

Standard for Detection Canine Selection, Kenneling, and Healthcare



WHAT IS AN AAFS STANDARD FACTSHEET?

The AAFS produces clear, concise, and easy-to-understand factsheets to summarize the contents of technical and professional forensic science standards on the OSAC Registry. They are not intended to provide an interpretation for any portion of a published standard.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STANDARD?

This standard addresses the selection, kenneling, and health care for healthy detection canines. It focuses on canine welfare and selection of those with the necessary physical and behavioral characteristics to perform as detection or patrol canines, including those canines that are dual purpose, combining detection and patrol work, are addressed.

Based on United States Department of Agriculture legislation, recommendations on managing the health, housing, and husbandry of detection and patrol canines secure the welfare and performance of these canines. Recommendations related to the management of working detection and patrol canines are implemented by the organizations that own these canines. Optimal physical and mental condition is required to maximize their performance.

WHY IS THIS STANDARD IMPORTANT? WHAT ARE ITS BENEFITS?

Detection and patrol canines are used in many capacities. Organizations invest time and money to obtain, train, and deploy these canines. This standard provides information to promote the selection of canines that are physically and behaviorally likely to succeed at the required tasks.

Once a canine has been selected, its ability to perform the work required depends on maintaining the health and welfare of that canine. This standard brings together information from a wide variety of sources into one location to define the care requirements for these canines.

HOW IS THIS STANDARD USED, AND WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

This standard addresses two major topics: (1) the selection of the canine and (2) the care of the canine.

The evaluation of potential detection canines for procurement addresses basic physical, medical, and behavioral requirements for a canine to be considered for a detection or patrol career.

Once procured, canines can be evaluated as single-purpose detection, single-purpose patrol, or dual-purpose patrol and detection. The requirements for each career path include appropriate temperament, environmental soundness, motivation to search and retrieve, and appropriate sociability. Requirements are delineated based on the career path.

The care and welfare of canines must meet or exceed all relevant federal, state, and local standards. A major aspect of this standard addresses how the canine is housed, exercised, monitored, and fed, whether in government/contract housing or a home. Canine transportation and veterinary care requirements are also covered.

