

DOGS FOR POLICE SERVICE
Programming and Training



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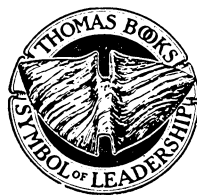
Programming and Training

Second Printing

By

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PREFACE

No breed has gained such popularity and distinction in police work as has the German Shepherd. Its special ability and intelligence has earned this distinction. Progressive police departments have recognized the value of the Shepherd in combating crime. Therefore, the Canine Unit is being integrated as a vital unit in many departments.

This book has been written with a two-fold purpose in mind. It will serve as a guide in building a dog program in a police department which has never had one. It will also show, step by step, the basic principles that are involved. Such items as how to enlist the cooperation of city officials and citizens; how to choose handlers; what records are necessary; how to construct kennels economically and serviceably; how to care for and feed the animal; and, how to transport the animal will be discussed in detail.

The book will also serve as a training manual. Details are given to obedience training, protection work, crowd control, teaching the dog to track and search buildings, etc.

It was found that departments desiring a canine unit were hindered or delayed by the limited information available on the subject.

There are many writings about the German Shepherd, his conformation, care and training as a show dog. Although we appreciate a well-formed show dog, we realize that in police work, temperament and spirit are qualities that demand more attention. A police dog must have a very specialized training.

I want to thank Officers B. R. McDonald and Calvin Stephens of the Oklahoma City Police Department for their encouragement and interest in the writing of this book.

The response and cooperation of police departments in Wichita, Lubbock, New Orleans, Amarillo, Baltimore, St. Louis, Ft. Worth and London, England, has contributed to the validity of the material covered.

I would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Jerry Pendry, Steve Hogan and Calvin Stephens for the illustrations; Sgt. R. D. Brokaw for the photographs; and, the Oklahoma Publishing Company for the frontispiece photograph.

S. D. W.

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DOGS FOR POLICE SERVICE
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PART I

**HOW TO ESTABLISH A DOG
PROGRAM IN YOUR
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

INTRODUCTION

In the following chapters, some of the problems involved in the establishment of a dog program within your department will be discussed.

By careful study and application of the suggested guides, your job may be made a little easier and your efforts more successful.

Chapter 1

HOW TO SELL THE POLICE DOG PROGRAM TO YOUR COMMUNITY

In many communities, citizens have not been sufficiently informed about the dog and his performance in police work. They are somewhat skeptical, often to the point of being afraid to have what they term “a vicious animal” loose on their streets. To those who are familiar with the history of these dogs, this “just ain’t so.” A trained dog is less dangerous than most of the dogs running loose on city streets daily. The trained police dog is under the constant control of his handler and only becomes aggressive upon command or in defense of himself or his master.

Selling your citizens on the need for dogs for the protection of their community is a vital step in the building of a successful dog program. Fear is usually based on ignorance so the citizen must be informed of the proven value of dogs in police work and be convinced that the working police dog is not a threat on city streets.

The best psychological approach is to let the citizen sell himself. The opportunity to have an active part in setting up the dog program should be provided. The method of citizen participation has been used successfully in many cities.

A group of interested citizens formulating a “Citizens Committee for Dogs for Police Work” should appear before the governing body of the city with a proposal for the inauguration of a dog program in the Police Department. The following proposal is a suggested guide: