



THE TRAINING AND USE OF LOCAL HUNTING DOGS FOR POLICE DUTIES

***GODWIN AGABA OCHUBE; *NDALAZHI
FLORENCE; & **SAMINU AMINU**

**Department of Sociology, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. **Department
of Sociology, Federal University, Dutse*

ABSTRAT

The relevance of dogs for police duties cannot be overemphasized. It is a proven fact in many countries of the world. Hunting dogs have been proven to perform many duties. They are used for search and seizure, guard of honor, detection of explosives. Others are detention of narcotics and items, pursuit and arrest. With the assistance of the handlers, dogs have become a very important asset to fighting crime in the law enforcement agencies. Their works has become easier and simple. It is therefore recommended that the Nigerian Army and the Police Force should emulate other developed countries of the world by engaging the services of dogs in fighting crimes. It can help the military police and other agencies to get rid of crime from the society.

KEYWORDS: *Training, Hunting, Dogs, Army, Police and Duties*

INTRODUCTION

Historically, mankind has found solace in the company of animals. Animals have been serving various purposes for man since the ancient times. They have served either as food, pet, raw materials, protector, laborers or even as store for wealth. While animals like donkeys, camels and horses are used as means of transportations or war elements, dogs are often used for guards, protection and hunting. The close relationship between dog and man has existed for several centuries with several advantages and disadvantages. Dogs have been used in law enforcement since the middle Ages. When trained well through intentional moderation in habits, a local hunting dog can perform some extraordinary roles such as police duties.

A local hunting dog is a canine that hunts with or for humans. There are several types of hunting dogs developed for various tasks and purposes. The

major categories of hunting dogs include hounds, terriers, dachshunds, cur type dogs, and gun dogs.¹Police duties are summarized as to protect citizens by preventing crime, enforcing laws, apprehending suspects, and monitoring traffic.²Training is defined as teaching, or developing in oneself or others, any skills and knowledge or fitness that relate to specific useful competencies. Training has specific goals of improving one's capability, capacity, productivity and performance. It is of no doubt that a well trained hunting dog can perform police duties.

Local hunting dogs have served as law enforcement agents in many countries across the globe.³The French government had used local hunting dogs to guard the naval installations and docks at St. Malo-the first known instance of dogs being used for police work.⁴ Their work must have been satisfactory, for the dogs continued to perform this task.⁵ Dogs were used in Paris in 1895, when local agents began using local hunting dogs to control gangs that were disturbing the neighborhood.⁶ The success of the dogs in curbing these gangs led to their use by the Germans in 1896.⁷It was in Germany that the first scientific and planned development in this field took place, with experiments in breeding, training, and utilization. Through their experiences with dogs in police work, the Germans selected the German shepherd, or Alsatian, as the breed best suited for the assigned duties, and the Doberman pinscher as second choice.⁸In Africa, countries like Egypt, dogs were being used by the armies to carry messages and to guard army encampments, and in hieroglyphics many stories are told of the part dogs played in battles. Afterward, many countries including Nigeria had employed the training of local dogs to performing police duties.

The purpose of this paper is to discuss the training of local hunting dogs for police duties. The paper shall cover the overview of police duties and hunting dogs as well as assess the nature of training of local hunting dogs for police duties. It will also examine the uses of hunting dogs as agent of

¹[Fogle, Bruce \(2000\) \[1995\].The Encyclopedia of the Dog.Dorling Kindersley](#)

² Douglas, S.M (2002) Effective Policing for a crime free Society, Brooklyn, Yaks Inc

³Fergus, Charles. Gun Dog Breeds, A Guide to Spaniels, Retrievers, and Pointing Dogs, The Lyons Press, 2002

⁴"Use of Police Dogs a Fad?" THE POLICE CHIEF, 26:12, 1959..

⁵Ibid

⁶Fergus, Charles. Gun Dog Breeds, A Guide to Spaniels, Retrievers, and Pointing Dogs, The Lyons Press, 2002

⁷Ibid

⁸Charles F. Sloane, "Dogs in War, Police Work, and on Patrol," the Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology, and Police Science, 46:385-395, 1955

law enforcement. Finally, it will highlight challenges militating against the training of hunting dogs for effective police duties thereby suggesting possible ways of solving the challenges of training and uses of local hunting dogs for police duties. The paper is therefore limited to the training and use of local hunting dogs for police duties. It is assumed that the used of local hunting dogs could aid the Nigerian Army (NA) in their many operations across the nation.

AIM

The aim of this paper is to discuss the training and use of local hunting dogs for police duties with the view to making recommendations.

OVERVIEW OF THE USE OF HUNTING DOGS FOR POLICE DUTIES IN NA

The use of dog of hunting dog for law enforcement was recorded in 1889 by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police of London, Sir Charles Warren.⁹ Warren's repeated failures at identifying and apprehending the serial killer Jack the Ripper had earned him much vilification from the press, including being denounced for not using bloodhounds to track the killer.¹⁰ After the failed attempt police department in Ghent, Belgium introduced the first organized police dog service program in 1899.¹¹ These methods soon spread to Austria-Hungary and Germany; in the latter the first scientific developments in the field took place with experiments in dog breeding and training.¹² The German police selected the German Shepherd Dog as the ideal breed for police work and opened up the first dog training school in 1920 in Greenheide.¹³ In later years, many Belgian Malinois dogs were added to the unit. The dogs were systematically trained in obedience to their officers and tracking and attacking criminals.

In Britain, the North Eastern Railway Police were among the first to use police dogs in 1908 to put a stop to theft from the docks in Hull. By 1910, railway police forces were experimenting with other breeds such as Belgian

⁹["K-9 Burial Protocol "The Rocky Protocol" \(PDF\). www.sheriffs.org. National Sheriffs' Association. May 22, 2014](#)

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ BRYSON, 5. (1996) Police dog facts. New York: McGraw-Hill.

¹²["K-9 Burial Protocol "The Rocky Protocol" \(PDF\). www.sheriffs.org. National Sheriffs' Association. May 22, 2014](#)

¹³ Ibid

Malinois, Labrador Retrievers, and German shepherds.¹⁴ Similarly, Hunting dogs are in widespread use across the United States. K-9 units are operated on the federal, state, county, and local levels and are used for a wide variety of duties, similar to those of other nations. Their duties generally include drug, bomb, and weapon detection and cadaver searches. The most common police dogs used for everyday duties are the German Shepherd and the Belgian Malinois though other breeds may be used to perform specific tasks. The Nigerian police were the first agency to officially used dogs for police duties. The essence was to assist police and other law-enforcement personnel in their work. Such duties include searching for drugs, chemicals, hormones, fire accelerants and explosives, lost people and dead bodies. Others are looking for crime scene evidence and protecting their handlers. A hunting dog is a canine that hunts with or for humans. There are several types of hunting dogs developed for various tasks and purposes. The major categories of hunting dogs include hounds, terriers, dachshunds, cur type dogs, and gun dogs. Further divisions can be made among these categories based upon the dogs' skill set and capabilities.

The NA Dog Section inaugurated the first working dog center in all of West Africa in order to provide an asset to their country's counter terrorism efforts.¹⁵ The Nigerian Army currently has an array of detection, trailing, patrol and search and rescue dogs. A majority of the dogs are trained to detect explosives and bomb making materials. The dog center is located in Lagos, Nigeria with a smaller group of dogs and handlers working in the capital city of Abuja, Nigeria. During the inauguration ceremony, the then Chief of Defense Staff, Air Chief Marshal OluseyiPetinrin said, "Explosives can be packaged like any other luggage and you and I might not know because our senses are not well developed like dogs. But when we introduce dogs to the equation, we will be able to detect such packages even when they are hidden" The patrol and explosives detection dogs are expected to be critical in combating terrorist activities and bombings carried out by the Boko Haram throughout Nigeria. They are equally to perform other police duties as they will be trained. The urban search and rescue dogs and cadaver dogs will also be on hand to respond to natural and man-made disasters throughout the country.

¹⁴"[K-9 Burial Protocol "The Rocky Protocol"](#)"(PDF). *www.sheriffs.org. National Sheriffs' Association. May 22, 2014*

¹⁵DailyTrust, September, 12th 2017

Over 60 military personnel from the NA attended a three month trainers course at Highland Canine Training, LLC in Harmony, North Carolina. The soldiers reported from the Military Police Section, Engineer Corps and Intelligence Section. Three separate groups of soldiers traveled to the United States over a span of eleven months. During the 12-week course the handlers received extensive training in areas such as record keeping, search techniques, proper handling, first aid and CPR, nighttime K9 operations, detection and interdiction techniques and explosives recognition.

NATURE OF TRAINING OF HUNTING DOGS FOR POLICE DUTIES

Dog training is the act of teaching a dog particular skills or behaviors. Dog training includes teaching a dog to react to particular commands and cues as well as to act independently by deliberately changing their natural behavior¹⁶There are many methods of training local hunting dogs for police duties. The methods will be discussed in subsequent paragraphs.

Koehler Method. Koehler method strictly following the model set out in the Koehler Method of Dog Training.¹⁷ The method is based in the philosophy that a dog acts on its right to choose its actions. It explained that a dog's learned behavior is an act of choice based on its own learning experience. When those choices are influenced by the expectation of reward, the behavior will most likely be repeated, and when those choices are influenced by the anticipation of punishment, they will most likely cease. Once the dog has learned that its choices result in comfort or discomfort it can be taught to make the correct decisions.

Motivational Training. The motivational training method employs the use of rewards to reinforce good behavior, and ignores all bad behavior. It is based in Thorndike's law of effects, which says that actions that produce rewards tend to increase in frequency and actions that do not produce rewards decrease in frequency. Motivational training has its roots in captive animal training, where compulsion and corrections are both difficult and dangerous. Ignoring bad behavior is not problematic as the animal lives under controlled conditions. As a dog training strategy, purely positive training is feasible, but difficult, as it requires time and patience to control

¹⁶Wassouri. A (1993) The use of [trained dogs to discriminate human scent: a reply. *Animal Behaviour*, 46, 191-192.

¹⁷ Ibid

the rewards the dog receives for behavior. Some activities such as jumping up or chasing squirrels are intrinsically rewarding, the activity is its own reward, and with some activities the environment may provide reinforcement such as when the response from dog next door encourages barking.¹⁸

Clicker Training. Clicker training is a nickname given to a particular type of positive reinforcement training system. It was based on operant conditioning that uses a clicker device as a marker and bridge. Clicker training can also be referred to as marker training. The system uses secondary reinforcer (the clicker) as both a marker/signal and a bridge. And also to let the animal know that s/he performed the desired behavior correctly and therefore a reward is coming. It helps to avoid inadvertently reinforcing (rewarding) another behavior that may occur after the desired behavior occurs but before the reinforcer is delivered. Primary reinforcers are reinforcers that are required for life, such as food. Secondary reinforcers are things the animal being trained enjoys but that are not required for life, such as toys, praise, etc. The term 'clicker' comes from a small metal cricket adapted from a child's toy that the trainer uses to precisely mark the desired behavior; however, some trainers use a whistle, a word, or even a light as the secondary reinforcer, which becomes "conditioned" once the animal learns that its arrival signals the chance to earn a primary reinforce. The trainer delivers a primary reinforcer, such as treat, after the noise or signal. A common critique of clicker training is that it is prone to the over justification of effects (Burke, 1994).

Electronic Training. Electronic training involves the use of an electronic device as an aversive. Common forms are collars which can be triggered remotely at the trainers discretion, or that are triggered by barking, fencing that activates when a dog crosses a buried wire, or mats that can be placed on furniture for example. There are 4 main types of stimulus. Some aids deliver a spray of liquid, typically citronella when triggered. Others emit a siren or vibration or shock of differing intensities. The use of electric shock aversive for training dogs is the subject of considerable controversy. Supporters claim that the use of electronic devices allows training at a distance and the potential to eliminate self-rewarding behavior, and point out that properly used, they have less risk of stress and injury than mechanical

¹⁸["K-9 Burial Protocol "The Rocky Protocol" \(PDF\). www.sheriffs.org. National Sheriffs' Association. May 22, 2014](#)

devices, such as choke leashes or prong chains. Opponents cite the risks of physical and psychological trauma associated with incorrect or abusive use.¹⁹

Model-Rival Training. The Model-rival training method is based on the principles of social learning. It uses a model, or a rival for attention, to demonstrate the desired behavior. The method was used by Irene P to train Alex the African Grey Parrot to label a large number of objects. McKinley and Young undertook a pilot study on the applicability of a modified version of the model-rival method to the training of domestic dogs, noting that the dog's origins as a member of large and complex social groups promote observational learning. The model-rival training involved an interaction between the trainer, the dog, and a person acting as a model-rival, that is, a model for desired behavior and a rival for the trainer's attention. In view of the dog, a dialogue concerning a particular toy commenced between the trainer and the model-rival. The trainer praised or scolded the model-rival depending on whether the model-rival had named the toy correctly. It was found that the performance times for completion of the task were similar for dogs trained with either operant conditioning or the model rival method. In addition, the total training time required for task completion was comparable for both methods.²⁰

THE USES OF LOCAL HUNTING DOGS FOR POLICE DUTIES

The uses of local hunting dogs for police duties cannot be overemphasized. Its uses range from pursuit and arrest, detection of explosives and detection of narcotic. Others are VIP protection, guard of honor and detection of items. The uses of local hunting dogs for police duties are discussed in subsequent paragraphs.

Search and Seizure. Search and seizure is one of the duties of the police. Hunting dogs have helped personnel with this task of search and seizures. The dogs have proven to be accurate in searching out exhibits even to the most concealed items. The NA investigators can train in using these dogs towards performing search and seizure operations.

Pursuit and Arrest. Pursuit and arrest is one of the duties of the law enforcement agent especially the police. Suspect tends to take to their heel

¹⁹ALEXANDER, D. A., & WALKER, L. G. (1994) A study of methods used by Scottish police officers to cope with work-induced stress. *Stress Medicine*, 10, 131-138.

²⁰Fergus, Charles. *Gun Dog Breeds, A Guide to Spaniels, Retrievers, and Pointing Dogs*, The Lyons Press, 2002

when they hear siren or see the presence of law enforcement agent. And in most cases they are on better advantage for escape. With the help of trained police dogs, the suspects are overrun and subdued by the dogs and subsequently arrested by the officers. In suspect apprehension, having a loud barking dog is helpful and can result in suspects surrendering without delay. NACMP can make use of these dogs during raids and other military operations.

Detection of Explosives. Detection of explosives is one of the uses of trained local hunting dogs. Dogs can be trained to communicate to the officer if it found explosives. The dog is trained and adequate rehearsals taken for the safety of both the dog and the clearing officer. Dogs have been used for this purpose in many countries and have proven to be accurate in the roles. The NA has trained dogs for such task and it has been proven effective. More of these dogs could be deployed in war zones like the north east to help the personnel in counter insurgency operations. This could help reduce personnel casualties of explosives.

Detection of Narcotic. The detection of narcotics especially in nations border areas have been made effective by the services of these dogs. These dogs are specially trained to sniff out these drugs with high rate of accuracy. When a narcotics dog indicates to the officer that it found something, the officer has probable cause to search whatever the dog alerted on (i.e. bag or vehicle) without a warrant, in most states. These dogs are used in country's entry points such as airports, seaports, land border areas. The NA can through the services of MP use these dogs for search during investigation as it has been proven effective and accurate. This could be safe time and give precision. This could help in promoting security in our border areas thereby reducing drug trafficking.

VIP Protection. Very Important Persons (VIPs) are in most cases guarded with the aid of these dogs. The dogs form members of the guards for these categories of people. They are trained to recognize the VIP and the other guards but come against others. They can attack any suspected intruder or enemy and has been proven to be accurate. It is mostly used for heads of states, Ambassadors or foreign envoys for their protection. The NA can train more of these dogs for this purpose as it gives more confidence to the VIP.

Guard of Honor. Guard of honor is a ceremonial guard in honor of special persons or special events. Dogs are in most cases used as members of this guard. They not only make it more colorful but more fearful. NA Guards

Brigade can train and use the dogs for parades as it will add beauty to it. It is advice that members of guards' brigade be train as handlers as it will help them in training the dogs.

Detection of Items. Hunting dogs are trained to detect human remains, hormones or fire accelerants. They are trained to find or identify living people. These teams are often deployed to earthquake areas to locate people trapped in collapsed buildings. The dogs can help the NA for effective security operations.

CHALLENGES OF THE TRAINING OF HUNTING DOGS FOR EFFECTIVE POLICE DUTIES

There are challenges associated with the training and uses of hunting dogs for police duties. The challenges range from, high cost of feeding, genetic disorderliness, time factor, language challenge and health complication. The challenges are further discussed below.

High Cost of Dog Feeds. There is high cost of dog's feeds. This has affected their nutrition as most of them are not well feed. It is therefore advised that the NA budget for money for the purchase of dogs feed.

Genetic Disorderliness. Genetic disorder has been a huge challenge to training and usage of hunting dogs. The problem with those dogs is you never knew when they were going to turn on you, even on their own handlers. It is advice that handlers be aware of this challenge and play safe when it occurs.

Time Factor. Time factor is one of the challenges of training hunting dogs for police duties. It requires much time for them to get the instruction and repeats accordingly. Training of police dogs is a very lengthy process since it begins with the training of the canine handler. The canine handlers go through a long process of training to ensure that they will train the dog to the best of its ability. The NA could make special personnel for the training of these dogs. That could serve as their army work as it will help make them available and familiar with the dogs.

Language Challenge. . Language challenge has been a huge factor against the training of dogs for police duties. Dogs trained in Europe are usually given commands in the country's native language. Dogs are initially trained with this language for basic behavior, so, it is easier for the officer to learn new words/commands, rather than retraining the dog to new commands. This is contrary to the popular belief that police dogs are trained

in a different language so that a suspect cannot command the dog against the officer. NA could adopt the British language for the training of the dogs while the handlers advised to strictly adhere to such.

Health Complication. Health complication has been a huge challenge in training local hunting dogs for police duties. They required regular medical attention as they are fragile and can easily succumb to infections and diseases. The NA could avoid this through regularly checking on the dogs while necessary vaccine be provide and administer on them.

WAYS OF SOLVING THE CHALLENGES OF THE TRAINING AND USE OF HUNTING DOGS FOR POLICE DUTIES

The ways of solving the challenges of the training and uses of hunting dogs are sacrosanct for the paper. The solutions are alternative feeding method, physiotherapy treatment, vaccination and treatment, formulation of dog special units and initially trained. The solutions are discussed below.

Alternative Feeding Method. Alternative feeding method is essential especially with the high cost of dog's feeds. This involves having a plan B should the original feed not readily available. It could be the making of dogs' meal with the daily house foods such as Cornflakes, Oaks or goldenmorn. It is advised that the alternative is to be for short period or to serve emergency before the actually feed is provided. Handlers could learn this alternative method and try is once in a time as to get the dogs use to it.

Physiotherapy Treatment. Physiotherapy treatment of the dog involves subjecting it to basic trait treatment. It helps to the regulation of the dogs' behavior especially dogs with genetic disorderliness. Dog handlers and owners could adopt this method as to treat the dog of genetic traits especially traits that are harmful for the dogs operations.

Vaccination and Treatment. The act of regular vaccination and treatment is paramount in the growing and training of dogs. Vaccination against dieses like rabies and other infections is very paramount. Before training can begin, you first need to find the right dog, which is easier said than done. A healthy dog is an active dog therefore proper medical treatment is required for the dog's effective operations. The NA could recruit and commission veterinary doctors for this purpose. This could help reduce the cost of hiring a civil doctor.

Formulation of Dog Special Units. **The formulation of Dog Special Unit aside the NADC could help solve the problem of training the dogs.**

A situation in which a special unit is dedicated to the training and handling of these dogs for effectiveness and efficiency. The NA could leverage on other sisters agencies to have a special unit for the training and handling.

Initial Training. Dogs with initial training will be more easier for training, management and use. Law enforcement agencies can choose to purchase dogs with or without law enforcement training. Purchasing a trained dog could help in skipping the more traditional training period of several months to acclimate a dog to its handler could pose other problems. NA could purchase initial trained dogs.

CONCLUSION

Local hunting dogs can be trained and use for police duties. This is possible because of their genetic advantage for learning and responses. Countries such France, Great Britain, Germany and USA had since been using dogs for law enforcement and other military activities. The NA in her bid of ripping the country off terrorism, social vices and criminalities the NA established NADC. Many officers and men of the force were sent for training in USA. The officers and men were selected from Engineering, Intelligent and Military Police corps respectively. The training which lasted for weeks serves as a platform through which dogs handlers were train and certified for the purpose. NA has purchased and taken delivery of various species of dogs for various security and police duties. Furthermore, the NA could leverage on the benefit of using local hunting dogs for police duties as had been used by other countries. This could be achieved by sending more personnel to these countries for further trainings and development

39. The training and use of dogs is not without some challenges. There are animals and quit different in behavior and other factors. There are challenges associated with the training and uses of hunting dogs for police duties. The challenges range from, high cost of feeding, genetic disorderliness, time factor, language challenge and health complication. The NA could address the challenges by the applying some basic measures. The measures include **alternative feeding** method, physiotherapy treatment, vaccination and treatment. Others are formulation of dog special units and initially trained. Despite the challenges in training and uses of local hunting dogs, it could be of great advantage to the MP corps of the military. It is

advised that more importance and create enabling environment for the training and use of dogs for police duties.

RECOMMENDATION

It is therefore recommended that the NA should:

- b. send more personnel for further training and retraining (Paragraph).
- c. integrate full use of dogs for police duties(Paragraph).
- d. create enabling environment for the training and uses of dogs for police duties (Paragraph).