

THE DOG CONTROL OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

КИНОЛОГИЧЕСКАЯ СЛУЖБА РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ

Бурлакова И.Л.

Научный руководитель: ст. преподаватель Точилина А.К.
Белорусский национальный технический университет

The main task of the Customs Service of the Republic of Belarus is safeguarding of the economic security of the country, creating conditions for effective development of the Belarusian economy. At the moment Customs authorities concentrate their attention on search and prevention of illegal traffic of drugs and psychotropic substances, weapons and explosive substances, alcohol drinks and tobacco products. Although Customs officials use technical means of Customs control to counteract smuggling, there is also dog service that effectively implements its activity. Cynological detection methods have maximum sensibility, mobility and opportunities to use them in field conditions, they also have low costs of the service.

Since ancient times people used dogs for hunting on wild animals, for protection and safeguarding their houses. In the future, in order to accomplish a certain work it was necessary to have special breeds. The science of dogs has appeared quite recently, in the 19th century, and was called cynology. It examines the anatomy and physiology of dogs, their feeding, keeping, training and use in the interests of the person. At the moment dogs are used in police, border service, there are dog training center of the Armed Forces, emergency department. However, I would like to focus on the use of dogs in the customs affairs.

The history of engagement dogs to protect economic interests of the country is sufficiently long. In 1925 in Puhovichi courses of conductors of search dogs were opened but later these conductors with the dogs gave the border guard. In 1988 dog service of the customs bodies of the USSR, which consisted of 2 groups of cynologists and dogs, was recreated. After the disintegration of the USSR Belarus was one of the last countries to create its dog service. After gaining of the state independence of Belarus, in 2001 dogs were again used to suppression illegal traffic of dangerous goods through the customs border.

Customs offices buy dogs at the age of about one, then they train these dogs for three months and then the dogs are ready to start direct service. They serve about 8 years, then become subject to examination. If the dog can do its job and there are no signs of old age, it can serve more.

Currently, the dog service of the customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus consists of five departments, two groups of cynologists and of

Department of educational establishment "State Institute of qualification improvement and retraining of customs bodies of the Republic of Belarus". There are about 20 dog handlers and 22 dogs in the service. In the dog service of the Republic of Belarus the following dog breeds are used:

- German shepherd: the popularity of the German shepherd dog is in its physical qualities, a strong nervous system, acuity of hearing and feeling, attentiveness and sensitivity.
- Labrador: has high flair, fantastic visual memory and this dog is also a good swimmer.
- Staffordshire terrier: brave dog, which is a good watchdog, aggressive towards other dogs.
- Spaniel: an active dog with a keen sense, self-sufficiency and independence, but affectionate to people.

The first use of sniffer dogs to search for drugs happened in 2003 on the territory of Oshmyany customs. Further cooperation of customs authorities with the Ministry of internal Affairs for detection of illegal movement of goods through the customs border is observed. Also to improve training and studying the experience of training of foreign colleagues Belarusian dog experts take part in several competitions, the results of which are quite high. For example, in 2017 Belarusian customs officers took the third place in the competition in the city of Tashkent of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The dog service of customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus is actively developing, what is more related to the development of international cooperation. It also faces certain problems: selection of employees, selection and training of service dogs, as well as establishing the exchange of experience and information.

The creation of the powerful modern dog service is important for Belarusian customs officers and for Belarusian customs service generally.

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