POLICE DOGS
IN
NORTH AMERICA

POLICE DOGS IN NORTH AMERICA

By

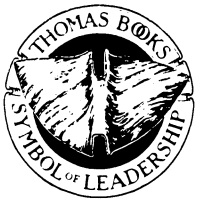
SAMUEL G. CHAPMAN

Professor, University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

With a Foreword by

Trooper Douglas C. Lancelot

Connecticut State Police
Canine Unit



CHARLES C THOMAS • PUBLISHER
Springfield • Illinois • U.S.A.

Published and Distributed Throughout the World by

CHARLES C THOMAS • PUBLISHER
2600 South First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9265

ISBN 0-398-05693-5 (cloth)
ISBN 0-398-06053-3 (paper)
Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 90-10870

Printed in the United States of America
SC-R-3

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Chapman, Samuel G.
Police dogs in North America / by Samuel G. Chapman ; with a foreword by Douglas C. Lancelot.
p. cm.
Rev. ed. of: Police dogs in America. 1979.
Includes bibliographical references (p.).
ISBN 0-398-05693-5. — ISBN 0-398-06053-3 (pbk.)
1. Police dogs—United States. 2. Police dogs—Canada.
I. Chapman, Samuel G. Police dogs in America. II. Title.
HV8025.C48 1990
363.2'32—dc20 90-10870
CIP

FOREWORD

For anyone who administers a police canine program or is contemplating implementing one, reading Professor Samuel G. Chapman's new edition of *Police Dogs in North America* is a must. The book contains a most impressive enumeration of the history of dogs in law enforcement and provides an extensive examination of the use of such units in American and Canadian police agencies. But its detailed analysis of all that's good as well as bad about such units broadens the book's appeal. Handlers, trainers, or simply those interested in the absorbing arena of canine corps work will find the book a delightful new resource.

This long-awaited book is an impressive expansion of Chapman's earlier work, *Police Dogs in America,* which was a landmark publication on the subject in 1979. In his new book, Professor Chapman proves once again he is the sole authority on police dog programs in the United States and Canada. Besides providing updated facts and figures, he also includes an impressive array of new, never before published information. Among the most valuable elements in the book are the numerous excerpts from contacts with leading canine handlers, trainers, and administrators in both the U.S. and Canada. In addition, there are dozens of examples of the hands-on use of this valuable law enforcement tool.

The book is more than just readable, although it certainly is that! It's a distillation of all that's pertinent, a superb gathering of the facts. Professor Chapman looks to the past and the future to provide practical application for the here and now. He does not stop with merely an historical reference and a field study of police canine programs, but explores the myriad uses as well as the smallest details to be considered before a department embarks on implementing a canine program. Most importantly, Professor Chapman analyzes not only some of the most successful programs in the U.S. and Canada, but includes those programs that were started but failed. He answers the all-important question of why they failed. Such a thorough diagnosis of the implications,

consequences, and favorable and unfavorable effects of canine programs is something that no police administrator can afford to do without.

Professor Chapman is a veteran of distinguished service to canine programs and as such is a realist who brings significant street and administrative experience to analyzing police canine operations. A frequent contributor to law enforcement literature, Professor Chapman is esteemed as an innovative and most tenacious researcher. He does not trifle with a subject. He explores and dissects it, then writes about it in understandable terms so that readers may equip themselves for practical ventures. One comes away from reading *Police Dogs in North America* feeling well qualified to meet the challenge of making reasonable judgments about most aspects of a police canine program. This book does justice to the few but proud canine teams, both past and present, in North America.

DOUGLAS C. LANCELOT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is the product of information gathered from well over a thousand persons and from almost that many police agencies across the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. The publication also contains information derived from not just the sources spelled out in the Bibliography, but also from hundreds of other documents, including all sorts of journals, archives, and police agency records. And the book has been influenced by field visits to hundreds of police forces and training centers throughout North America and overseas.

Three earlier major publications have significantly influenced the form and scope of *Police Dogs in North America.* These include: (1) *Dogs in Police Work,* published in 1960 by the Public Administration Service of Chicago; (2) *Police Dogs in America,* published in 1979 by the The University of Oklahoma's Bureau of Government Research; and (3) "The Law on a Leash in Canada," which appeared in consecutive issues of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police *Quarterly* in the winter and spring, 1984. The author is grateful to these organizations for having granted permission to reprint portions of these publications still relevant in 1990.

In addition to the publications acknowledged above, several people, organizations, and documents contributed information of varying kinds which made it possible for this book to be written as a factually solid, authoritative one. Of the thousands of contributors, there are some who warrant special recognition for time and effort above the norm. They helped assure that this research project reached a meaningful conclusion. These persons include: A. Brian Amm of the Canadian Police Canine Association; Richard Rogers of the Mid-Atlantic Canine Consultants, Angier, North Carolina; Russ Hess of the United States Police Canine Association; and Ken Derrett of the North American Police Work Dog Association. In addition, Inspector Gary Bolton, Staff Sergeant Jim Lynch and Carol Maier of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police canine training center at Innisfail, Alberta, were specially helpful as was Warden Scott Ward of Banff National Park, Canada. So were Sergeant Joe

McGrogan of the Montgomery County, Maryland Sheriff's Department and Sergeant Terry Rogers of the Denver Police Department.

District Judge Alan J. Couch of Cleveland County, Oklahoma, reviewed certain portions of the manuscript as did Tara Calhoun and Jane Glenn Cannon of Norman, Oklahoma. Sergeant Richard Fackrell of the London, Ontario, Police Force and Eileen Sanderson of the VESA Kennels, Asquith, Saskatchewan, Canada, helped unravel several aspects of the Canadian scene. Deputy Chief Constable Norman L. Chapple of the Ministry of Defence Police in London, England, helped secure information about the picture in the United Kingdom. Captain Doug Shaeffer of the Oklahoma City Police Department assisted with portions of Chapter 6.

Warden Deborah Palman of the State of Maine Warden Service and Marian Hardy, Project Director for the National Association for Search and Rescue, Fairfax, Virginia, were the principal contributors to the section about search and rescue dogs. Chief E. Neal Stone II of the University of Oklahoma Department of Public Safety helped with the section about police dogs in the university setting as did Sergeant Dale Metts of the Michigan State University Campus Police Department.

There were clerical giants, too. These include the staff of the University of Oklahoma's Word Processing Department headed by Mary McClain and Donna Epperson and so ably assisted by Susan Houck, Kim Davenport, Carmen Floyd, Linda Baker, Carol Roberts and Teresa Greer.

Extra special gratitude goes to two people. They are Professor Jeanne G. Howard, head of the Science and Engineering Library, the University of Alabama Libraries, Tuscaloosa, for the thankless, though very important, role of indexing this book. In addition, Trooper Douglas C. Lancelot of the Connecticut State Police is acknowledged for keeping my interest alive in the canine field during some 15 years of association. His energy, imagination, and thoughtfulness are impressive and have contributed to whatever acclaim may be afforded this book.

Finally, I am deeply grateful to the University of Oklahoma for having granted me sabbatical leave from August through December 1989 so that this book could be written. The time free from academic responsibilities, coupled with the staff and fiscal support essential to underwriting a project of this scale, was crucial to drawing this book to completion.

In conclusion, while many helped in the preparation of this book, I

accept full responsibility for its virtues or limitations. My hope is that *Police Dogs in North America* will prompt officers, administrators, legislators, city managers, and a host of others to come to a better understanding of this field. And I hope to see the public made safer, thanks to the use of trained handlers and dogs in police work.

CONTENTS

POLICE DOGS
IN
NORTH AMERICA

Chapter 1

MAN'S USE OF DOGS

The dog, a remarkable animal whose exact origin is unknown, is depicted even in earliest drawings as a distinct animal. While similarities exist between the dog and the fox, the jackal and the wolf, some early authoritative writers ascribe to the theory that the dog is a descendant of those animals. Yet no real proof exists. Latterday authorities are more inclined to the opinion that the dog should be afforded as much credit for originality as any other animal.

What is known is that the dog is the oldest domesticated animal. When exactly domestication occurred is shrouded in obscurity. It seems almost from the beginning there was man and dog and the two formed a relationship.

Indeed, one of the dog's most distinct characteristics is his affinity for man. Rarely is the dog thought of as an animal unto itself. Instead, stories of his companionship, loyalty, and service to man abound and are woven like a thread through all of literature. Even mythology is filled with images of dogs as faithful companions. Orion, the great Greek hunter who was accidentally slain by Diana and made into one of the constellations, was immortalized with his most faithful companions, his two dogs. In the night sky, they attend him still!

Sir Walter Scott once wrote that the Almighty gave the dog to man "to be companion of our pleasures and our toils." Whether dog was given to man or man took him for himself to meet his needs, it has proven to man's advantage ever since. For centuries dogs have served human beings well in many ways.

Peacetime Uses

It seems likely that man first used dogs to help him catch his food and protect his cave. Early on, dogs were used to herd sheep and guard the flocks. Humans soon discovered that dogs could provide diversion; hence the animals were pitted against one another in racing events and

in battles, sometimes waged even to the death. Also for sport, dogs were matched with other animals for tests of endurance and ferocity.

Humans have long taken advantage of the keen scenting powers of dogs to search for fugitives or lost persons. English soldiers used tracking hounds in the 1620s to follow the trail of highwaymen who fled justice in unsettled parts of the United Kingdom. In the United States tracking hounds were used to chase after runaway slaves before the Civil War, an activity vividly described in *Uncle Tom's Cabin.*

Sled dogs long have been vital to life and survival in icy far North America. St. Bernard dogs are associated with heroic missions of rescue and survival in the Swiss Alps and work dogs have been employed for years in many European cities. Watch dogs have been used for centuries as guards for homes and businesses, a phenomenon which has intensified in America during the law 'n order era that followed the 1960s. Overseas dogs are used to guard airports against terrorists, as at Narita (Tokyo) International Airport, Japan. East German guards, patrolling the Berlin Wall since 1961, used thousands of dogs to help stop those intent upon fleeing totalitarianism for a new life in the West. At least, this was so until November 9, 1989, when party leader Egon Krenz decreed that there were no longer to be restrictions on travel in either direction, East to West! Now authorities in the East must decide whether to sell, retire, or put to death these redundant animals.

Dogs have provided invaluable services to the handicapped. German soldiers who returned sightless from World War I were the first blind to be provided with seeing-eye dogs. Soon other countries followed suit and trained dogs to guide the blind. Mrs. Dorothy Harrison Eustis pioneered the use of dogs as eyes for the sightless in the United States. As a result of her efforts, the Seeing Eye Foundation at Morristown, New Jersey, was established in 1929. The German shepherd is most often used in the United States for this purpose.

Although less frequently used, hearing dogs, which are usually privately trained, direct the attention of their handicapped owners to the ringing of doorbells or telephones or to any other happenings of aural consequence by a series of loud barks, signs or other signals.

As in days of yore, dogs still aid humans in seeking game, although more for sport nowadays than out of need. They also provide recreation in other ways. For example, an enterprising commerical airline once inaugurated a rent-a-dog service for outdoor enthusiasts visiting Greenland. For a daily fee, an adventuresome traveler could engage a team of

husky dogs and sled, hire a native driver and take along food, drink, and overnight tent accommodations for a rugged 84-hour overland journey to the island's second largest city. The return trip was made by helicopter in 45 minutes. It was reported to be a doggone good trip!

In summary, above all, the companionship dogs provide is and always has been of extraordinary importance to millions of people worldwide.

Wartime Uses

During times of war, dogs have accompanied man on land and sea and, with the advent of submarines in World War I, beneath the waves. World War II found dogs going aloft as mascots in military aircraft. During the Vietnam War, dogs accompanied infantry teams in helicopters and a few even made parachute jumps into combat! Trained dogs have also been used in the troubled Middle East by United Nations peacekeeping forces to help prevent insurgency, infiltration, and sabotage.

Early Wars

The courage, reliability, and loyalty of dogs are noted in an historical account of an engagement between the Greeks and Corinthians during the Peloponnesian War (431–404 B.C.):

> The Corinthians, too, used [dogs] for purposes of defense, and the citadel of Corinth had a guard of fifty placed in boxes by the seashore. Taking advantage of a dark night, the Greeks with whom they were at war disembarked on the coast. The garrison were asleep after an orgy, the dogs alone kept watch, and the fifty pickets fell on the enemy like lions; all but one were casualities. Sorter, sole survivor, retiring from the conflict, fled to the town to give warning and roused the drunken soldiers, who came forth to battle. To him alone were the honors of victory, and the grateful town presented to him a collar with the inscription, "Sorter, Defender and Savior of Corinth," and erected a monument engraved with his name and those of the forty-nine heroes who fell.[1]

Earlyday combat dogs, often wearing spiked collars and suits of mail, were turned loose against onrushing cavalry. The knife-like spikes were designed to play havoc with the horses' legs and force an abrupt enemy retreat.

Legions of the Roman Empire took dogs on their expeditions to various parts of the world. Napoleon, many centuries later, used dogs in the Franco-Prussian War and recommended their use as guards at

Alexandria, Egypt. The colonial troops of the American Revolution kept dogs as their mascots.

Dogs were used extensively during the Boer War (1899–1902) and the Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905) in searching battlefields for wounded and missing soldiers. As key aids to stretcher bearers and medical corpsmen, dogs have been instrumental in saving thousands of lives in wars since.

World Wars I and II

The Great War of 1914–1918 marked the first time that dogs were scientifically trained to perform specified military duties. The Germans, at the beginning of the conflict, had some 6,000 dogs trained to serve as messengers, guards, and sentries while the two main allied powers, Great Britain and France, had neither trained war dogs nor a formal war dog training school. As the war proceeded, however, the British war dog school, directed by Major and Mrs. Edwin H. Richardson, was founded. Recruit dogs and trainers were put through a three-month course which included weeks of mock battles complete with simulated war sounds, battlefield barbed wire, smoke, and confusion. Although the German and allied forces used war dogs extensively, the American Expeditionary Force which fought in France from 1917 to the armistice in 1918 had no war dogs officially trained and assigned to it.

One of the war's most famous noncombatant dogs was Brum, a spaniel mongrel who served on the home front in England. As one of the champion fund-collecting dogs of the war, he raised more than $8,000 for worthy causes during 1914 alone:

> . . . He used to trot along the platform of a railroad station in London, barking loudly to attract attention. This was his way of asking donations. Then when people dropped coins into the little tin box strapped to his back, he always lifted his paw to shake hands to express his thanks and appreciation for the donation.

Following World War I, a public memorial honoring war dogs was erected at Kilburn, England:

> This building is dedicated as a memorial to the countless thousands of God's humble creatures who suffered and perished in the Great War of 1914–1918. Knowing nothing of the cause, looking forward to final victory, filled only with Love, Faith and Loyalty, they endured much and died for us . . . [2]

All the major powers involved in World War II (1939–1945) used trained dogs. These performed sentry duty and were used as messengers,