

DOGS FOR POLICE SERVICE
Programming and Training



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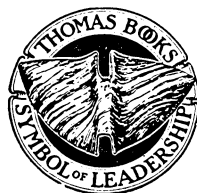
Programming and Training

Second Printing

By

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PREFACE

No breed has gained such popularity and distinction in police work as has the German Shepherd. Its special ability and intelligence has earned this distinction. Progressive police departments have recognized the value of the Shepherd in combating crime. Therefore, the Canine Unit is being integrated as a vital unit in many departments.

This book has been written with a two-fold purpose in mind. It will serve as a guide in building a dog program in a police department which has never had one. It will also show, step by step, the basic principles that are involved. Such items as how to enlist the cooperation of city officials and citizens; how to choose handlers; what records are necessary; how to construct kennels economically and serviceably; how to care for and feed the animal; and, how to transport the animal will be discussed in detail.

The book will also serve as a training manual. Details are given to obedience training, protection work, crowd control, teaching the dog to track and search buildings, etc.

It was found that departments desiring a canine unit were hindered or delayed by the limited information available on the subject.

There are many writings about the German Shepherd, his conformation, care and training as a show dog. Although we appreciate a well-formed show dog, we realize that in police work, temperament and spirit are qualities that demand more attention. A police dog must have a very specialized training.

I want to thank Officers B. R. McDonald and Calvin Stephens of the Oklahoma City Police Department for their encouragement and interest in the writing of this book.

The response and cooperation of police departments in Wichita, Lubbock, New Orleans, Amarillo, Baltimore, St. Louis, Ft. Worth and London, England, has contributed to the validity of the material covered.

I would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Jerry Pendry, Steve Hogan and Calvin Stephens for the illustrations; Sgt. R. D. Brokaw for the photographs; and, the Oklahoma Publishing Company for the frontispiece photograph.

S. D. W.

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DOGS FOR POLICE SERVICE
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PART I

**HOW TO ESTABLISH A DOG
PROGRAM IN YOUR
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

INTRODUCTION

In the following chapters, some of the problems involved in the establishment of a dog program within your department will be discussed.

By careful study and application of the suggested guides, your job may be made a little easier and your efforts more successful.

Chapter 1

HOW TO SELL THE POLICE DOG PROGRAM TO YOUR COMMUNITY

In many communities, citizens have not been sufficiently informed about the dog and his performance in police work. They are somewhat skeptical, often to the point of being afraid to have what they term “a vicious animal” loose on their streets. To those who are familiar with the history of these dogs, this “just ain’t so.” A trained dog is less dangerous than most of the dogs running loose on city streets daily. The trained police dog is under the constant control of his handler and only becomes aggressive upon command or in defense of himself or his master.

Selling your citizens on the need for dogs for the protection of their community is a vital step in the building of a successful dog program. Fear is usually based on ignorance so the citizen must be informed of the proven value of dogs in police work and be convinced that the working police dog is not a threat on city streets.

The best psychological approach is to let the citizen sell himself. The opportunity to have an active part in setting up the dog program should be provided. The method of citizen participation has been used successfully in many cities.

A group of interested citizens formulating a “Citizens Committee for Dogs for Police Work” should appear before the governing body of the city with a proposal for the inauguration of a dog program in the Police Department. The following proposal is a suggested guide:

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR DOGS FOR POLICE WORK**Item 1—The Need for Dogs**

This information can be supplied by the Police Department.

Item 2—Composition of the Committee

The committee should be composed of citizens active in local dog clubs and interested in dogs for police work.

Item 3—The Purpose of the Committee

a. To provide advice and help for the Chief of Police from the viewpoint of interested persons in the dog world. This Committee should not concern itself with the particular items for which the dogs are to be used on the Police Force, other than to strongly urge that they be used intelligently and only for the types of work for which they are peculiarly suited.

b. To work toward the goal of public acceptance of dogs on the Police Force and to ultimately present the program to city government and to urge its acceptance and financial responsibility for the program in the future.

c. To show the concerted effort of the dog community behind the program by raising funds to equip, train, and present dogs to the City for use by the Police

d. Selection of the means of training the dog and handler subject to the agreement of the Chief of Police. This will require investigation of the various facilities for professional training of the dogs, as well as the investigation of the results of the training of the various firms, as exemplified by the products in use in other city police departments.

e. Method of raising monies for the purposes outlined below:

1. Donations from organized Dog Clubs.
2. Putting on a benefit dog ribbon match with the aid of all organized dog clubs in your City. The tickets sold by this group, and other non-related groups, to raise funds will be used to purchase the dogs for police work.

Item 4—Enlisting the Support of Civic Groups in Selling the Program.

Item 5—Proposed Budget

- a. Per Dog
 - 1. Purchase Price
 - 2. Training for dogs
 - 3. Board for dogs
 - 4. Board for handler
 - 5. Handler training
 - 6. Police Dog Outfit
- b. Pocket Transistor Radio
(to provide communication with the dog handler at all times so he will be available for service while on duty.)
- c. Annual Recurring cost per Unit
 - 1. Feeding
 - 2. Medical Care
 - 3. Replacement and care of Unit Equipment
 - 4. Handler—Personal Liability Insurance
- d. Salary for Handler

A one-step pay increase above the present salary is recommended because of the extra responsibility of the dog plus the time spent in cleaning the kennel, grooming the dog, daily training, etc.
- e. In-service training Equipment

NOTE: The expense involved will vary depending upon the trainer contracted to train your dogs, whether dogs are purchased or donated, where items are purchased, etc.

Item 6—The Program Time Schedule

Should the Committee raise the necessary funds, the City Government may be approached requesting their agreement for the appropriation of funds to maintain the program following the initial impetus which the Committee would provide.

It is axiomatic that your program will not be successful until and unless the program can be fully maintained with use