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K9 (CANINE) OFFICERS AND POLICE DOGS IN THE USA

K9 (Canine) officers are law enforcement professionals who are partner with police dogs (K9s) in the execution of their duties. Canine officers agree to the additional responsibility of training and caring for their police K9s. Police dogs may fulfill one of several roles:

- Detector dogs assist law enforcement in detecting illegal substances (narcotics or explosives, and substances such as gas that are often used in criminal activities).

- According to the United States Police Canine Association, patrol dogs are “find and bite dog(s)”, who find suspects by tracking or searching and bite and hold them.”

- Scent specialty dogs use their scent to track evidence or individuals. Dogs are usually trained in one particular area – such as missing person or cadaver search – and focus on that area for their careers.

Law enforcement can generally use any type of dog with a penchant for hunting and retrieving and for detection assistance as long as the dog receives proper training, though German Shepherds are the most recognized K9 breed. Police dogs are often sworn in as officers, receiving their own badges and ID numbers, and officers must be specially trained to handle their canine partner. Positions in K9 units are typically few in number and highly coveted, resulting in fierce competition [1].

To be a successful dog handler person will need patience and confidence as well as being comfortable working independently with dog. Future K9 officer also need to be able to judge situations accurately and react instantly to any given situation. He/she will also need:

- experience of caring for dogs and have an affinity with them,
- to be physically fit and strong,
- to be patient and self-confident,
- the ability to work a dog efficiently with minimum supervision,
- a stable home life – in some positions your dog lives in your own

home,

- to be responsible, alert and observant [2].

Aspiring K9 officers typically start their careers as police officers and must complete the requisite police academy training plus one to two years of patrol experience before becoming eligible to transfer to a specialty K9 unit. Experience as a regular patrol officer allows prospective canine officers to gain valuable experience in law enforcement, build relationships, and make a positive impression on the department. Depending on a given police department's policies, having an associate's or bachelor's degree may make prospective K9 officers more competitive in the selection process for this special duty.

Officers who earn a coveted spot with the K9 unit generally have several years of law enforcement experience. However, canine officers will have additional training to prepare them for working with a canine partner. Training typically focuses on such topics as dog obedience, crowd control, caring for a canine partner, safety, apprehension control, and tracking. Certification is available through the United States Police Canine Association [1].

Day-to-day tasks of K9 officers: 1) helping prevent and detect crime; 2) finding lost or missing people; 3) protecting property; 4) looking after dog in home [3].

A K9 police officer's salary will be commensurate with that officer's time in grade and service. Although the Bureau of Labor Statistics does not report specifically on K9 police officers, the BLS reports that, in general, police officers and detectives earn a median salary of \$62,960 per year. This annual salary is higher for police and detective in the federal government, who can expect to earn an average of \$87,130 per year. Employment growth for these professionals is expected to be 7% through 2026, which is roughly as fast as the average for all occupations and is projected to add 53,400 new openings through 2026 [4].

Therefore work of K9 officers is extremely interesting but at the same time very responsible. Prospective officers must complete certain requirements and be properly trained.

Список використаних джерел

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VALUE OF DNA DATABASE IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION: US AND UK EXPERIENCE

DNA evidence is now widely accepted as a standard forensic technique for the investigation and detection of a wide spectrum of crime types from volume crime (burglary and automobile crime) to serious and major crime such as rape and murder. The DNA database helps police to link offenders to crime scenes by matching DNA profiles that have been stored in the national database to DNA samples taken from crime scenes or suspects. It can also be used to eliminate suspects from enquiries. [2, c. 28]

The United Kingdom has been at the forefront of developments in DNA profiling and has the most enabling legislation in the world for the taking, retention and use of DNA samples. It had the first DNA database for use in criminal investigations and still has, proportionately, per head of population, the largest in the world. [3, c. 309]

The UK National DNA database (NDNAD) operates by analysis of buccal (mouth) scrapes or hair roots taken from any individual arrested for any criminal offence. These are known as criminal justice samples (CJ). DNA material collected at a crime scene is processed to produce a DNA profile, which is loaded onto the NDNADB. If the loaded profile matches that of a named individual already on the NDNADB (known as a DNA “match”), then that information is passed back to the police force who submitted the crime scene DNA material. This usually leads to the arrest of the individual (who would be considered a suspect for the crime) and a police interview follows in which the suspect is expected to account for how their DNA came to be at the crime scene. If the police do not accept the explanation offered or if the suspect confesses to the crime, then the suspect will be charged with the offence and that DNA “match” counted as a detection. [1, c.128]

The Combined DNA Index System, or CODIS, (the FBI’s DNA database) blends forensic science and computer technology into a tool for linking violent crimes. It enables federal, state, and local forensic laboratories to exchange and compare DNA profiles electronically, thereby