foot wall, jumping through a tunnel, running through a tunnel, climbing stairs, and walking on a cat walk. The hide and seek method is a basic way to know if a dog will be capable for starting police K-9 training. Someone hides and basically tries to scare the dog. If the dog is scared and runs away this dog probably won’t make it but if the dog look interested or alert then this is what the handler is looking for.

J.R. showed me the biting arm that is used to help train the dog to bite. The dog is not supposed to keep biting the arm but bite and hold the arm. The dog’s jaw almost locks on the arm until the dog is told to release. The dogs are also taught to bite anything that they can grab at, but mostly the arm or legs. J.R. then asked me to put on the biting arm. It was heavy and thick with a bar at the end, so that you could hold on to the biting arm.

Then, J.R. brought out his patrol dog, Rajah; he is 8 years old and has been working with J.R for many years. “He is one of the police forces best patrol dog,” J.R. assured me. The dog was actually going to bite my arm and attack me! My heart was beating uncontrollably, my breathing was getting faster and harder, my hands became moist, and my stomach was in knots. I stood as still as possible for what was about to happen changed my whole life. It was 10:36 p.m., the moon was shining on the black asphalt, and the wind was slowly whistling through my hair. I closed my eyes and less than a second it was all over. I’ve never been afraid of dogs, I love dogs; but
this time was different. I tried to stand perfectly still, as the J.R. had addressed me too, but I couldn’t. I was shaking uncontrollably. I placed the heavy, protective sleeve on my arm and listen to the directions from J.R. “Stand up straight, don’t let your head bend down, get a wide stance, and don’t panic!” I thought to myself, “I can do this!” But when Rajah, the huge, male dog came out of his cage, my self motivation began to decline fast. J.R. put the dog’s leather leash on the dog’s choke collar and began to walk over to me. When Rajah saw that I was standing in the dark with the protective sleeve on, he immediately began lunging towards me barking and growling. I though to myself, “what did I get myself into?” The dog weighed over 70 pounds and his teeth looked sharp and deadly. J.R. said, “Are you ready, I will hold him so that he doesn’t knock you down, and give him the command.” The command was given and the dog attacked. My arm felt like it was going to fall off! My whole body was pulled forward towards the growling, biting dog. Rajah was much stronger than I had anticipated. I almost fell to the ground when the J.R. released the dog from my arm. It was over! I took the sleeve off and the dog calmed down. As soon as the sleeve was off and the dog had realized that I was a good, friendly person, he started walking in my direction. Do I run? Was the dog going to attack me again but this time he wasn’t on the leash or in J.R.’s control? The dog came closer and closer until it began sniffing me and rubbing his body against my legs. I knelt down and begin petting the dog. Wow! I can’t believe this dog could attack me one second and then love me the next. This dog wasn’t the same dog; at least it didn’t seem like it. That was an experience of lifetime! This made me want to research my topic so much more. I asked a few more questions about the dogs and then J.R. told me that I could ride with him one
night to actually see the dogs at work, all I had to do was go and talk to the chief and sign some paperwork. I decided that I couldn’t pass up this opportunity and the next week I went to talk to the chief of police downtown. I signed some release papers and planned on a date to ride with J.R. I couldn’t wait for my ride with the police!

Anticipation is rising as I wait for the K-9 Patrol to arrive at 8:00p.m. The chief told me to get here early because I needed to feel out important waivers and paperwork in order for me to ride with J.R. My stomach is getting butterflies in it and my breath is getting louder and faster. My watch says only one minute has passed, even through it seems like an eternity. I listen as two police officers talk, the TV blares, the phone rings, and people come in and out. I have to sit in the lobby behind a large desk and a gated entrance. Finally, J.R. arrives to show me what the dogs do on a regular basis and what their work consists of.

First, we went to the police academy where the dogs are in training, Turbo was going to practice. I watched as Turbo went through the course and followed his handler’s directions. I couldn’t tell if there were any mistakes but J.R. instructed me that the dog was slow on responding to Randy. Next, we received a call and J.R. and I were off. The dogs knew right away that we were going to a call; they barked and howled as the siren blared. Aster, the drug dog, was put to work when he had to smell out a van that possible could have had drugs in it. Aster worked quietly but found nothing; therefore, he was not rewarded. The next call was to locate some people on the run that had stolen some money. Rajah was taken out to locate them but he found nothing. Our last call was to locate some kids spray painting a building downtown. This job was for Rajah, the patrol dog. I followed J.R. and Rajah around the dark building. Only one kid was found and the others got away. But Rajah had found a scent where the kids probably fled down the railroad tracks. The kid gave up because of the dog’s intimidation. All
these experiences gave me the perspective of the police handler, the criminals, and even the dogs.

**Trainer Perspective**

Next, I wanted to examine the perspective of the canine trainer. J.R. and the other officers were trainers as well as handlers. They train the dogs as they receive them. Most of the K-9’s are donated from people who can’t keep their dogs any more or dogs that have been abused or abandon. For example, people who are having difficulty with a dog can call the police department K-9 unit. Then someone from the unit will come out and evaluate the dog if they are interested. The police department doesn’t necessarily look for an aggressive dog but a dog that isn’t afraid in many usually situations. Some occasions the police department will purchase their dogs from other countries or other training facilities, in order to save valuable time. This is especially done when a K-9 needs to be replaced very quickly.

One example of a local training facilitate is called the Hill Country Dog Center, it is located off of highway 16, past Pipe Creek. The Hill Country Dog Center is one of the fastest growing police dog training and consulting companies in the country. They take pride in producing quality police dogs and training. Their trainers and instructors have extensive experience in a variety of areas. Most of the dogs that they begin training come from Europe because they can meet the rigorous demands of today’s law enforcement community. The Hill Country Dog Center is also licensed by the Texas Board of Private Investigators, The Drug Enforcement Agency, and The Texas Department of Public Safety. The agency feels that it is best for each police handler to select his/her own dog. They always have at least 40 European imports of various breeds, mostly shepherds, to select from. Before purchasing a dog, police handlers give
extensive tests and evaluation to the K-9 in question. The center provides a variety of classes pertaining to police K-9 work: program establishment, training troubleshooting, contract narcotic and explosive searches, utilization of police dog teams, research and development, kennel construction, and veterinary services. The Hill Country Dog Center trains canines in the following fields: explosive dogs, bomb detector dogs, landmine dogs, tracking dogs, patrol dogs, narcotic detector dogs, cadaver dogs, and arson detector dogs.

Explosive detector dogs are trained to passively respond to the presence of commonly used explosives (Texas 3). These dogs are trained to search in a variety of areas and realistic scenarios. The dog can be trained to be a explosive dog only or a dual explosive and patrol dog. There are even dogs that are land mine detectors. A land mine detector dog is a valuable asset to all de-mining or clearing operations. These dogs have the ability to pinpoint the location of numerous types of land mines, trip wires, booby traps, and unexploded ordinance located on the surface and even several inches below ground (Texas 6). Dogs can add speed and consistency to the task of locating fleeing suspects or missing persons. Tracking dogs can be trained to identify a certain scent of a person, the disturbances on the ground, or they can go off a scent of adrenaline left by someone who is fearful. The SAPD uses the scent of fear to train their dogs when locating a criminal (Fiste). The dog walks into the direction that the wind is blowing to cover all areas and pick up a scent. Each patrol dog that is trained by the Hill Country Dog Center is prepared for rigorous duty in law enforcement. The dogs are trained by being placed in various situations, bite suit training, sleeve work, obedience, building search, scouting, tracking, and officer protection. Narcotic dogs are also trained at the center to locate and respond to the odor of illegal substances. They
are trained to locate four substances: marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamines.

Cadaver dogs locate human remains and can pinpoint them at great distances (Texas 2).

Developments in canine training have allowed them to train dogs to locate human remains below the surface of lakes and rivers (Texas 2).

The Hill Country Dog Center provides a training schedule and classes for police officers to attend throughout the year. There are many other facilities that offer canine trainings. Some of the more known are Advanced K-9 and United States Police Canine Association, but these are located outside of the state. Advanced K-9 is a program that trains dogs to be working dogs because they feel that working is what dogs want to do and want they are made to do. They don’t only train dogs for police work but also for personal use (Advanced 1).

As I was looking for other methods of training, I found two video tapes at the San Antonio Public Library. First, “Woof! A Guide to Dog Training,” was hosted by Matthew Margolis who is a professional dog trainer. The basic concepts about the video were always give positive reinforcement, never hit your dog, and understand that dogs want to please you. At the beginning of the video Margolis talked about choosing the appropriate dog for your lifestyle. “Choosing a dog should be a thoughtful process that examines the owner’s personality and needs along with the dogs,” states Margolis. Certain breeds are more energetic than others, have more health problems, or need more affection; size plays no significant factor in this. Margolis talks about having an aggressive dog. Aggressive dogs are dogs that hurt people or animals (“Woof”). There is no such thing as a bad breed, but there are bad breeders (Margolis). Of course there are dogs that have been turned into the bad breed: pit bulls, rottweilers, or German shepherds, but
these assumptions aren’t all true. Signs of aggression are barking, growling, lunging, lip curling, or snapping. There are three types of aggressive dogs. Fear aggressive which is a non-social dog that looks sweet but when close is very aggressive. This could be because of the dogs past experiences, if they were hit or starved for instance. Next, is the dominant dog, these are the top dogs; they have a protective personality, and are very close to their owners. The German shepherd is in this category. Last, is the genetic aggressive dog, they are natural born to be aggressive, but with the appropriate training and obedience these dogs can be controlled (Margolis). Margolis also believes that food should never be given as a reward, only use verbal and physical treats. There are approximately 54 million dogs in this world, 3-4 million have problems and 90 percent of those could be saved by the owners (Margolis).

Margolis has invented a test to determine a dog’s personality called Personality Test Evaluation. To see if a dog has a problem, this test can help determine what it is and what might have caused it. First, you have to make your voice sound like a dog winning and bend down a few feet in front of the dog. If the dog approaches you excited and wagging its tail then the dog is very friendly and enjoys people but if the dog is shy and hesitate to approach you then it might have some problems with being scared of humans or other dogs. Next, is called the hand-shy test. You go through the motion of hitting a dog to see if the dog has ever been hit before. Always be cautious when performing this test. If the dog barks and growls and is scared then it could have been beaten in the past. To fix this problem gently rub the dog and don’t use your hands to punish the dog. Last, is the pain tolerance test that determines if the dog would be good around young children. Beginning by pulling gently on the tail to see if how the dog reacts, if the dog doesn’t seemed bothered then it has high tolerance to pain. Repeat the same test to the
paws and mouth lip check by applying pressure. These tests will help the dog get use to children playing rough with them.

The bonding between an owner and their dog is very important; “it is the heart of owning a dog,” says Margolis. You can’t begin training a dog until the bond is made. The basics in training a dog is using the appropriate attitude, praising, tone, and tools. When training a dog you must be consistent and praise and give commands in a high pitched voice. The body language of the trainer should be sitting by the dog, on their level, so that you are less intimidating. Margolis suggests using a choking collar and a leather leash for the best results. Correcting a dog should be based on size on the dog. With the choking collar you are supposed to pull quickly to the right to give the dog a fast jerk on the neck. You are never supposed to jerk the dog so much that they are picked up and moved. The jaw is the strongest muscle in the dog’s body and the neck is the second; that is why it is used to correct the dog. Margolis talks also about what a well trained dog looks like and how to housebreak your dog. The video is very basic in training any dog.

The next tape I watched was called “Dog Care and Training Tips.” The main points of the tape were how to raise and train a new puppy or dog. Most of the points were a review from the previous video. One point that this short video stresses was not to place two dogs together that are unfamiliar with each other (“Dog Care”). When placing two dogs together you should slowly integrate them. Also the video states that having a dog could make you healthier by lowering your blood pressure or making you feel better. But I think that it depends on what the behavior of the dog is that you get and how much training needs to be put into the dog. Lastly, the video said that dogs bark as a sign of communication not always to bother people (“Dog
Care”). Try to understand why a dog is barking before you punish him because he might be trying to tell you something.

**Personal Perspective**

The last perspective that I wanted to inquiry about was my own. I wanted the perspective of a dog owner and if they supported the police department using K-9s for solving crimes. As I begin my research my perspective was different from when now when my research is complete. I still support using K-9s in police work but my views and thoughts have changed dramatically. Before my research, I viewed police canines as family pets. I thought that training a dog was fairly simple and that only certain elite breeds could and would be used by the police force.

As my research continued I quickly found out that not only are K-9s very well trained but they are very far from being a pet. The police department strictly states that these animals were not pets and treating them like pets would take away their instinctive drive and possible make them less aggressive towards strangers. It’s not that they are aggressive to strangers but the fact that they must be obedient to the handler at all times. It a bird, cat, fly, or anything is around the dog, the dog is not supposed to even notice the distraction. How hard is this to achieve? I asked questions about if they ever had a police dog that worked with a handler during the day and then went home with an owner during the night. They said that this would be almost impossible. The handler and the dog need to create a bond because they might be placed in a situation where they rely on each other in order to survive (Fiste). I think my dog has the ability to be placed in police work but do I have the ability to decide if that is what my dog wants to do the rest of her life. I know that certain dogs are fit for certain jobs or duties but I don’t think that I could make the decision of training my dog to work the rest of her healthy life, unless I saw a motivation or drive to please and work for humans.
I also found out that the police department doesn’t require any certain breed to train but certain breeds are preferred because of size, health, or obedience behaviors. Police dog service requires canines that are balanced in social, play, search, and aggression behavior as well as physically healthy (Bryson 1). Selecting for one or a limited number of genetic traits can result in behavior that is counterproductive to police work (Bryson 1). In addition to genes, life experience and training determine adult dog behavior (Bryson 1). Dogs with inadequate human socialization, fear reaction, or conflicted training may perform patterned behavior in a controlled environment yet react inappropriately or dangerously to the novelties of street work (Bryson 1). For example, an abused, dying pup became a drug-sniffing super dog and it was a pit-bull. An arrest by a Buffalo police officer Ron Clark Jr., opened an abandon freezer on a known drug dealer’s back porch and found a bulging black garbage bag. “I poke my finger at it,” he recalls, “and it started moving. My worst fear was that is was a baby.” In fact, it was a puppy, a pit-bull who would come to be known as Popsicle and in a lovely ironic twist would gain fame for sniffing out the kind of bad guy that nearly killed him (Kool 1). Popsicle helped to seize the biggest drug bust ever at the Hidalgo, Texas port of entry.

I also inquired about the breed of dog that I have, a German shepherd. The German shepherd emerged from highly selective breeding (Fogle 10). They have a very distinct herding instinct. Also, they are the most versatile and trainable dogs because of their obedient behavior. Although, many people feel that shepherds are very aggressive, this isn’t true. Shepherds rate average among aggressiveness with other dogs (Folge 12). Originally, bred for supreme responsiveness to command and their instinct to guard and protect, they are now also being bred for police work. These dogs thrive on mental and physical activity making them
perfect for intense work (Schwartz 4). Some common problems that they have are hip dysphasia and chronic degenerative disease (Schwartz 2).

Training these dogs is very intense. The dog must be not concerned with anything except the handler because it is only to attack or move on command or if the handler is in danger. These dogs don’t wear any form of protective vest either so they must be very alert. A vest isn’t worn because the impact the bullet would have on the vest would spread throughout the dog’s body and cause more damage then if the bullet went straight through the dog’s body (Fiste). Also, dogs are a very fast target to hit and the vest is too much added weight to the dog (Fiste). The SAPD hasn’t lost any dogs from being shot since the beginning of the K-9 department. It is a misdemeanor if anyone feeds, teases, or taunts a police dog without permission and a felony if anyone hurts or kills a K-9 (Fiste). These dogs are protected under the law even if they seem like they are just used as a decoy. Anyone that thinks that these dogs get hurt should understand that most criminals give up because they are afraid of the dog; where as if a police officer was sent to arrest a criminal the person might attack the officer thinking that they could escape the law.

Police dogs have the growling, razor sharp teeth that intimidate almost all who come in contact with them. I support the police department using canines in their police duties because they offer so many benefits to all.

Some might question the fact that dogs abuse the power of the police force. Some might think that dogs used by the police force are against the fourth amendment. The fourth amendment gives the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures (Walker 1). When someone abuses their rights and hurts others then this is where the law enforcement dogs step up to help locate criminals or
criminal acts. The Supreme Court finds that a canine is able to sniff your belongings or your house if there is a warrant or if there is something suspicious (Walker 2).

I learned so much from my research about canines’ active role in diminishing crime. I have re-evaluated my thought about canines as not being just animals but as being an asset in our world for many different things. K-9s help to located missing people, catch criminals, prevent killings, lead the blind, save lives, and locate tons of illegal substances in our country. I am looking forward to continuing my research to find out more about using canines in the police force.

**Other Information**

As I was inquiring about my topic I also found some very interesting information about my topic. In Pennsylvania a school was facing a budget cut and needed to reduce some of its spending (Peril 160). The school had a police officer and a K-9 named Ricky. Ricky the bomb-sniffing German shepherd has tracked down two missing children, helped nab a bank robber, sniffed out bomb treats at the school, and earned 70 commendations (Peril 160). The school district announced that Ricky would be sold to the highest bidder and his handler would be laid off. Raising public attention the school district sought out ways to keep both Ricky and his handler (Peril 160).

Some 100 police dogs and their human partners gathered to say goodbye to Sirius, the only police dog killed in the World Trade Center attacks (Presnall 2). Bagpipes played, officers fired a 21-gun salute, and the K-9 cops barked a final farewell as they filed by a wooden urn containing their fallen colleagues’ ashes during a memorial at Liberty State Park across from the Hudson River from Manhattan. Sirius, the bomb-sniffing, yellow lab, was trapped in his kennel in the basement of the south tower when it fell (Presnall 3).
A K-9 handler was called to locate a missing person at 10:00 p.m. in an area covered with woods (Isles 8). A report came in that a man around 50 in good condition was without any supplies lost in the woods. Officer Keith L. Isles took his K-9 partner, Sherlock, to help locate the man. After walking for 45 minutes, Sherlock lifted his head and began to receive an air scent, a sure sign that they were close. Sherlock located a jacket hanging in a tree and immediately Isles called out but there was no reply. Officer Isles turned his flashlight off to conserve batteries and then he looked in the darkness and saw a beam of light. The officer and Sherlock headed in that direction. They began to see the shape of a building; it was an old abandon farmhouse, with a flickering light inside. As, they approached the house Officer Isles called out again to the man he saw in the window. Officer Isles radioed back to headquarters that the man was found and they would be on their way back to town shortly, but the man didn’t seemed bothered. The man told the officer that he went for a walk and when it got dark he decided to stay at the farmhouse. With everything explained the all began walking back but Sherlock kept running to the side of the house and back to Officer Isles, uncontrollably. The officer decided to pursue what Sherlock was detecting and found parts of an animal, expected to be a deer. The man confessed to poaching and having a rifle in a protected area and was handcuffed and received over $2,000 in fines (Isles 9).

In conclusion, all of these examples show how useful canines can be. Although, tragedies will rarely occur, the benefit of having canines do police work outweighs the reasons not to. Canines are now an important part of almost all police departments and without them humans could get killed or could never be found. The scent detection of a dog is so much greater than ours that without them we would be lost.
Bibliography


*Bibliography*  


