



CANINE SERVICE OF CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES AND ITS ROLE IN DETECTING SMUGGLING

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 14 th January 2024 Accepted: 8 th March 2024	The article analyzes the role of the cynological service of the Republic of Uzbekistan in detecting smuggling and other offenses in the customs sphere, as well as the main directions for improving the activities of the National Cynological Center and the effectiveness of the use of cynologists to protect the economic security of our country
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INTRODUCTION

The ongoing reforms in the Republic of Uzbekistan to ensure economic security pose new challenges to all law enforcement agencies, the creation of a solid legal basis for them to make prompt and effective decisions to carry out the tasks assigned to them. The ongoing work on the implementation of the standards and recommendations of the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, as well as other international organizations in national legislation requires improvement of customs administration and simplification of customs procedures[1]. At present, with the continued integration of the economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan into the international economic space, the role and importance of the customs service as a tool for increasing the efficiency of foreign trade activities of the state, as well as strengthening the rule of law in the field of international trade, is especially increasing. Nowadays, the Decree of the President of our country Sh.M. Mirziyoyev "On the development strategy of new Uzbekistan for 2022-2026", WHICH INDICATES THE GOALS - "Creation of an effective system for ensuring public safety, timely identification and elimination of conditions conducive to the commission of offenses" has become a landmark for the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan[2].

But along with the successes achieved by the Republic of Uzbekistan, it still faces acute problems that affect not only political life, but also economic life. One of these problems, which is becoming increasingly global, is smuggling, as well as the movement of goods across the customs border

in violation of customs legislation. I would like to note that the success of the fight against offences in the customs sphere largely depends on the active use of all the forces and means at the disposal of the customs authorities. Such means, along with operational accounting and special customs control techniques, also include search dogs specially trained for use in the detection of contraband and other goods illegally imported into the territory of our republic.

The use of sniffer dogs in various situations is due to the fact that they have good reactions, hearing, vision, physical strength, endurance and especially the sense of smell. Thanks to this, they can remember and distinguish a large number of smells, and then use them to find drugs, weapons and other contraband. The use of specially trained dogs to detect the illegal movement of narcotic drugs is actively practiced all over the world. along with technical means of customs control.

COMMENTARY ON THE LITERATURE ON THE TOPIC

To date, research in the field of cynological science is of the greatest importance in the activities of law enforcement agencies of any state.

A number of Russian scientists V.P. Vasiliev, L.V. Krushinsky, I.P. Pavlov, E.N. Mychko, V.A. Belenki, N.P. Dyachenko I.V., Novikova, V.I. Davydenko, A.P. Bednar in their scientific works studied dog breeds, their biological structure, nervous system and their training, and the works of T.O. Bunkov, A.A. Votinov, S.L. Bobyr, P.S. Osipov, L.Y. Denisova, V.S. Dorofeev, V.A. Demyanov, Don Silvia-Stasievich and Larry Keilar conducted scientific research on the following issues: improving the professional training of dog handlers.



The issues of determining and improving the organizational and legal basis for the activities of dog handlers in the law enforcement agencies of Russia were considered by such modern Russian scientists as P.S. Belkin, B.T. Bezlepkin, A.I. Vinberg, E.V. Garitovskaya, V.N. Grigorev, S.B. Gurdin, Y.T. Treegin, P.P. Ishchenko, V.N. Makhov, M.P. Polyakov, M.V. Saltevsy, E.A. Semyonov, L.Yu. Training of service dogs in remote control in a special direction has not been developed, Russian scientists T.A. Gorokhova, Y.A. Fedorov, A.N. Fedorkov[3] studied the methods of using chemicals in the search for narcotic drugs, but did not study the method of teaching them remote control when apprehending criminals selling narcotic drugs.

Uzbek scientist, Doctor of Economics, Professor R.A. Turapov conducted a study on the methods, state and main directions of increasing the efficiency of customs activities in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Also, the scientist O. Samandarov and others studied the development of distrust and anger towards strangers when keeping dogs, but in their works the method of training a service dog of a special direction for remote control during the detention and neutralization of criminals in law enforcement agencies has not been studied.

Smell is a type of microtraces - material formations that are in a cause-and-effect or other kind of connection with the circumstances of the event under investigation. In the legal literature it is noted that the establishment of the identity of smells with the help of a dog at the present stage does not pursue the goal of unambiguous obtaining forensic evidence. Its results are only of operational importance and are aimed at obtaining possible evidentiary information, i.e. they can be used in the advancement and verification of operational-search and investigative leads, the search for evidence, etc.[4] It is enough for employees of operational units to know when and under what circumstances it is expedient to use a service dog, what tasks can be solved with their help in the course of measures to identify and solve a particular crime.

Because of its geographical location through the Republic of Uzbekistan, smugglers are trying to smuggle narcotic drugs through various methods, and in this connection the Republic of Uzbekistan pays great attention to the problem of combating drugs and international cooperation in this area. A keen understanding of this problem is confirmed by the fact that our republic has signed a large number of

international treaties and agreements on the implementation of the Convention. cooperation in the prevention of drug smuggling.

Work to improve the training capabilities of dogs in the fight against smuggling and other offenses in the customs sphere and their direct application in each specific case is entrusted to the inspector-dog handler. The Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan has a Republican Dog Training Center, and its employees are specially trained employees who perform duties for education and training in the use of service dogs in the fight against smuggling and other customs offences. The functional duties of these employees and the directions of their activities of the service dog breeding service are provided for by the current regulatory acts of the Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The National Dog Training Center (NCC) of the Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established in 1996. Assistance in its establishment was provided by the World Customs Organization and the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) office in Uzbekistan.

This unique and unique institution in Central Asia is engaged in methodological support of canine services of law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Uzbekistan, training of dog handlers, breeding and training of service dogs. The activities of the National Canine Center have been highly recognized by a number of authoritative international structures, such as the United Nations and the World Customs Organization. It should be noted that in 2008 the Centre was awarded the status of the Regional Canine Center of the World Customs Organization, which, in turn, proves that the infrastructural,

educational and training processes meet international standards. The Secretary-General of the World Customs Organization, Kunio Mikuriya, praised the activities of the Center during his visit in 2010. In recent years, more than 2.5 thousand dog handlers have been trained at the Center's courses (cadets from near and far abroad are trained here), more than 6,309 dogs have been trained.

The main priority areas for improving the Center's activities are:

- Radical improvement of the canine service in the customs authorities;



- widespread introduction of modern information and communication technologies in the canine service;
- introduction of new methods of training service dogs and *effective* breeding at the center;
- improvement of the specialized veterinary service;
- training and retraining of dog handlers and service dogs, as well as advanced training of personnel in this area;
- development of mutually beneficial international cooperation in the field of canine and veterinary services. [5]

I would like to point out that for the training of service dogs, the infrastructure that is most closely related to the real conditions has been created in order to create the ability to perform the tasks assigned to them in different circumstances. In particular, the training grounds are equipped with containers, models of light and trucks, buses, wagons, boats, airplanes and other educational elements (artificial ruins, rock reliefs, customs control points, various obstacles and simulators). The Centre is responsible for the automated information system of the Canine Service of the Customs Committee and effectively uses the system to collect and analyse information on sectoral control, in particular the activities of dog handlers and the results of the use of service dogs. At the same time, the mechanism of placing electronic chips under the skin of dogs, which is implemented by the NCC, makes it possible to formulate a detailed database of each individual service dog. NCC employees regularly exchange experience with leading dog handlers from other countries of the world, such as Austria, France, Latvia, Korea, Russia. Also, within the framework of international projects, representatives of canine services of foreign countries are trained at the National Dog Training Center .

The main tasks of the National Cynological Center are:

- creation of an effective system of breeding selection, purchase and breeding of high-breed service dogs suitable for various types of training;
- training of highly qualified dog handlers and training of service dogs in the areas of search for narcotic drugs, weapons and ammunition, explosives, currency valuables, as well as for participation in search and rescue, protection and guard, trace search services, anti-terror, etc.;

- breeding, purchasing, selling and exchanging high-pedigree breeds of service dogs with specialized public organizations, canine services of the Republic of Uzbekistan and foreign countries within the framework of interaction programs;
- conducting constant monitoring and comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of the work of service dogs and the activities of dog handlers of customs authorities in order to identify possible shortcomings in the performance of their tasks, with the subsequent development of recommendations and proposals for their elimination;
- holding and participating in international and national exhibitions, competitions and other events in the field of canine service. [6]

Today, four-legged pets trained in the canine center serve at each customs post. With the help of these dogs, only in the last year, 304 facts of violations related to the illegal movement of narcotic drugs were revealed, as a result, more than 9 tons 175 kg and 699 bushes of narcotic drugs were found. In addition, 28 facts were suppressed - 17,299 units of psychotropic substances; 88 facts – 3.5 million different pyrotechnics; 52 facts – including 15 weapons, 15785 ammonies, 3529 cartridges, 5500 capsules, 2.5 kg of weapons powder; 20 facts of illegal movement of currency, of which 203965 US dollars, 146750 Russian rubles; 10 cases of illegal import of 266815 cigarettes.

At the same time, dog handlers who have achieved high results are regularly encouraged by the leadership of the Customs Committee, where 25 customs dog handlers were awarded state awards of the Republic of Uzbekistan for their dedication and effective service.

ANALYSIS & RESULTS

Summing up, I would like to note that in recent years, a lot of work has been done to reform the activities of the National Dog Training Center, to implement effective customs control with the help of service dogs, to increase the efficiency of the use of service dogs in the fight against smuggling and other violations of customs legislation. Including:

- To date, taking into account international standards
- , the National Dog Training Centre is conducting systematic training of dog handlers and service dogs in the areas of drug search, search for weapons,



ammunition and explosives, guard service, search and rescue services, mine search activities, trace search service and the fight against terrorism;

- training of service dogs to prevent offences related to the illegal transportation of foreign currency and tobacco products through customs posts;

- cooperation is underway with public organizations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of canine service on the breeding of high-pedigree puppies for their use in the official activities of customs authorities, as well as an increase in their number;

- In order to collect and analyze real-time information

on customs inspections carried out at customs posts with the use of service dogs, as well as offenses detected by them, an automated information program "Canine Service" was introduced;

- In order to form a detailed database on each individual service dog, as well as their accounting, a mechanism for placing electronic chips under the skin of dogs was introduced.

Today, a specially trained dog is an integral part of the activities of the customs authorities in detecting crimes in the customs sphere. Only with the correct use of service dogs, positive results can be achieved both in operational and search activities and in customs control. In carrying out their official activities, the employees of the National Canine Center constantly monitor and analyze the effectiveness of the work of service dogs and the activities of dog handlers of customs authorities in order to identify possible shortcomings in the performance of their official tasks for the subsequent development of recommendations and proposals for their elimination.

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