

Handler Survey of the Causes of Loss of Working Police Dogs

The purpose of this survey is to identify the major causes of loss of working police dogs. Police dogs are retired/rehomed, die on the job or are euthanased for many reasons. If we can identify these causes then effective strategies to mitigate losses may be possible.

The Centre for Service and Working Dog Health and Research at Massey University and the Police Dog Section would appreciate your time to fill out this survey as the information is vital to developing future strategies to mitigate these losses.

In order for an accurate analysis it is important that we also collect data on dogs that are still in service, especially if they are known to be suffering from an ailment that could lead to retirement. For fit and healthy dogs we are simply recording numbers in service.

For each dog that you are currently handling, or have worked in the past (i.e. was once your operational dog) can you please give as many of the following details as possible. If a date is not known completely accurately, please estimate the month and/or year.

- 1. Date of survey completion
- 2. Your Name
- 20 3. Name of dog

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- 4. Date of birth of dog
- 5. Tattoo number if known
- 6. Microchip number if known
- 7. Police District to whom you were assigned at the time his dog was in service.
- 8. Date of this dog entering service with you as handler

9. Is this dog still in active service with no known health issues for which retirement may be indicated, if yes go to survey completion, if no (health issues or not in service/died) continue to 10.

10. Date of loss or retirement from active service	or still in service [] tick		
11. Reason for loss or retirement from active service			
Retired due to inability to continue to work	[] tick go to 12		
Euthanased (put to sleep) whilst in active service	[] tick go to 13		
Died of a disease / illness whilst in service	[] tick go to 14		
Killed whilst in active service	[] tick go to 15		

35 12. What was the MAJOR reason your dog was unable to continue to work and which led to retirement?

	Please indicate by placing a num	meral 1 in t	he appropriate box				
	(if there was more than one cor but contributing causes).	ntributing fa	actor please indicate a (1) for the	e most important reason and	d a (2, 3 etc) for other mino		
	Behavioural problem []						
40	Type of behavioural	l problem	aggression	[]			
			not following commands	[]			
			other	[]			
	Loss of tracking	[]					
	Inability to meet the physical d	emands of	the job []				
45	Other, please describe []						
13	. What was the MAJOR reason your dog	g was eutha	nased whilst still in active duty				
	Please place a numeral 1 in the causes).	box for the	e most important contributing fa	ctor and a (2, 3 etc) for othe	er minor but contributing		
	Behavioural problem []						
50	Type of behavioural	l problem	aggression	[]			
			not following commands	[]			
			other	[]			
	Medical problem [] (pla	ce a tick ne	ext to as many below as apply)				
	Heart problem	[]					
55	Musculoskeletal	[]					
	Neurological	[]					
	Breathing issues	[]					
	Urinary Issues	[]					
	Back/Spinal probler	ns []					
60	Arthritis	[]					
	Stomach problems	[] but	not bloat/GDV see below				
	Intestinal	[]					
	Gastic Bloat/GDV	[]					
	Other	[]	Please give the name of the n	nedical condition			
65			(if known)				
	Inability to meet the physical d	emands of	the job				
	(please describe the issues)	(please describe the issues)					

14. What was the medical condition / illness which led to the death of your dog whilst on active duty

2

70	(if there was more than one contributing factor please indicate a (1) for the most important reason and a (2, 3 etc) for other mine but contributing causes).							
	Medical problem							
	Heart problem	[]						
	Poisoning	[]						
75	Seizuring	[]						
	Breathing problem	· []						
	Infectious disease	[]						
	Spinal problems	[]						
	Bloat/GDV	[]						
80	Perforated bowel	[]						
	Other (please desc	ribe		_)				
	15. How was your dog killed in active set	rvice.						
	Injured by offender (stabbed /	Injured by offender (stabbed / gun shot / other please describe)						
	Motor vehicle accident							
85	Poisoning							
	Other (please describe)							
	16. If you indicated arthritis as a cause of	f retirement or euthanasia in 12	or 13 above, please state	the joint/s affected				
00	Hip []	Stifle (knee)	[]	Hock (ankle)	[]			
90	Hind foot[Carpus (wrist)[Shoulder Fore foot	[]	Elbow	[]			
	17. If you indicated back/spinal problem	as a cause of retirement or euth	nanasia in 12 or 13 above,	please state the area/s affected				
	Neck []							
95	Thoracic spine (betwee	en the neck and the last rib)	[]					
	Lumbar spine (the rest of the	spine except for the lumbo-sace	ral junction []					
	Lumbo-sacral junction (junction between the lower back and the pelvis/tail bone) []							
	Yours sincerely							

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3