

BS 8517-2:2010



BSI Standards Publication

Security dogs

Part 2: Code of practice for the use of
detection dogs

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Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI and came into effect on 31 March 2010. 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.

Information about this document

Attention is drawn to the Private Security Industry Act 2001 [1], which contains provisions for regulating the private security industry, including security guarding. A person falling within the definition of providing security industry services under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 is required to be licensed in accordance with that Act. The Act can be found online at <http://the-sia.org.uk>.

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 part of BS 8517 gives recommendations for the operational use of a detection dog by a detection dog handler when providing passive and proactive detection services, e.g. drugs, firearms, munitions, explosives.

This part of BS 8517 does not apply to the provision of general purpose dogs (covered in BS 8517-1) 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 detection dog

dog, usually of a recognized type, with specialized training used for detection services

NOTE 1 Recognized types include labradors, spaniels, or other suitable sporting breeds. Guarding breeds (as defined in BS 8517-1) are not considered suitable for some detection purposes due to public perception.

NOTE 2 Attention is drawn to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 [2].

3.2 detection dog handler

security officer with specialized training in handling detection dogs

NOTE Hereafter referred to as “handler”.

3.3 instructor/trainer

someone who teaches and educates both people and dogs

3.4 kennel

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

3.5 live/real substance

actual substance as opposed to pseudo or artificial scent

3.6 organization

supplier, individual or company providing security detection dog services

3.7 run

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

3.8 team

identifiable handler and detection dog that together are trained to a standard to undertake detection duties

4 Administration

4.1 General

Any organization providing detection dog services should screen staff in accordance with BS 7858.

NOTE Attention is drawn to BS 7499 for guarding activities and BS 7960 when working on licensed premises.

4.2 Insurance

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

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

4.3 Canine records

Each detection 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 (see 6.1);
- i) microchip (see 6.1);
- j) written veterinary confirmation of fitness for duty (see 6.1);
- k) first aid/veterinary treatment;
- l) training records and certificates;
- m) continuation training records;
- n) incident reports;
- o) complaints; 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 teams' work assignments. Such records should also include both contracting in and out of detection dogs or teams.

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 detection dog.

5 Kennelling/husbandry

5.1 Responsibility

Directors/owners/managers/carers/person(s) in charge should take ultimate responsibility for the welfare of the detection dog at all times (i.e. when the handler is sick, on holiday or off duty, or when the detection dog is subcontracted out to a third party).

A comprehensive animal husbandry routine should be in place and daily, weekly and periodic tasks should be detailed (see 5.3).

5.2 Accommodation

5.2.1 General

Detection dogs should be kept in a healthy condition, properly accommodated, fed and watered. They should not be left unattended for long periods of time, and should be visited at regular intervals over a twenty four-hour period. Provision should be made for regular exercise.

NOTE If detection dogs are kept in a residential/domestic environment, care needs to be given to ensure maintenance of operational efficiency.

5.2.2 Kennels

5.2.2.1 Construction and siting

Where a kennel is used, this should be constructed of suitable materials that cannot cause harm to the detection dog and that provide secure and efficient housing, free from damp and draughts. The kennel should incorporate a run. The kennel and run should be sited with due regard to noise disturbance, prevailing weather conditions and drainage.

NOTE Attention is drawn to "Model licence conditions and guidance for dog boarding establishments", published by CIEH [3].

5.2.2.2 Beds and bedding

Beds and bedding (where used) should be of a suitable size, clean and dry.

5.2.2.3 Size

The kennel should be of sufficient size for the detection dog to stand up, turn around and lie down in comfort.

5.2.2.4 Isolation

Where there is more than one detection dog, arrangements for an isolation kennel with its own separate area and cleaning equipment should be made available for use as necessary.

NOTE The isolation kennel may be at a separate location.

5.3 Hygiene

Kennels, runs, compounds and surrounding areas should be kept in a clean and tidy condition at all times. Kennels should be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned daily and disinfected at least weekly (use of outdoor kennels should take into consideration current weather conditions and the amount of water used). Drains should be disinfected daily with a DEFRA-approved disinfectant.

NOTE Attention is drawn to the existence of legislation applicable to the disposal of faeces; advice on such legislation can be sought from the Environment Agency or local authority.

Kennels should be inspected regularly for any signs of deterioration, unsuitability or hazards.

5.4 Premises/kennel(s)

Any commercial premises used to accommodate a detection dog during their rest period should carry adequate warning signs and display emergency information prominently. A designated telephone number should be displayed on a sign at the premises for the purposes of emergency contact, ensuring a response in the case of an emergency.

Any residential premises used to accommodate a detection dog should not present a risk to the public. Owners/carers/person(s) in charge should take all reasonable precautions with regard to safety and welfare.

Persons entering and leaving the kennels with detection dogs should shout 'dog coming in' or 'dog coming out' for the safety of other persons entering the kennels.

At all premises/kennel(s) consideration should be given to those living/working adjacent with particular attention to the effects of noise and other environmental issues.

5.5 Emergency procedures and evacuation

5.5.1 Monitoring

There should be an appropriate method for raising the alarm (i.e. someone on the premises, monitored electronic warning system, neighbours, etc).

5.5.2 Fire

The responsible person(s) for the detection dog should ensure that a fire risk assessment has been carried out for the premises and or kennelling facilities and take all necessary steps to reduce or remove any risk. The fire risk assessment should also cover the arrangements for:

- a) raising the alarm and giving warning;
- b) emergency contact details;
- c) provision of fire fighting equipment;
- d) evacuation.