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BSI Standards Publication

Security dogs

Part 1: Code of practice for the use of
general purpose security dogs

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Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI and came into effect on 31 May 2009. It was prepared by Panel GW/3/-/15, *Security dog users*, under the authority of Technical Committee GW/3, *Manned security services*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Use of this document

As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this British Standard is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

It has been assumed in the preparation of this British Standard that the execution of its provisions will be entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people, for whose use it has been produced.

Presentational conventions

The provisions in this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

1 Scope

This code of practice gives recommendations for the operational use of a dog by a security dog handler when providing manned guarding services on a static site or mobile patrol basis.

This code of practice does not apply to the provision of detection dogs and handlers such as drugs detection, explosives detection or dogs and handlers used in search and rescue operations.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 7499:2007, *Static site guarding and mobile patrol services – Code of practice*

BS 7858, *Security screening of individuals employed in a security environment – Code of practice*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard, the terms and definitions given in BS 7499 and the following apply.

3.1 general purpose security dog

dog, usually of a recognized guarding breed, with specialized training used for security services

NOTE 1 Hereafter referred to as “dog”.

NOTE 2 Recognized guarding breeds include German Shepherds, Dobermans, Rottweilers and Mallinois.

NOTE 3 Attention is drawn to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 [1].

3.2 security dog handler

security officer with specialized training in handling dogs when working as a team with a dog

NOTE Hereafter referred to as “handler”.

3.3 security officer

person who performs duties at a static site or on a mobile patrol

3.4 instructor/trainer

someone who teaches and educates both people and dogs

3.5 kennel

housing providing shelter and a place for a dog to sleep with room to stand up, turn around and lie down in comfort

3.6 organization

supplier, individual or company providing security dog services

3.7 run

secure area in which a dog has the freedom to walk about, adjacent to the kennel

4 Administration

4.1 General

Any organization providing dog handling services should operate in accordance with BS 7499 and screen staff in accordance with BS 7858.

4.2 Insurance

The organization should be adequately insured in accordance with BS 7499, and be specific for the use of dogs.

NOTE Professional indemnity insurance may be considered if advice on the use of dogs is to be given to any third party.

4.3 Canine records

Each dog should have an individual record containing the following details:

- a) procurement (including pedigree, if applicable);
- b) name;
- c) owner;
- d) age;
- e) breed;
- f) colour;
- g) sex;
- h) vaccinations;
- i) microchip;
- j) first aid/veterinary treatment;
- k) training records and certificates;
- l) continuation training records;
- m) incident reports;
- n) complaints;
- o) bite reports; and
- p) final disposal/re-homing certificate.

Records should be kept for three years after retirement or death.

4.4 Assignment records

An accurate record should be kept for a period of three years of both dogs' and handlers' work assignments. Such records should also include both contracting in and out of dogs.

4.5 Health and safety

Organizations should ensure that their health and safety policy statement includes issues of handler training regarding safety, refresher and continuation training.

Organizations should ensure, prior to deployment, that their risk assessment includes consideration for the dog.