

# **CYNOLOGICAL SERVICE OF THE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

## **КИНОЛОГИЧЕСКАЯ СЛУЖБА ТАМОЖЕННЫХ ОРГАНОВ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ**

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The use of specially trained dogs for detection of drugs and explosives is actively practiced all over the world. Unlike physical methods of detecting drugs, dogs detect drugs on volatile components, so in most cases they show a higher sensitivity than the equipment.

Cynological detection methods are characterized by the maximum sensitivity of detection, mobility, the possibility of use in the field, the prevalence in the Customs structures, and relatively low maintenance costs.

Since ancient times man used a dog for hunting wild animals, protection of household livestock, transportation of goods. Then, there were found a new job for dogs, which led to the emergence of specialized breeds, created to solve specific problems. The process of specialization and folk selection in dog breeding lasted for centuries.

Cynology is the science of dogs, which studies the anatomy and physiology of dogs, the origin and evolution of dog breeds, their breeding and selection, feeding and maintenance, training and the use in human interests [1].

The history of bringing dogs to guard the economic interests of the state has a long history. The Belarusian Customs cynologists have conducted their traditions since 1925, when the leadership of the Western Customs district decided to create school of Customs dog breeders. On June 16, 1925, the courses under the direction of Michel Audi Rizhevsky were opened in Puhovichi [2, p. 51].

In 1988, the cynological service of the Customs authorities of the USSR was recreated. After the collapse of the USSR, the Republic of Belarus was one of the last countries to establish its cynological service.

The cynological service of the Customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus was established in order to increase the efficiency of the activities of the Customs authorities in order to curb the illegal movement of narcotic drugs through the Customs territory.

In 2001, the Department of Cynological Services was introduced to the Minsk Central Customs. This department was headed by E.V. Kobets.

In June 2002, the department was staffed with the Customs officers and dogs. For several years, the department of the cynological service of the Minsk

Central Customs was the only department of the cynological service of the Customs authorities in the Republic of Belarus.

In 2005, the department of cynological service was also introduced in the Customs "Zapadny Bug", in 2006 - in the Mozyrskiy Customs.

In all other Customs of the Republic of Belarus till 2008, cynological services did not act as separate departments, but worked as a part of the anti-smuggling and administrative customs offenses departments.

The main tasks of the cynological service are:

- the use of service dogs to prevent the illegal movement of narcotic, alcohol-containing, psychotropic and explosive substances, as well as weapons and tobacco products across the Customs border;
- the breeding, rearing and training of service dogs;
- the special training of the officials of cynological units [5].

The cynological service of the Republic of Belarus uses dogs of the following breeds: German Shepherd, Labrador, Staffordshire Terrier, Spaniel. The first case of effective use of a service dog was the detention of several citizens of the Republic of Belarus, who were seized with 1.8 g of methadone.

The cynological service of the Customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus is actively developing and has great prospects. To a large extent, these prospects are associated with active international cooperation. In particular, cooperation with the cynological services of Russia, Kazakhstan. In addition, the Belarusian cynologists maintain personal contacts with the cynologists of Malta, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Poland, Sweden, and Slovakia.

Since 2004, the Belarusian cynologists have taken part in the European championships of the Customs services to search drugs using dogs. At the last championship the Belarusian cynologists took the 7th place in the team event. In addition to international championships, the Belarusian cynologists also take part in the national championships.

Belarusian Cynological service of the Customs authorities appeared in 2000, and on modern stage is one of the youngest services among the CIS countries. The cynological service performs its main tasks effectively and thereby helps to protect the economic interests of the country. To date, the units of cynological services operate on the territory of all Customs; staff of the cynological service includes 20 dog handlers and 22 service dogs.

Today the Cynological service of the Customs authorities has such problems as the selection of employees for the departments of the cynological service of the Customs bodies, the selection and training of service dogs, as well as international exchange experience and information in this field.

To date, the creation of its own cynological service is a very important and serious project for the Customs officers.

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