



UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

HEADQUARTERS, PLOT 7 KIRA ROAD, KAMWOKYA

Security and Law Enforcement Unit

Our Ref: UWA/LEU/11/15.

Date: 4th Nov 2015.

TO: LEC.

FROM: Mpala Christopher Lubega (CANINE TEAM).

WILDLIFE CANINETRAINING REPORT.

Background.

Uganda Wildlife dog handling and care course for wildlife dog handlers which was conducted at Uganda police Canine training school in Nsambya for four months started on 21st June 2015 to 23rd Oct 2015. Five intelligence staff who showed interest were taken up for training in wildlife dog handling and care course. These rangers came from different Conservation areas.

Participants selected for the Course.

The following participants were chosen for the course;

1. Mpala Christopher Lubega (B.A Development Studies) - HQ.
2. Muhire Geoffrey Willy (UACE) - EIA.
3. Esabu Silver (UACE) - BMCA.
4. Ssetenda Emmanuel (UACE) - KCA.
5. Ekaju Benjamin (UACE) - MECA.

Training course modules covered.

The course was divided into two as follows;

(a) Theory- five modules.

1. Dog Training Hints.
2. Dog care.
3. Basic Dog behaviour.
4. Theory of Learning in Dogs.
5. Basic Veterinary Science.

(b) Practical- five modules.

1. Bonding of handler and dog.



2. Basic obedience.
3. Criminal man work and obstacle crossing.
4. Handling of sniffer dogs and search.
5. Evaluation of both dogs and handler.

All the above modules had many sub topics encompassed in them which made the learners learn and understand the skills and knowledge of working with sniffer dogs.

Practical areas concentrated on.

- **Language search:** this was done by hiding a piece of wildlife specimen in a bag and directs a dog to identify a bag which is positive. This was done successfully by both the dog the handlers.
- **Room search:** Here the wildlife specimen is hidden in a room and the dog is directed by the handler to search and recover the specimen. This was also conducted well by both the dog and the handlers.
- **Open search:** wildlife specimen/s are hidden in an open place, under holes, covered in grass, tree canopies, wrapped in polythene papers then a dog is directed to search the hidden specimens to find them, this was than successfully by the dog and the handlers within a short time the dog finds the specimens.
- **Vehicle search:** Here the specimens are hidden in the vehicle body parts which are difficult to identify by manual search then the dog is sent to search, identify and retrieve the item.

All the above practical exercises were conducted in the following areas;

1. Kololo independence ground.
2. ENHAS, DHL, Export, Departures and Arrival places at Entebbe international Airport (EIA).
3. Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) ware house and parking place, Nakawa.
4. Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) offices, Naguru.
5. Kasawe ground in Nsambya.
6. Uganda police Canine Training ground, Nsambya.

Attachment.

The five staff were attached for practical experience at Entebbe International Airport for one week. The dog was also introduced to conveyer belt to search the bags and other languages.

Trainees Discipline.

The general discipline of all the staff was good because all of them performed well both in class and practical.

None of the staff got involved in indiscipline cases, so there was high level of discipline exhibited by the staff.

Achievements.



- The participants acquired knowledge and skills on how to work with sniffer dogs in fighting wildlife crimes.
- The trainees exhibited high morale and interest in working with wildlife sniffer dogs
- Trainees acquired knowledge of training basic dog obedience to their dogs.
- Trainees acquired knowledge of best canine breed selection for the effective wildlife work.
- Acquire knowledge and skills in detecting explosives.
- Trainees acquired experience and skills in managing their dogs especially care, health, feeding and Disease identification.
- All trainees achieved the certificates.

Challenges.

- The meals were not good and balanced i.e. No accompaniment at breakfast, posho and beans throughout.
- Poor accommodation.

General Recommendations to avoid training challenges.

- Before trainees report, the training institution should acknowledge the receipt of the funds to eradicate failure and excuses in providing the necessary agreed on basic needs.
- The out of pocket for the participants should be raised to cater for the emergencies.
- The UWA officials should visit the trainees to find out the challenges and encourage the trainees.

Specific Recommendations for Proper and effective canine unit.

The following recommendations should be considered for better functioning of the unit;

1. Independence of the unit. The unit should be manned by trained dog handlers in giving technical advises and management of the affairs of the unit that is to say, dog handlers should have their leader, office, budget, office imprest, and other entitlements.
2. The unit should have its standby vehicle (double cabin) and a driver for the canine work.
3. The dog handlers should be provided with daily lunch at their work stations to avoid inconveniences in the name of "looking for lunch".
4. Monthly imprest should be allocated to the canine office to cater for airtime, allowances and other emergencies since this is a sitting job and there is no operation can be done by the handlers to get allowances.
5. At least one armed Ranger should be attached to each deployment point for security and escort duties.
6. Need to recruit a veterinary assistant to help in the health of the dog.



7. Need to recruit two support staff to help in washing, cleaning and other duties of the dog and their kennels.
8. Kennels should be erected in a suitable place with the technical advice of the handlers upon looking at the modern built kennels.
9. Kennel equipments, food, medication and training equipments should be put in place for the good and health canine and handlers.
10. Canine office should be provided and equipped.
11. Staff accommodation should be provided in the respective areas of work.

Deployment of staff.

- (a) Dog handlers should be deployed at the wildlife spots i.e. Entebbe international airport and border points since these points are prone to wildlife trafficking.
- (b) Two staff should be deployed at the station on a rotational/ temporally basis for a specified period of time.
- (c) Each handler should bond and work with his own dog for better understanding of the behaviour of the dog. One dog should be used for confirmation after one indicating positive at a point.
- (d) One of the handlers should be made a leader and should perform administration work. Upon the absence, long vacation and sickness of a handler that staff should move in to breed the gap.
- (e) Prior trainings and deployments should be considered since dog handling is a continuous exercise.

Trainings and exercises.

- Dog handling course is a practical job. Putting that in mind, there is need for refresher trainings and other advanced training in dog handling.
- At the interval of six months, there is need for both dog and handlers to have two weeks refresher training.
- When constructing the Kennels, a field should be fenced for dog training.

Conclusion.

The training is very beneficial to the organization and the handlers in a bid to fight a modern world recreative trade of wildlife species by use of modern and reliable canine in detecting wildlife trafficking in concealments and uplifting of UWA image in fighting wildlife crimes in the world.

CONSERVING FOR GENERATIONS