

SFJ ZJ4 – SQA Unit Code F2AS 04

Prepare for, and carry out, searches using a dog



Overview

This unit is about preparing for and carrying out searches of custodial environments using a dog. The unit covers searching for people and items, or searching for substances.

There are two elements

- 1 Prepare for a search using a dog
- 2 Carry out a search using a dog

Target Group

This unit applies to handlers who use dogs to search custodial environments and vehicles.

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Performance criteria

Prepare for a search using a dog

You must be able to:

- P1 obtain the necessary information to carry out the search and clarify anything that is unclear
- P2 identify the area to be searched according to agreed procedures
- P3 take the appropriate action with regard to search conditions and any hazards that are present
- P4 prepare the dog for the search
- P5 clear the area of people who are not involved in the search
- P6 remove any items and equipment that might be damaged by the dog and check they are free of unauthorised items and substances
- P7 give any missing or unauthorised person the opportunity to declare their position, and take the appropriate action if they do, according to the nature of the search
- P8 make the area accessible to the dog according to the nature of the search

Carry out a search using a dog

You must be able to:

- P9 handle and control the dog in a way that maintains its performance
- P10 promote the health and safety of the dog, yourself and others through a cautious approach
- P11 direct the dog to carry out a methodical and thorough search of the area in line with organisational procedures
- P12 encourage the dog to perform to the best of its ability and offer the appropriate praise
- P13 give the dog the appropriate access and time to carry out the search
- P14 ensure the method and operation of the search is in line with instructions and the search conditions
- P15 take the appropriate action when the presence of unauthorised items, substances or people are indicated by the dog
- P16 respect the rights of individuals throughout the search
- P17 maintain the required communication with others during the search
- P18 make accurate, legible and complete records relating to the search and its findings

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the information required to carry out the search
- K2 how to prepare for and carry out searches using a dog
- K3 organisational procedures for carrying out searches using a dog
- K4 the approach to take in situations where the area to be searched is unfamiliar to you and the dog
- K5 different types of search conditions, and how these affect the search
- K6 how to carry out searches of areas that are familiar and unfamiliar to you and the dog
- K7 the character and nature of the dog and its record of service
- K8 the general layout of the custodial area to be searched and the types of hazards that may be present
- K9 the types of hazards that may be present in the area, and how to deal with such hazards
- K10 the reasons why the area must be cleared of people who are not involved in the search
- K11 the reasons why items/equipment that might be damaged by the dog must be removed
- K12 the reasons why removed items/equipment must also be searched
- K13 how to handle and control the dog during searches
- K14 how to get the best possible performance from the dog
- K15 how to maintain health and safety during the search
- K16 methods and procedures for maintaining communications with others during the search
- K17 the contingency plans in place for searches using a dog
- K18 the relevant legislation and organisational procedures relating to the use of dogs to carry out searches
- K19 the ways in which unauthorised items and substances can be concealed
- K20 the ways in which people can hide within an area
- K21 the actions to take if unauthorised items, substances or people are found
- K22 the health and safety policy of the custodial establishment
- K23 individuals' rights and how to ensure you recognise and respect these
- K24 the importance of keeping complete and accurate records and how to do so
- K25 the purpose and format of the different reports you are responsible for
- K26 the subsequent use of reports inside and outside the custodial establishment

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Developed by Skills for Justice

Version number 2

Date approved November 2006

Indicative review date November 2011

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating organisation Skills for Justice

Original URN SFJ ZJ4

Relevant occupations Health, Public Services and Care; Public Services; Personal Service Occupations; Animal Care Services

Suite Custodial Care

Key words Dog ,Dog handling, Patrol, Search, Security
