

CHAPTER 12

KENNELING

KENNELLING

1. Kennels may be of a permanent or temporary character but in both cases must conform to basic standards. Those provided at Training Establishments or other centres where numbers of dogs are to be kept should preferably be permanent structures. Kennels provided for use at the homes of handlers should be of temporary character to enable dismantling and removal as necessary.

Basically all types of kennelling should be:

- 1.1 totally secure
- 1.2 water-tight and wind proof;
- 1.3 adequately ventilated.
Draughts should be avoided;
- 1.4 of appropriate size to permit the dog to stand up or lie down in comfort.

2. Permanent kennels

Considerable care must be taken in the correct siting of kennels. Quietness and good drainage are essential. Due consideration must be given to the proximity of the training areas.

Each kennel should communicate with an outside run and should be equipped with a removable bed-board raised a few inches off the ground. The fall of the floor should be such that all water runs into gutters which connect with outside traps. No stagnant water or sewage should be allowed to collect inside the kennels.

All kennel blocks should be provided with the maximum of natural light for the benefit of the health of the dogs. An electric light system should be installed additionally.

Artificial heating may be considered necessary, however provided the kennel has been properly

constructed, the natural thickening of the coat in winter, plus the addition of bedding should be sufficient to maintain the body heat of the healthy dog.

3. Temporary kennels

Whilst conforming to the basic requirements, it is recommended that temporary kennels should be of wooden sectional construction; the same care as to siting, etc., is necessary as for permanent kennels. Temporary kennels should be sited on hard standings. To obviate the possibility of dampness seeping through the floor, the kennel should be raised a few inches from the ground. Temporary kennels should be placed in such a position that the closed ends face the prevailing wind.

4. Bedding

The provision of bedding is limited to giving additional warmth in cold weather and to prevent bed-sores in thin coated dogs.

CHAPTER 13

KENNEL MANAGEMENT

KENNEL MANAGEMENT
General

1. Kennels should be thoroughly cleaned daily. All soiled bedding and excreta should be removed and disposed of. Bed-boards should be cleaned frequently, care being taken to ensure that they are completely dry before return to the kennels. Because excessive dampness may induce symptoms of rheumatism to which dogs are prone, the indiscriminate washing down of kennels should be avoided. In wet weather and in winter especially, the free use of water should be reduced to a minimum consistent with cleanliness.

Care must be taken in the use of disinfectant and for this reason must be properly diluted. Where, owing to the presence of an infectious or contagious disease, thorough disinfecting is necessary, it will be found that intense heat is the most reliable form; for example the use of a steam pressure cleaner. In wooden kennels, however, a reliable disinfectant preparation will be used.

**2. Control of Substances
(Hazardous to Health)**

Due reference must be made with regard to the above regulations in relation to their use. Care must be taken to provide appropriate protective clothing.

3. Grooming

A dog should be thoroughly groomed each day. Apart from cleaning the coat and skin, regular grooming helps to keep both in a healthy condition. Grooming provides one of the most useful opportunities for the handler to become acquainted with the dog; it also enables examination to be made for wounds and skin ailments. This allows for regular inspection of the eyes, teeth, ears, nails and anus.

The German Shepherd Dog, like some other breeds,

has two coats - a soft woolly undercoat close to the skin and an outer coat consisting of longer, coarser hair. Cleaning of the coat and skin should be done with a brush and comb. The dog should at first be given a vigorous massage with the tips of the fingers to stimulate circulation in the skin. The coat should then be brushed at first against, and then with, the direction of the growth of the hair. The comb should be used to remove dead and tangled hair; care should be taken to ensure the comb does not bring away too much top or undercoat. This is especially important during the winter when the dog is dependent on both its coats for body warmth.

4. Bathing

Provided the daily grooming is properly carried out it should seldom be necessary to bath a dog. Frequent bathing is likely to remove the natural grease in the skin and coat to the detriment of the health and appearance of the dog.

If, in the interests of cleanliness, bathing is necessary, warm water should be used. Steps should be taken to prevent soap entering the eyes and ears. All traces of soap should be removed from the coat by thorough rinsing. Care must be taken to thoroughly dry the dog with towels or chamois leathers. In warm weather, the dog may be encouraged to run about outside, but on no account should it be exposed to inclement weather until it is properly dried.

5. Feeding

Adult dogs generally are fed once a day and, to avoid any disturbance of the digestive processes, they should if possible be fed at the same time daily.

The feed should not be given immediately before or after work and, in hot weather, it is advisable to avoid feeding during the heat of the day.

Water is essential to the health of the dog at all times. A plentiful supply of fresh clean water

should be always available.

6. Diet

The food of all dogs must be balanced to ensure:

- 6.1 that it is palatable;
- 6.2 that it supplies the energy need of the dog;
- 6.3 that it contains the necessary protein, vitamins and minerals.

Meat and other high protein foods such as fish may constitute approximately one-half of the total ration. It may be fed raw or cooked. Most dogs prefer raw meat but it will be found that cooked meat is more easily mixed with the other components of the ration. *When fish is fed as a substitute for meat, great care must be taken to ensure that all bones are removed before it is given to the dog.*

Bones are not an essential part of the diet. If they are included, only large beef bones should be provided; on no account should bones that splinter, such as lamb or poultry bones, be given.

Biscuits provide the essential carbo-hydrate constituent of the ration in addition to being an aid to digestion, and should constitute approximately one-third of it.

All varieties of green vegetables are suitable but some difficulty may be experienced in getting the dog to eat them.

There are many excellent 'complete foods' - all in one meals - now available which are widely used and form a balanced diet for the dog.

7. Preparation of food

All food should be prepared as near the feeding time as possible and, when served, the dogs should

be left alone to consume it. Food bowls should be removed from the kennels after a reasonable time and all unconsumed food disposed of. Only in the case of known shy feeders should food be left in the kennel. Meat kept in refrigerators must be completely thawed before being fed to the dogs.

All feeding utensils should be thoroughly washed after use.

8. Exercise

Within the limitations of training and/or working commitments, it is necessary that every dog should receive regular daily exercise to maintain its healthy condition. The exercise may be either free or organised, but no adult dog who is not under the complete control of the handler should be given free exercise in the presence of other dogs. Exercise should be allowed before kennelling for the night, and as early as possible in the morning.

9. Dogs kennelled at the home of the handler

All the above instructions should be carried out by a handler with a police dog kennelled at their home; particular attention should be paid to the feed times in relation to the work performed.

CHAPTER 18

HEALTH AND WELFARE OF DOGS

HEALTH OF DOGS

1. Introduction

The dog, being unable to speak, cannot explain to its handler or kennel attendant either that it is feeling ill or its symptoms. It is very important, therefore, that those having charge of dogs should be able to recognise the early warning signs of ill-health and also to describe the symptoms exhibited by the dog in order to assist the veterinary surgeon to make an accurate diagnosis. Early recognition and consequently early treatment of disease may well save a dog's life or stave off a serious epidemic.

Each dog is an individual; what constitutes normal behaviour for one may be quite abnormal for another, so the kennel attendant must know and understand each of the dogs in his or her care. It is important to remember that, when a dog is ill or in pain, its training may be submerged by its wilder instincts and it may behave completely out of character. Consequently anyone charged with the responsibility of caring for a dog should be patient and tolerant, as well as observant. The frequency, colour and consistency of the bowel motions and the urine passed by each dog should be regularly checked as deviations from normal may indicate the onset of disease.

2. Calling in the veterinary surgeon

A handler or kennel attendant must never assume the duties of a veterinary surgeon, as lay diagnosis and treatment are highly dangerous. In any case where the symptoms appear to denote a serious illness, or a condition where the use of drugs is obviously necessary, or where an apparently simple condition has failed to respond to simple remedies, then professional advice must be obtained without delay.

3. Nursing

Whilst the veterinary surgeon can do a great deal with the aid of modern drugs and surgical techniques to assist the dog's natural body defences to overcome the disease process, rest and careful

nursing are equally important to a successful outcome of an illness. The veterinary surgeon's instructions must be carefully followed, but the sick dog must be allowed as much rest as possible in quiet, warm and well-ventilated quarters.

4. Symptoms of illness

The following are symptoms of illness:-

- 4.1 Loss of Appetite: commonly indicates a stress factor, such as a chill or fever, over-work or training, stomach upset, etc. but may be the early signs of more serious disease.
- 4.2 Voracious Appetite: may indicate the presence of worms, or more serious conditions such as diabetes or pancreatic disease. It must be remembered that growing pups, bitches in whelp, or suckling pups normally show an increased appetite.
- 4.3 Bad Breath: may be associated with stomach or bowel upsets, but is more commonly due to tartar on the teeth and inflammation of the gums. Tonsillitis, with accompanying painful swallowing, could be a cause and this may be an early sign of serious infectious disease, e.g. hardpad, distemper, etc. A urine-like odour of the breath denotes kidney disease and the smell of peardrops indicates diabetes.
- 4.4 Rapid Breathing: chill, fever, congestion of the lungs, bronchitis, pneumonia. May also indicate injury or shock or anaemia. In older dogs it is usually associated with heart disease.

- 4.5 Shallow Breathing: seen in shock, coma, and sometimes in painful conditions of the abdomen or chest. A gasping type of breathing is seen in cases of severe internal haemorrhage.
- 4.6 Constipation: this is usually due to lack of exercise or improper diet. Where the diet contains a high proportion of biscuits or where bones are fed, constipation frequently results. When the cessation of bowel function is accompanied by vomiting, veterinary advice should be obtained immediately.
- 4.7 Cough: inflammation of the throat or respiratory system generally, and is almost invariably present in hardpad and distemper. In the older dog it is a common sign of heart disease. In the puppy coughing may be due to worm infestation.
- 4.8 Diarrhoea: often due to stress, such as new environment, over-training, change of diet, etc. Unsuitable diet may also be a cause or worms or other internal parasites. Diarrhoea can be an early sign of infectious disease, or may indicate liver or pancreatic disease.
- 4.9 Eyes: a watery discharge in both eyes turning to mucus and matter is present in distemper and, to a lesser degree, in hardpad. A similar condition may be seen in dogs which have been exposed to draughts, e.g. having their heads out of car windows. Inflammation in one eye may be due to injury or a foreign-body such as a grass seed. Occasionally one sees a grey opaque

condition of the transparent part of the eye, with no accompanying discharge, and this may be due to viral hepatitis.

- 4.10 Nose: a dog's nose is normally cool and moist due to the evaporation of liquid produced by special glands in the skin of the area. In some diseases, particularly where there is a high temperature, the nose feels hot and dry, but this is by no means constant and it should only be regarded as a possible pointer to ill-health. In distemper and hardpad, the nose becomes caked with discharge and cracked, and in the latter disease one may see hardening and thickening of the skin of the nose.
- 4.11 Temperature: the normal rectal temperature of the dog is 101.5F. The temperature is raised in infectious diseases, in painful conditions, or even when the dog is excited or nervous. The rectal temperature is a very important guide to the dog's condition and should be one of the first points to be checked when illness is suspected. If the dog is excited or nervous at the time of examination, re-check the temperature after a period of rest in a quiet kennel. The temperature may also fall below normal in some hormone deficiencies such as a sluggish thyroid gland, in circulatory collapse, e.g. shock.
- 4.12 Thirst: thirst is increased in various conditions. A high salt content of the diet, hot weather, vomiting and diarrhoea can all lead to an excessive water intake. Chronic kidney disease, heart disease and diabetes are serious diseases which are signalled by

increased thirst.

- 4.13 Urine: variation in the frequency or urination, the amount and character of the urine passed are all important pointers to disease. Increased frequency, small quantities = cystitis (bladder inflammation). Increased frequency, large quantities = chronic kidney disease, diabetes. Decreased frequency = acute kidney disease, dehydration. Difficult or painful urination = bladder or urethral stones. Blood-stained urine, ammoniacal smell = cystitis or bladder stones. Deep yellow or orange-coloured urine = jaundice.
- 4.14 Vomiting: the dog is a vomiting creature and any condition which irritates the stomach may cause vomiting. For this reason, the occasional vomiting attack should not be regarded too seriously, but if vomiting persists, or if frequent, then veterinary advice should be obtained as soon as possible. Vomiting may be seen in infectious diseases such as distemper, jaundice, etc., in kidney disease, bowel obstruction, inflammation of stomach and bowels, and liver disease.
- 4.15 Worms: generally speaking, round worm infestation is seen in puppies, whereas the tapeworm is more commonly found in the adult dog. Puppies are often born with roundworms, being infected by their mother whilst still within the womb. The worms may not be seen but may pass out with the motion or be vomited up. A heavy worm burden may cause loss of condition, poor growth rate, diarrhoea, staring coat

and potbelly, and occasionally fits. For complete eradication of the infestation, pups should be wormed at 14, 21 and 28 days after birth and again when 2 months old. Thereafter an annual dose should control the worms. It is important to prevent re-infection, so all faeces passed should be gathered up and disposed of as often as possible. Tapeworms have usually reached a state of balance with their host dog and neither party does the other very much harm. Tapeworms can be recognised by the appearance of small, yellowish-white segments, about the size of cucumber seed, in the faeces or stuck to the hair around the anal region. The worms are very difficult to eradicate and treatment should only be carried out under the direction of the veterinary surgeon. A part of the life-cycle of the worm is spent in the flea and it is important to keep the dog free of these parasites.

4. General care

4.1 Coat

The dog should be groomed daily to keep its coat in good condition. Grooming should be adequate without being excessive, so as to preserve the dog's natural coat, and watch should be kept for parasites, scratches or wounds which might need attention, as well as irritant substances which might cause skin trouble.

4.2 Ears:

Ears should be examined regularly for signs of inflammation, excessive wax production or discharges. Probing of the ears must never be carried out except by the veterinary

surgeon. If cleaning is necessary the ears may be gently wiped with a warm soapy solution. Where the dog scratches its ear, shakes his head frequently, carries the ear down, or where there is discharge, veterinary attention should be considered.

4.3 Feet

A dog receiving regular exercise will generally keep its feet in good order without special attention from the handler, such as nail cutting, but a check should be kept on the length of the dewclaws as these do not wear down with contact with the ground. The feet should be inspected regularly for the presence of cysts between the toes and also for foreign bodies, such as grass seeds. Tar often collects on the hair between the pads and can cause eczema of the sensitive skin there if not removed. Sometimes mud gets caked on this hair to form hard balls which can cause lameness.

4.4 Anus:

The dog has two anal glands, one at each side of the anus, approximately at the 4 and 8 o'clock positions. These are modified skin glands which produce a secretion. The glands are rather liable to become blocked, particularly in G.S.D.'s, probably because of the down-pressed tail carriage. When this occurs there is quite a lot of irritation produced and dog will rub its bottom on the ground, suddenly sit down and start up again quickly, look round at its tail or lick and bite at the tail root. If the condition is not relieved abscess formation may occur.

4.5 Inoculations:

Vaccines are now available which will protect

against all the common infections of the dog, viz., distemper, hardpad, viral hepatitis, lepto-spiral jaundice, parvo virus and lepto-spiral nephritis. The vaccine is given in two doses at a fortnightly interval, preferably when the puppy is 10-12 weeks old. The leptospiral fraction of the vaccine must be repeated annually and it is recommended that the virus vaccine should be boosted by a further dose at 2 years of age. The parvo virus vaccine should be repeated annually.

5. Veterinary Records

Following discussions with animal welfare organisations, such as the RSPCA and the NCDL, the ACPO Police Dog Working Group consider that there is merit in introducing comprehensive veterinary records for all police dogs which provide a detailed account of their medical history. Such an initiative will facilitate proactive scrutiny by police dog supervisors and will ensure that records are available for inspection to veterinary surgeons, managers, supervisors, instructors and animal welfare lay visitors.

It is recommended that Veterinary Records should be readily available for inspection at all times and contain details of diagnosis and treatment, details of the dog's weight which should be recorded weekly, worming tablets issued and include a record of inoculations. Furthermore information should be entered regarding dietary variations. All entries should be signed and dated by the Veterinary Surgeon making such entries and they should be encouraged to ask for the record for examination purposes as a matter of course. Veterinary bills can then be audited against veterinary records entries to ensure that proper records are maintained. Any first aid administered that is not the subject of a visit to the veterinary surgeon should also be recorded and in such cases details of the first aid should be brought to the attention of a supervisor.

Persons inspecting records should sign and date the same and supervisors should examine them on a regular basis, at least once every three months. Managers are advised to inspect individual records annually. The records should contain the

fullest details available of both dog and handlers. In the case of the dog, the record should include any identifying numbers, both kennel and pet names, details of micro-chipping or tattooing, colour, breed, date of birth and any pedigree information.

Any comments made by animal welfare lay visitors or instructors must be brought to the attention of a supervisor immediately in order that attention can be given to them. If necessary a Veterinary Surgeon should be consulted in these cases. Likewise, if a Veterinary Surgeon wishes to bring to the attention of the handler any adverse comments, the handler must immediately inform the supervisor who in turn should contact that Veterinary Surgeon. In such cases the Veterinary Surgeon can refer to the guidance provided regarding 'confidential reporting procedures' in which they are advised to consult with senior officers within that force.

Currently there are a number of software programmes which would be suitable for use although hand written records in booklet form would also be suitable. Forces are advised to consult regionally to discover areas of best practice.

6. Confidential Reporting Procedures

It is recommended that Chief Officers introduce procedures, in accordance with the ethical guidance of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, which allow for Veterinary Surgeons to report to Chief Constables any concerns in respect of the welfare of police dogs. The Veterinary Surgeons/Client relationship is founded on trust, and although in normal circumstances a veterinary surgeon may not disclose to any third party any information about a client or their animals given by the clients or revealed by clinical or post mortem examination, where the veterinary surgeon believes that animal welfare or the public interest are compromised, the information may be divulged when a veterinary surgeon believes that animal welfare or the public interest is compromised.

7. 'Whistle Blowing'

It is recommended that Chief Officers introduce 'whistle blowing' procedures which enable police officers and support staff to report wrongdoing and challenge unprofessional

behaviour so as to secure the welfare of police dogs and ensure any mistreatment is identified and dealt with promptly. It is suggested that such a procedure could be incorporated within existing force schemes.

8. Lay Visitor Animal Welfare Scheme

It is recommended that Chief Officers introduce a lay visitors animal welfare scheme which will enable appointed members of the local community, who may be accompanied by professionals from animal welfare organisations, to observe and report upon conditions under which police dogs are housed, trained, transported and deployed. It is considered good practice to involve representatives from the RSPCA and the NCDL in such schemes and also to involve police authorities so that the arrangements for such schemes can mirror those that are established under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act in respect of persons detained in police custody.

Dog Handling Duties

Dog and Dog Handler Training

WORK ACTIVITY		HAZARDS	RISK (H-M-L)	CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED	IN PLACE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	
						By Whene	Person responsible
1.	Dog care activities	Possible contact with zoonotic diseases, parasites and toxocarinas (faeces)	M	<p>Officer in charge of facility to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ensure regular veterinary checks to identify contaminated animals and regularly worm the animals ◆ Carry out detailed COSHH assessment for contact with hazardous zoonotic agents ◆ Ensure that all Handlers and Attendants are aware of risks to their health ◆ Ensure that there is an effective treatment / quarantine programme for each animal ◆ Maintain best possible hygiene practices within Police kennels ◆ Ensure that all Handlers and Attendants are trained and refreshed in hygiene practices 			
2.	Dog care activities	Contact with potentially harmful substances used in animal husbandry, kennel cleaning, vehicle cleaning, cage cleaning and veterinary treatment	M	<p>Officer in charge of facility to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ensure that there is a suitable COSHH assessment for all products supplied and used by the dog section ◆ Ensure that all persons are aware of the contents of the COSHH assessment ◆ Ensure that all personal protective equipment identified by the COSHH assessment is issued and utilised ◆ Ensure that all products used by veterinary services and other outside agencies are suitably labelled 			
3.	Dog care activities	Lifting and carrying dogs over obstacles (ladders etc.) or for veterinary treatment	M	<p>Officer in charge of facility to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ensure that an assessment of the specific activity of manually handling dogs is carried out. ◆ Ensure that all persons that will handle dogs are provided with appropriate manual handling training. ◆ Ensure that all persons expected to carry a dog do not suffer from a medical condition that could be aggravated by the activity. ◆ Provide back supports and / or lifting aids. 			

Provide care for police animals

Activity

Number - 370 Provide care for police animals
Provide a standard of care for police animals in accordance with legislation and policy.
Effective performance will include the following: Provide correct accommodation for the animal, ensuring that the accommodation is hygienic and meets Force requirements. Provide a healthy diet for the animal ensuring feeding and food preparation are in accordance with protocols and Force guidelines. Ensure a daily grooming and inspection is carried out on the animal looking for injuries and early signs of ill health. Ensure the animal has access to appropriate medical care when required.
External Standards
Assist with the care of animals (CU29) - http://www.lantra.co.uk
Support the health and welfare of animals (CU32.1) - http://www.lantra.co.uk Note: Element CU32.1 only
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