

Service Cynology Within Selected Components of the Integrated Rescue System

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ABSTRAKT

Tato diplomová práce se zaměřuje na studium kynologie v rámci vybraných složek Integrovaného záchranného systému (IZS) České republiky. Teoretická část práce poskytuje přehled základních právních předpisů a definuje klíčovou terminologii spojenou s tímto oborem, popisuje jednotlivé komponenty IZS a specifika kynologické činnosti v těchto složkách. Praktická část se zabývá důkladnou analýzou vybraných služebních kynologických center a obsahuje výsledky řízených rozhovorů s příslušníky těchto center. Závěr práce shrnuje získané poznatky a poskytuje návrhy na zlepšení. Cílem práce je posoudit a navrhnout optimalizace výcvikových a operačních metod v oblasti služební kynologie, které by mohly zvýšit efektivitu využití služebních psů v rámci IZS.

Klíčová slova: Armáda České republiky, Celní správa České republiky, Hasičský záchranný sbor České republiky, Integrovaný záchranný systém, Policie České republiky, služební kynologie, výcvik služebních psů.

ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on the study of cynology within selected components of the Integrated Rescue System (IRS) of the Czech Republic. The theoretical part of the thesis provides an overview of the basic legal regulations and defines the key terminology associated with this field, describes the individual components of the IRS and the specifics of cynological activities in these components. The practical part deals with a thorough analysis of selected service cynological centers and contains the results of guided interviews with members of these centers. The conclusion of the thesis summarizes the obtained findings and provides suggestions for improvement. The aim of the thesis is to assess and propose optimization of training and operational methods in the field of service canine science, which could increase the efficiency of the use of service dogs within the IRS.

Keywords: Army of the Czech Republic, Customs Administration of the Czech Republic, Fire Rescue System of the Czech Republic, Integrated Rescue System, Police of the Czech Republic, service cynology, service dog training.

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I declare that the print version of my Master's thesis and the electronic version of my thesis deposited in the IS/STAG system are identical.

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THE AIM OF THE WORK AND THE METHODS USED

The aim of this thesis is to examine the field of service cynology in selected units of the Integrated Rescue System with a focus on the analysis of methods of training and education of service dogs. The study aims to evaluate the current training procedures, identify possible improvements, and propose optimizations that would increase the effectiveness of these processes.

In the theoretical part, an extensive review of the literature related to service cynology is conducted to establish a basic understanding of the field. This includes defining key terms, exploring the legal framework, and describing the operational roles of the different components of the emergency system.

The practical part of the study involves conducting guided interviews with cynologists from selected service cynology centers. The aim of this research is to gain direct knowledge of the current state of training and operational issues. Based on the information obtained, this thesis proposes possible improvements and new measures to improve the training methods and effectiveness of service dogs when working in the Integrated Rescue System.

For primary data collection, the method of guided interview was chosen, which allows collecting detailed and in-depth information from the participants, which is ideal for developing a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under study. The interviews were structured to cover a wide range of topics related to service cynology and were tailored to the needs of specific IRS units.

Analysis of these interviews was conducted to identify patterns, trends and differences in the ways in which service dogs are used. This analysis was key to understanding how different units approach the training, deployment, and evaluation of service dogs.

The next step was to compare the responses to compare and evaluate the effectiveness and specifics of the use of service dogs in the different units of the IRS. The comparison was necessary to clarify what factors contribute to the successful deployment of these dogs and what aspects would require further development or change.

Such structured research and analysis provide relevant and useful results for practical applications in selected units of the Integrated Rescue System, which could lead to improved methods and efficiency in the field of service cynology.

INTRODUCTION

In today's world, where we are constantly faced with new challenges and threats, cynology (the science of dogs and their use) plays a key role in protecting and saving human lives. The importance of cynology lies not only in the historical development of the relationship between man and dog, but above all in the unique abilities of these animals, which are used for the benefit of society. In the context of the Integrated Rescue System, service cynology is becoming an essential tool to effectively deal with various crisis situations, from natural disasters to the search for missing persons.

The history of the relationship between man and dog is long and rich, dating back thousands of years when dogs were domesticated and became not only companions but also important helpers in hunting, guarding and protection. This relationship has evolved over time, and today dogs are trained to perform a wide range of tasks, from detecting drugs and explosives to locating lost and missing persons. In light of today's threats and challenges, the importance of canine science is even greater, as dogs' skills are used not only to ensure public safety, but also to protect and save lives in extreme situations.

In the context of the Integrated Rescue System, service canines are a necessary tool. Thanks to their highly evolved sense of smell, dogs are able to locate people trapped under rubble after earthquakes, avalanches, and other disasters. This ability, which far surpasses human senses, allows rescue teams to respond effectively and quickly in critical situations. In addition, dogs are trained to search for missing persons in large areas where human teams would struggle without their assistance.

The specialized training that dogs and their handlers undergo is key to the success of canine rescue operations. This training focuses on creating a strong bond between dog and handler, which is the basis for mutual trust and effective cooperation in challenging conditions. Training covers a range of specific skills, from locating and marking objects or people to working obedience and the ability to work under pressure in a variety of environments.

Although training service dogs is a demanding and time-consuming process, the investment in this area pays off many times over. Specialized canine centers around the world are developing new training methods and techniques to make dogs more effective in the field.

I. THEORY

1 DEFINITION OF THE ISSUE OF CYNOLGY WITHIN SELECTED COMPONENTS OF THE INTEGRATED RESCUE SYSTEM

Canine operations within the Integrated Rescue System (IRS) is a necessary discipline that focuses on training and deploying dogs and their handlers in various rescue operations. This discipline actively collaborates with multiple units, including fire, police, and other rescue teams, to effectively assist in crises.

1. Searching for people in rubble

One of the IRS canine units' primary tasks is responding to extraordinary events, such as earthquakes or buildings collapsing after an explosion. Together with their dogs, they locate and find missing people in the rubble, thus contributing to fast and effective rescue operations. (Paddingtonova štěňata, 2023)

2. Large area search for missing persons

Canine units also work closely with the police in large-scale search operations. Their ability to use specially trained dogs enables them to efficiently locate and find lost or missing persons, contributing to the successful completion of search operations. (Gerritsen, 2013)

3. Dog training

Another essential element of IRS canine operations is the specialization in training different breeds of dogs. These dogs are carefully selected and trained to perform specific tasks such as searching, tracking, and detecting drugs or explosives, making them invaluable rescue team members. (Koller, 2019)

4. History and Theory

Canine operations within the IRS have a rich history going back many years. The study of the theoretical underpinnings of this discipline includes a detailed examination of individual rescue units and organizations in the field of service dog training, as well as the analysis and application of theoretical principles to the practice of rescue operations.

The modern use of dogs in official service began to develop in the 19th century, when they began to be used for military purposes such as guarding camps, carrying messages and even taking part in combat operations. The First World War was a watershed period that saw the widespread use of service dogs to help rescue wounded soldiers, detect mines and monitor enemy positions. (Rulc, 2011)

The above aspects of the IRS's use of dogs illustrate their vital importance and diversity within rescue operations. Their effective use in the field contributes to a rapid and efficient response to extraordinary events, saving human lives. (Koller, 2019)

1.1 Legal Framework

This subchapter will examine the legal framework governing the various aspects of security, emergency services, and defense in the Czech Republic. Understanding the legal context is essential for fully understanding how these services operate and are regulated. The laws described in this section serve as the basis for the operational guidelines and policies of the Integrated Rescue System, the police, the military, and other security forces of the Czech Republic.

1.1.1 Ústavní zákon č. 110/1998 Sb., o bezpečnosti České republiky

The Constitutional Act on the Security of the Czech Republic No. 110/1998 Coll. is a constitutional law that regulates the security of the Czech Republic by regulating states of crisis — state of emergency, state of national emergency, and state of war. It also establishes the State Security Council and allows for the abbreviated consideration of government bills in a national emergency or war. It is part of the constitutional order of the Czech Republic. (Zákon č. 110/1998 Sb.)

1.1.2 Zákon č. 361/2003 Sb., o služebním poměru příslušníků bezpečnostních sborů

Act No. 361/2003 Coll. on the Service Relationship of Members of the Security Forces is a Czech law that entered into force on 31 October 2003 and became effective on 1 January 2007. The Act regulates the legal relations of natural persons who perform service in the security forces (i.e., members), their remuneration, the procedure in service matters, and organizational issues of service. The Act defines the security forces as the Police of the Czech Republic, the Fire Service of the Czech Republic, the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic, the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, the General Inspectorate of the Security Forces, the Security Information Service and the Office for Foreign Relations and Information. The law regulates, among other things, service ranks, minimum education requirements, minimum period of service for a service rank, pay grade, rank designation, disciplinary rewards, disciplinary penalties, term of service, standby duty, rest period, conditions of service, compensation, service income and remuneration, retirement entitlements and proceedings in service matters. (Zákon č. 361/2003 Sb.)

1.1.3 Zákon č. 239/2000 Sb., o Integrovaném záchranném systému

The Integrated Rescue System Act consists of four parts and defines the terms related to the Integrated Rescue System. It defines terms such as Integrated Rescue System, rescue work, liquidation work, material assistance, etc. The law also defines the components of the IRS, both basic and others, and their activities. The third title of the first part defines the position and tasks of state authorities and local government bodies in preparing for emergencies and carrying out rescue and liquidation work. It also specifies the exercises and communications of the IRS units, as well as the rights and obligations of legal and natural persons in emergencies. (Zákon č. 239/2000 Sb.)

1.1.4 Zákon č. 273/2008 Sb., o Policii České republiky

The Act on the Police of the Czech Republic, or Act No. 273/2008 Coll., which came into force on 11 August 2008, is a law whose primary purpose is to adapt the Police of the Czech Republic to the tasks of ensuring security and further organizes the management of the police. It became effective on 1 January 2009. The police are under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior, which creates the conditions for the performance of police tasks. The President of the Police of the Czech Republic is responsible to the Ministry of the Interior for the police activities. The Presidium of the Police of the Czech Republic consists of the Police Departments with national competence, the Regional Police Directorates, and the departments established within the Regional Police Directorates. (Zákon č. 273/2008 Sb.)

1.1.5 Zákon č. 320/2015 Sb., o Hasičském záchranném sboru České republiky

The Act on the Fire Service of the Czech Republic defines the tasks, organization, and duties of the Fire Service in protecting the population's life, health, property, and safety. The fire and rescue service has several primary functions:

1. Basic task: The Fire and Rescue Service is a unified safety force whose main task is to protect the life and health of the population, the environment, animals, and property from fires and other emergencies and crises.
2. Humanitarian aid: The Fire and Rescue Service cooperates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in receiving humanitarian assistance provided to the Czech Republic from abroad.

3. Besides everyday tasks, the Fire Service performs extraordinary tasks to protect life, health, the environment, animals, and property. These may include situations where another public authority cannot perform such a task, and there is a risk of delay.
4. Officers: The Fire Service performs its functions through officers and employees. Officers are in a service relationship, while employees are classified in the Fire Service under the Labour Code. (Zákon č. 320/2015 Sb.)

1.1.6 Zákon č. 219/1999 Sb., o ozbrojených silách České republiky

The Armed Forces Act regulates the status, tasks and organization of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, their management, training, and equipment with military material. It consists of thirteen parts and defines the armed forces (the Army of the Czech Republic, the Military Office of the President of the Republic, and the Castle Guard). It also contains regulations on the use of military weapons and special regulations on the keeping of military records. The first part defines terms such as military objects, military unit, member of the armed forces or operational deployment. (Zákon č. 219/1999 Sb.)

1.1.7 Zákon č. 240/2000 Sb., o krizovém řízení (krizový zákon)

The Crisis Act, Act No. 240/2000 Coll. on Crisis Management and Amendments to Certain Acts (the Crisis Act), has been in force in the Czech Republic since 1 January 2001. It is one of the so-called crisis laws that regulate the issue of crises. The Act was first applied on a broader scale to deal with emergencies from the 2002 floods. The Act defines the competence and powers of state bodies and bodies of territorial self-government units, as well as the rights and obligations of legal and natural persons in preparing for and dealing with crises not related to the defense of the Czech Republic against external attack and the protection of critical infrastructure, and liability for breach of these obligations. The Crisis Act also incorporates the relevant European Union regulations and regulates the identification and protection of European critical infrastructure. (Zákon č. 240/2000 Sb.)

1.2 Basic Terminology

Cynology

Cynology is the study of dogs and their behavior, breeding, training, and care. It involves understanding the physical and psychological characteristics of dogs to help improve their

overall well-being and enhance their abilities to perform specific tasks. (Merriam webster – cynology definition, 2024)

Rescue cynology

Rescue cynology is one branch of cynology whose mission and goal is to locate searched persons in the rubble with the help of a trained dog and its handler in open terrain, avalanches, and underwater. In rescue canine work, the dog and its handler form a specially trained team, an inseparable pair where one is useless without the other. (Hejzlar, 2017)

Service dog

A working dog is a dog that is not primarily used as a companion but for security purposes. It is not a strictly defined group of breeds, and opinions on using individual dogs may vary. Still, German Shepherds, Dobermans, Elder Terriers, or Schnauzers are called working dogs. Working dogs are trained for various purposes, from detecting drugs or explosives to guarding property and people. They also search buildings, search for weapons, and warn of potential dangers. (Zahradnická, 2018)

Dog handler

A handler is an individual who is responsible for the training, care, and management of a rescue dog during rescue operations. The handler is closely bonded to his dog and forms a close working relationship with the dog based on trust, understanding, and cooperation. They guide the dog in various rescue tasks and provide the care and support necessary to keep it in optimum working condition. The handler is usually trained in obedience, navigation, canine first aid, and rescue techniques to work effectively with his dog and carry out successful rescue operations. (Frankel, 2016)

Trained behavior

Trained behavior involves enhancing or diminishing both innate and learned behaviors. This process starts with obedience training and progresses through the dog's further training and exercises. If a desired trained behavior is neither innate nor previously acquired, and if there is no hereditary predisposition for a certain behavior, then attempting to teach and train this behavior will be meaningless to the dog. (Gerritsen, 2013)

Integrated Rescue System

“The Integrated Rescue System (IRS) is determined for co-ordination of rescue and clean-up operations in case, where a situation requires operation of forces and means of several bodies, e.g., firefighters, police, medical rescue service, and other bodies, or in case, where the rescue and clean-up operation is necessary to be co-ordinated from the Ministry of Interior or by a leader of the region’s level, or by mayors of municipalities with extended responsibilities. The Integrated Rescue System is therefore considered the co-ordinated proceedings of its bodies during preparations for emergencies and rescue and clean-up operations.” (Integrated Rescue System, 2024)

The Integrated Rescue System will be described in more detail in chapter two.

Emergency event

An event or situation arising in a particular environment as a result of a natural disaster, accident, illegal activity, threat to critical infrastructure, contagion, or threat to internal security and the economy, which is dealt with in the usual manner by the authorities and components of the security system by special legislation. Several terms such as emergency, emergency, disaster, catastrophe, and accident are used under this term in the current legislation of the Czech Republic. (Terminologický slovník Ministerstva vnitra České republiky, 2016)

Crisis

An emergency, as defined in the Integrated Rescue System Act, is a disruption to critical infrastructure or any other hazard in which a state of danger, state of emergency, or national emergency has been declared. (Terminologický slovník Ministerstva vnitra České republiky, 2016)

1.3 Description of the components of the Integrated Rescue System

Section 2 of the Act states that the Integrated Rescue System is 239/2000 Coll. The Integrated Rescue System (IRS) means "the coordinated procedure of IRS units in preparing for emergencies and in carrying out rescue and liquidation work." (Zákon č. 239/2000 Sb.)

It is an effective system of links, rules, and methods of coordinating individual components to prepare for emergencies and carry out the work necessary to deal with them. (Zákon č. 239/2000 Sb.)

The Integrated Rescue System consists of primary and other components that work effectively to implement population protection tasks and provide rescue and liquidation work. (Zákon č. 239/2000 Sb.)

1.3.1 Basic Units of the Integrated Rescue System

1. Fire Rescue Service of Czech Republic and fire units, based on fire cover

The primary mission of the Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic is to protect the life and health of the population, the environment, animals, and property not only from fires but also from other emergencies and crises. In addition, the Fire and Rescue Service organizes the reception of humanitarian aid in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Zákon č. 239/2000 Sb.). The main legal act is Act No. 320/2015 Coll. on the Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic; another critical act for the Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic is Act No. 133/1985 Coll. on Fire Protection.

Fire units based on fire cover form a system composed of professionally trained personnel, firefighting equipment, and fire protection means. Their primary mission is to protect the lives and health of people and property from fires and to provide practical assistance in emergencies that threaten the lives and health of people, property, or the environment and require rescue or liquidation work. (Postavení a úkoly HZS ČR, 2024)

2. Police of the Czech Republic

The Police of the Czech Republic is a unified armed force whose main task is to protect the safety of persons and property and public order, to prevent crime, perform functions under the Code of Criminal Procedure, and perform other tasks in the field of internal order and security entrusted to it by law, specific EU regulations or international treaties. The Police are under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior, which creates the conditions for the performance of its tasks. The Police of the Czech Republic consists of several units: the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic, headed by the President of the Police; police units with national competence; regional police directorates; and units established within regional directorates. (Zákon č. 273/2008 Sb.)

Police officers and employees assigned to the police have essential duties which they must always observe. These include courtesy, initiative, procedure appropriateness, competence demonstration, and instruction. A police officer can use coercive means and a weapon only if adequately trained. (Zákon č. 273/2008 Sb.)

Primary conditions for admission to the service of a member of the Czech Police:

- citizenship of the Czech Republic,
- age over 18 years,
- legal capacity,
- integrity,
- secondary education with a high school leaving examination,
- physical, medical, and personal fitness for duty,
- not a member of a political party or political movement. (Zákon č. 273/2008 Sb.)

3. Medical Rescue Service

Act No. 372/2011 Coll. on Health Services and Act No. 374/2011 Coll. on Medical Rescue Services are the fundamental laws for this component of the Integrated Rescue System. The related Decree No. 240/2012 Coll., which implements Act No. 374/2011 Coll. on the Medical Rescue Service, must also be mentioned. (Zákon č. 374/2011 Sb.)

The provider of the medical rescue service is a contributory organization established by the competent territorial region. In the territory of an area, only one provider provides the medical emergency service. Still, there are exceptions when a medical emergency service of another region may also participate in providing the service, subject to a prior written agreement. Emergency medical service means a health service which, upon receipt of an emergency call, must provide pre-hospital emergency care to persons with severe impairment of health or in immediate danger of death. The emergency medical service provider must provide such care permanently. (Zákon č. 374/2011 Sb.)

The emergency medical services provider's medical facilities are the premises and mobile resources intended to provide such care. The rescue service's medical facilities consist of a head office, a medical operations center, a dispatch base with dispatch teams, a crisis center, and a training center. These facilities may include auxiliary operation centers and workplaces to provide other health services. (Zákon č. 374/2011 Sb.)



Figure 1 – Insignia of the components of the IRS (ZŠ Písečná, © 2021)

1.3.2 Other emergency services of the Integrated Rescue System

Other emergency services of the Integrated Rescue System of the Czech Republic include:

1. Specified forces and means of armed bodies

The Armed Forces of the Czech Republic are the armed forces created by the Czech Republic to ensure its security. Their main task is to prepare for the defense of the state against external aggression. Still, they also perform tasks resulting from the international treaty obligations of the Czech Republic on common defense against aggression. *"The Armed Forces participate in the activities of international organizations for the sake of peace by taking part in peacekeeping operations, humanitarian rescue operations."* (Zákon č. 219/1999 Sb.)

The Armed Forces are divided into the Army of the Czech Republic, the Military Office of the President of the Republic, and the Castle Guard, as well as the forces and resources assigned to them by other components of the Integrated Rescue System. (Zákon č. 219/1999 Sb.)

2. Other armed security services

The Armed Security Corps performs general and special tasks of a security nature resulting from the state security policy, such as the protection of social interests and values, the protection of natural persons, their life, health, human dignity and property, legal persons, and their property. (Ministerstvo vnitra České republiky, 2024)

These include the Police of the Czech Republic, the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, and the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic. (Ministerstvo vnitra České republiky, 2024)

3. Other rescue services

Other rescue services include the Red Cross Water Rescue Service, the Association of Rescue Brigades of Cynologists of the Czech Republic, and the Mountain Rescue Service. It also includes non-profit organizations and citizen associations that can be used for rescue and liquidation work. (Zákon č. 239/2000 Sb.)

4. Public health protection authorities

Authorities that exercise state administration in the protection of public health (Ministry of Health, regional health stations). (Zákon č. 258/2000 Sb.)

5. Emergency, stand-by, specialized and other services

Legal entities establish emergency, contingency, professional, and other services. Either agreement is made between these services, but they can help even if no previous agreement has been made, and they can also be asked to help without an agreement. Examples include gas services, water services, electrician services, Czech Post, towing services, etc. (Zákon č. 239/2000 Sb.).

6. Civil Protection establishments

Civil protection facilities, which include facilities for ensuring evacuation, emergency survival, and humanitarian aid, facilities for emergency water supply, provision of legal assistance, marking of dangerous areas, decontamination of terrain, decontamination of persons and clothing, decontamination of material resources, sheltering of persons, provision of personal protective equipment, facilities for carrying out work related to the rescue of persons and elimination of the consequences of emergencies. (Zařízení civilní ochrany, 2022)

7. Non-governmental organizations and civil associations, which can be used for rescue and clean-up operations

NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and citizen associations that can be used for rescue work are essential components in large-scale emergencies. They provide material and financial assistance and psychological support for the affected victims. (Zákon č. 239/2000 Sb.)

2 CYNOLGY IN SELECTED COMPONENTS OF THE INTEGRATED RESCUE SYSTEM

As an integral part of the Integrated Rescue System (IRS), cynology is a critical discipline that plays a significant role in rescue operations and the protection of public safety. This chapter focuses on the importance and role of cynology in selected IRS components, including firefighters, police, and other rescue teams.

Cynology emerges as a vital tool for locating and rescuing missing persons, detecting hazardous substances, and supporting search and rescue operations in emergencies and crises. (Jančaříková, 2019) This chapter examines the role of canine medicine in the IRS's different components and analyzes the specific tasks that canine experts perform with their dogs.

2.1 Requirements for handler and dog

The qualification requirements for a rescue dog handler with a dog predestined for rescue work are issued to ensure the professional, physical, and medical readiness of a dog handler with a dog that can be used within the Integrated Rescue System to intervene in rubble searches for people, area searches for missing people and international rescue operations. (Kvalifikační požadavky na psovoda se psem, 2023)

These requirements are evaluated by a 3-member committee headed by an employee of the Ministry of the Interior - General Directorate of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic or a professional department of the Ministry of the Interior. The commission assesses whether the handler and the dog meet the criteria set. (Kvalifikační požadavky na psovoda se psem, 2023)

The handler needs to fulfill the following fundamental qualifications:

- reaching the age of 18,
- professional competence,
- physical competence,
- medical competence.

Qualification requirements for a dog:

- minimum age of 24 months,

- constitution and appropriate higher nervous system type by the needs for intervention deployment,
- training and level of training required,
- established endurance and physical fitness,
- veterinary requirements (implanted chip, completed required vaccinations, etc.).
(Kvalifikační požadavky na psůvoda, 2023)

Breeds of dogs that are most used by the selected units of the Integrated Rescue System

1. German Shepherd

German Shepherd is a breed of working dog developed in Germany from traditional herding and farming dogs. The German Shepherd is a powerfully built and long-bodied dog, standing 22 to 26 inches (56 to 66 cm) at the withers and weighing 75 to 95 pounds (34 to 43 kg). It is dense coat consists of coarse, medium length, straight, or slightly wavy outer hairs and soft, short inner hairs. Color ranges from white or pale grey to black and is usually grey and black or black and tan. (Morford, 2014)

Known for its intelligence, alertness, and loyalty, the German Shepherd is used as a guide dog for the blind and as a watchdog, and it also serves in police and military roles. (German Shepherd dog, 2024)

2. Belgian Malinois

Belgian Malinois, breed of herding and working dog developed in the Malines area of Belgium in the 1800s. The Belgian Malinois is a sturdy well-muscled dog of almost square proportions. It stands about 22 to 26 inches (56 to 66 cm) tall at the withers and weighs from 40 to 80 pounds (18.1 to 36.2 kg). It has a thick coat about 1 to 2 inches (2.5 to 5 cm) long, which ranges in colour from yellowish brown to mahogany with black-tipped hairs; the breed typically has a black mask and ears. (Malinois, ©2024) Police departments and militaries value the Belgian Malinois for its strength and stamina, its dexterity, its loyalty, and its eagerness to please. The breed is the subject of the 2022 film *Dog*, highlighting the breed's abilities as a protector and companion (Belgian Malinois, 2024)



Figure 2 – German Sheperd (left), Belgian Malinois (right) (German Shepherd vs. Belgian Malinois: Comparing Two Confident Breeds, 2022)

2.2 Service Cynology of the Police of the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic has a long and distinguished history of employing service dogs in law enforcement, dating back to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. In the 1920s, the first course for handlers of the Czechoslovak Police was organized in Nové Hradý, and soon after, a Police School for Handlers was established in Pyšely. In 1952, this school was relocated to Býchory in the Kolín district. (Služební kynologie u útvaru PČR, 2024)

Historically, service dogs were obtained from civilian breeders primarily concerned with their appearance. However, the police have since launched their breeding program, focusing on the dogs' temperament, which is essential for their service performance. Currently, 1023 dogs are registered with the Czech Police, with around 725 certified service dogs.

These service dogs are deployed throughout the country and are assigned to various police units, including the Regional Police Directorates, the Foreign Police Service, and the Protective Service. There are roughly 420 patrol and service dogs and 305 special dogs in regional police directorates and units with nationwide coverage. The regional directorates' canine services are integrated into their order police services. (Služební kynologie u útvaru PČR, 2024)

Several canine training centers within the Police of the Czech Republic specialize in training service dogs. Some of these centers are:

- service dog training center Dobrotice,
- training center for service dogs Býchory,

- training center for service dogs Pilsen – Bílá Hora. (Služební kynologie u útvaru PČR, 2024)

Department of service cynology and hippology

The Department provides professional training of handlers with service dogs and police officers – riders with service horses in the OSKH training centers, is the guarantor of all cynological and hippological training courses, manages the breeding of dogs in the Police of the Czech Republic, determines the focus of education and training of service dogs and horses in the breeding stations and training centers of the OSKH. It ensures the breeding of dogs for the renewal and replenishment of service dogs and horses according to the plan prepared on the basis of the requirements of individual departments of the Police of the Czech Republic. (Kynologická služba Policie ČR, 2023)

The Department also organizes professional meetings of cynologists and hipologists from regional and national departments of the Police of the Czech Republic. In cooperation with professional leading officers of the Police of the Czech Republic and training centers, it checks the professional readiness of handlers and police officers – riders and the training of service dogs and service horses, coordinates proposals and amendments to internal administrative acts concerning service cynology and hippology, submits proposals for new possibilities of using service dogs and horses in relation to the methodology of training service dogs and horses. (Odbor služební kynologie a hipologie, 2024)

It organizes and arranges the breeding of service dogs born in the kennel, and dogs repurchased from the civilian sector in accordance with the internal administrative act. (Odbor služební kynologie a hipologie, 2024)

2.3 Service Cynology of the Army of the Czech Republic

In modern armies, service dogs are an indispensable tool for some specific security activities. The use of service dogs in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Home Guard (HG) can reduce the risk of human casualties and increase the effectiveness of the soldier's task performance due to their irreplaceable sensory capabilities, such as sense of smell, strength, high mobility and the ability to make direct physical contact with the enemy. These capabilities cannot be effectively replaced by modern technology. Military service dogs are used for guarding and securing facilities, searching for explosives, weapons, or narcotic and psychotropic substances, searching vehicles, buildings, and facilities, controlling persons, res-

cue and disposal work during natural disasters, protecting soldiers and civilians on the territory of the Republic, as well as in foreign operations related to protection against terrorism. (Knipl, 2023)

2.4 Service Cynology of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic

The Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic provides practical assistance during emergencies, including situations where people need to be rescued from collapsed buildings. Nowadays, rescue cynology is mainly dealt with within the IRS by utilizing the resources of other IRS units actively involved in rescue cynology or by providing personal and material assistance. (HZS ČR, 2024)

The Cynological Service of the Rescue Service of the Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, in cooperation with the Police of the Czech Republic, carries out searches for people in rubble in emergencies and searches for missing people in search operations. The necessary certificates from the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic are issued for this activity. (HZS ČR, 2024)

Main tasks and focus of the Rescue Unit of the Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic:

- rescue work – search, rescue, and rescue of persons from flooded objects,
- liquidation works and humanitarian activities - evacuation of persons,
- restoration of the affected area
- providing rescue and humanitarian aid abroad according to the requirements of the Ministry of Interior - General Directorate of the Fire Service of the Czech Republic (from now on "General Directorate") – cynologists. (HZS ČR, 2024)

After the earthquake in Turkey in 1999, it was clear that the Fire Brigade of the Czech Republic would have to deal with the idea of close cooperation with volunteer cynologists. Until then, volunteer dog handlers, united in various organizations such as the Association of Rescue Brigades of Dog Handlers and other dog handlers, cooperated mainly the training bases of the Army of the Czech Republic. (Kramer, 2023)

Nowadays, rescue cynology, with regard to its specificity, is mainly dealt with within the IRS by using the resources of other IRS units that are actively involved in rescue cynology, or by using the status of personal and material assistance. (Kramer, 2023)

USAR

USAR stands for Urban Search and Rescue. USAR is a specialty of firefighters that deals with finding, rescuing, and treating people in a structurally compromised building - even buildings that have been demolished. In the Czech Republic, there are USAR teams at the Fire Department of the Capital City of Prague and the Fire Department of the Moravian-Silesian Region - but there are also cynologists for the USAR team at the Rescue Unit of the Fire Department of the Czech Republic or at the Fire Department of the Liberec Region. In 2020, specialists were sent to Beirut in Lebanon. After the explosion, the Czech fire brigade offered to help. This was accepted. (Kramer, 2023)

The USAR team includes not only ordinary firefighters, but also firefighting specialists – cynologists, statisticians or doctors. USAR has two structures – heavy and medium. The medium USAR is designed to be dispatched almost immediately to the scene of an emergency at home or abroad. This can include dogs from the city and municipal police forces and volunteer organizations that work with rescue dogs. However, it is important that the dogs are certified and medically fit for such travel and activities. (Kramer, 2023)

Structure of the USAR detachment:

- Heavy USAR Detachment consists of 68 persons - Detachment Commander, Deputy Detachment Commander, 2 Segment Commanders – Platoons, 2 Deputy Segment Commanders, 2 Tealers - Technical Service Technicians – Splicers, 2 Tealers - Logisticians, 4 Liaison Officers, 2 Medics, IT Specialist, Statistician, Security Officer and Planning Officer, 4 Squad Leaders, 4 Firefighting Squads - 1+9 and 2 cynology Groups - 1+4. (Usar – Urban Search and Rescue, 2024)
- The Central USAR Detachment consists of thirty-six people – 6 canine officers, a medic, 2 team technicians, an IT technician, a detachment commander, a deputy detachment commander and 2 liaison officers, a platoon leader, two 1+9 firefighter rescue teams, and a statistician. T-shirts and caps for USAR personnel. (Usar – Urban Search and Rescue, 2024)

On February 6, 2023, a heavy USAR team was sent to Turkey, which was hit by a strong earthquake. (Kramer, 2023)

2.5 Service Cynology of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic

“The Customs Administration of the Czech Republic collects customs duties, taxes, performs certain security tasks and monitors compliance with various obligations. It is established by Act No 17/2012 on the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic.” (Celní správa ČR, 2024)

Cynology is the study of dogs' behavior, training, and genetics. The Czech Customs Service uses cynology to detect and identify illegal items, drugs, illegal animal trade, and other potentially dangerous substances or objects that may cross the border.

The Czech Customs Canine Service was established in 1972, starting with training drug detection dogs. To increase the efficiency of customs activities and respond to current needs, other categories of sniffer dogs were introduced in the following years. (Czech Customs canine service, 2022) The Czech Customs Administration was the first in Europe to use service dogs trained to detect tobacco and CITES products. Since 1990, defense dogs have been trained for market checks, house checks, seizures, illegal employment checks, guarding buildings, etc. since 1990. (Eis, 2018)

Introduction of individual categories:

- drugs.
- protection dogs,
- cigarettes and tobacco products,
- CITES endangered species,
- explosives,
- guns and ammunition,
- anabolic steroids,
- tobacco – work on the platform,
- alcohol and spirits,
- money,
- Covid - 19. (Czech Customs canine service, 2022)

The figure below describes the organizational structure of the Czech Customs Canine Service.

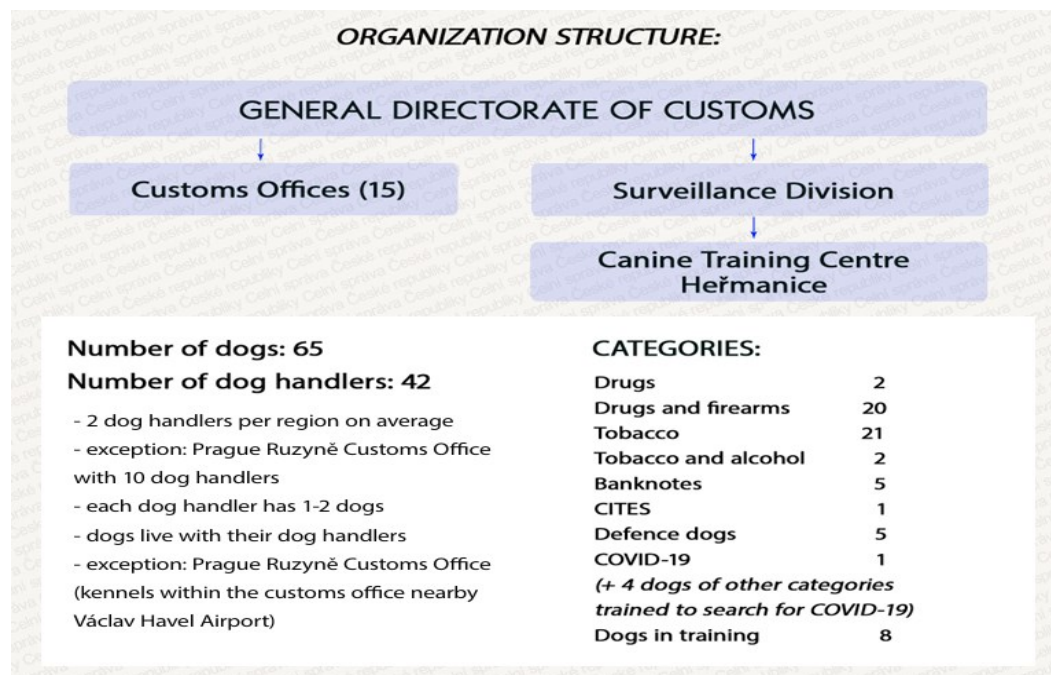


Figure 3 – Organizational structure of the Czech Customs Canine Service (Czech Customs canine service, 2024)

Service dogs are trained for various purposes, such as detecting drugs, tobacco, banknotes, firearms, alcohol, spirits, and humans in goods vehicles. They also include dogs trained to detect Covid - 19 and as defense dogs. (Celní správa, 2022)

3 PARTIAL CONCLUSION

The theoretical part of the thesis deals in detail with the issue of cynology in selected components of the Integrated Rescue System. Here, the various tasks that service dogs perform in their activities are described in detail, including an analysis of legal regulations related to this issue and a thorough definition of relevant terminology. This part of the thesis focuses on key terms such as canine, rescue canine, service dog, handler, Integrated Rescue System, and emergency.

The main aim of this part is to provide the reader with a comprehensive overview of cynology in selected components of the Integrated Rescue System of the Czech Republic. Particular attention is paid to the requirements for the handler and the service dog, including a list of the service dog breeds that are most commonly used in the individual units and a detailed description of the role of cynology within the Police of the Czech Republic, the Army of the Czech Republic, the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic, and the Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic.

Overall, the theoretical part provides a comprehensive and thorough view of the issue of cynology in the Integrated Rescue System of the Czech Republic, which serves as a basic framework for further analysis and practical application within the thesis.

II. ANALYSIS

4 ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT STATE

This chapter will explore selected service cynology centers, including the Military Cynology Center in Chotyně, the Customs Administration Service Cynology Center and the Training Center for service dogs Býchory. These centers provide comprehensive training to service dogs and their handlers. The Military Cynology Center in Chotyně boasts state-of-the-art facilities and equipment to ensure the highest quality training for its service dogs. Similarly, the service cynology center of the customs administration is specifically tailored to meet the unique needs of the customs administration. Service dogs are trained in various areas, such as tracking, search and rescue, detection, and intervention at these centers. Through rigorous training alongside their handlers, these service dogs are well-equipped to handle any situation that may arise in the line of duty.

4.1 Center of Military Cynology Chotyně

The Center of Military Cynology is a highly respected institution within the Military Healthcare Agency of the Army of the Czech Republic. Its primary focus is providing comprehensive education and training in military cynology to all members of the Ministry of Defence and the Castle Guard. Through interdepartmental contracts and agreements, it extends its services to other ministries with the goal of preparing them for participation in foreign operations. (Andrej Vítek: Výběr, výcvik a péče o psy určené pro službu u vojenských jednotek, 2021)

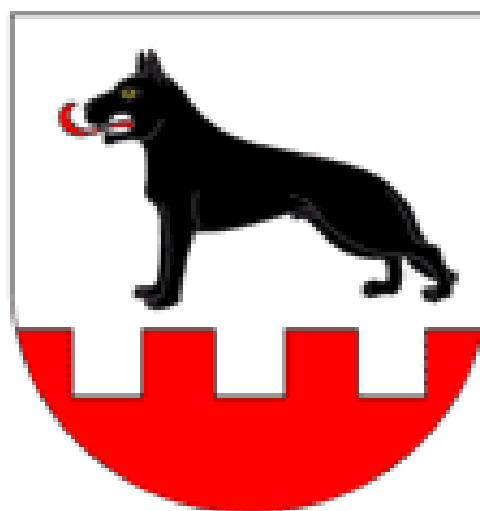


Figure 4 – Emblem of the Military Cynology Center in Chotyně (Znak VKC - Chotyně, 2024)

In addition to its extensive training programs, the Center of Military Cynology also conducts research and development in military cynology. This includes studying the behavior and capabilities of dogs, developing new training techniques and equipment to improve the effectiveness of military working dogs, and providing veterinary care for the dogs. They also offer consulting services to other military organizations and law enforcement agencies. Overall, the Center of Military Cynology is crucial in ensuring the safety and success of military operations, both domestically and abroad. (Dvořáková, 2019)

The Center is dedicated to ensuring the Ministry of Defence and Castle Guard have access to a robust service dog program. It provides comprehensive care and support for the dogs, including those unsold. The Center also oversees the training and assessment of redeemed dogs. All of its activities are governed by strict legal regulations, as well as the Ministry of Defence's policies and guidelines established by the superior elements of the Military Medical Service of the Czech Armed Forces. (Andrej Vítek: Výběr, výcvik a péče o psy určené pro službu u vojenských jednotek, 2021)

The organizational structure consists of the command, the internal security section, and the cynological training section. (Andrej Vítek: Výběr, výcvik a péče o psy určené pro službu u vojenských jednotek, 2021)

The center has two specific training units. One of them is designed to train guard and patrol dogs, while the other is meant for training dogs to detect special scents such as explosives, narcotics, psychotropic substances, weapons, and ammunition. (Liberecký kraj – Ten vede Centrum vojenské kynologie v Chotyni, 2018)

Criteria for the purchase of a service dog

The Army of the Czech Republic has a long-standing tradition of utilizing service dogs in various operations, such as search and rescue missions, explosive detection, and patrol duties. These highly trained dogs are an integral part of the army's efforts to maintain safety and security both domestically and abroad. However, purchasing a service dog is a complex process that requires strict adherence to legal regulations and standards. (Základní údaje pro chovatele, kteří mají zájem o prodej psa resortu MO, 2018)

General conditions for the acquisition of dogs for consideration:

1. the purchased dog must undergo a training and character assessment and a veterinary health check,

2. after the assessment, the dog will be uniquely marked with a chip (even if it has already been chipped in the civilian sector),
3. the dog will be quarantined for 28 days after the evaluation,
4. illness, death, or loss of the dog during the evaluation and isolation period will be dealt with in accordance with the Civil Code on the basis of a purchase contract between the client and the supplier, (acr.army.cz)
5. at the time of evaluation of the dog, the supplier must present,
6. proof of age, pedigree, or proof of identification of the dog (tattoo or chip application) and quality/performance of the dog sold (e.g. pedigree card, test certificates, etc.),
7. valid vaccination certificate for the dog (or pet passport) with proof of rabies vaccination, not older than one year and not younger than one month,
8. identification (ID card, passport). (Základní údaje pro chovatele, kteří mají zájem o prodej psa resortu MO, 2018)

Character and training criteria for the purchase of service dogs

In each selection procedure, each candidate dog is subjected to a test that includes a total of 10 exercise criteria.

These criteria (exercises) are then divided according to the category of the dog. The Czech Army currently uses 3 categories of service dogs – patrol defense and guard, patrol all-round, and special scent work. (Povahová a výcviková kritéria pro nákup služebních psů, 2024)

Criteria/exercises mandatory:

1. reaction to shooting in free movement at a distance of 25 m,
2. smooth hold at 100 paces,
3. hold – counterattack at 50 paces, 2 strikes,
4. hold in object,
5. character test – active-defensive reactions without handler present
6. working out own track, 10 minutes old, 150 steps long, arc imitating right angle, ending with an object (treat),
7. barking on command,
8. reaction to different surfaces,

9. summoning the dog. (Povahová a výcviková kritéria pro nákup služebních psů, 2024)

All these criteria are then judged by a panel of experts. The evaluation is made on a scale of 1 to 10 points for the exercise demonstrated, partially demonstrated, not demonstrated, or performance - reactions, and behavior of the dog. The final score for the dog is the sum of the scores for all ten criteria/exercises. The maximum score is one hundred. (Povahová a výcviková kritéria pro nákup služebních psů, 2024)

Commands for service dogs used in the Center of Military Cynology in Chotyně

This table describes in detail the different commands for service dogs used in the Center of Military Cynology in Chotyně. These commands are a key part of the training and work of these service dogs. Each of the commands is thoroughly described to provide instructions for proper execution and effective cooperation between the dog and its handler. With this chart, canine handlers and trainers at the Military Cynology Center can enhance the abilities and skills of their service dogs, helping to improve performance and effectiveness in a variety of military and security operations. The commands are divided into two categories – sound and sign commands.

Table 1 – Commands used in the training of military service dogs (Tabulka povelů VKC Chotyně, 2024)

Name of exercise	Sound command	Sing command
Guarding at a fixed or mobile position	"Attention!"	Pointing with the right hand in the guarding directions
Free-range sledging	"Attention!"	Pointing with the right hand in the guarding directions
Guarding on the move with an errand	“District!”	Pointing arms in the direction of the search area
	“Come!”	-
Defence of the handler during an ambush	“Heel!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
	“ Drop!”	

Name of exercise	Sound command	Sing command
Intercepting a fleeing figure at 150 paces	“Hold!”	Pointing the right hand in the direction of the helper
	“Drop!”	-
	“Heel!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
Intercepting a fleeing figure with a counterattack at a distance of 100 paces	“Hold!”	Pointing the right hand in the direction of the helper
	“Drop!”	-
	“Heel!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
Seizure of a detained figure	“Down!”	Swinging the left arm from the forearm over the dog's head
	“Guard!”	Pointing the right hand in the direction of the helper
	“Sit!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
	“Heel!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
Separate guarding of the detained figure	“Down!”	Swinging the left arm from the forearm over the dog's head
	“Guard!”	Pointing the right hand in the direction of the helper
	“Drop!”	-
	“Heel”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
Track elaboration	“Search!”	When placing the dog on the trail, the handler may point with the hand towards the start
	“Track!”	

Name of exercise	Sound command	Sing command
Recall with sit in front	“Break!”	Free movement of the right arm in the direction
	“Come!”	Left arm extension
	“Heel!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
Handling on leash (without leash)	“Heel!” (při vykročení a obra-tech)	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
	“Sit!” nebo “Heel!” (při zastavení)	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
Exercises sit, down, stand	“Sit!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
	“Down!”	Swinging the left arm from the forearm over the dog's head
	“Stand!”	Bending the handler at the knees
Suspension on the move while lying down	“Heel!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
	“Down!”	Swinging the left arm from the forearm over the dog's head
	“Sit!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
Barking on command	“Speak!”	Three consecutive oscillations of the extended index finger of the right hand at shoulder height towards the dog (command and displacement must not last longer than 3 seconds)
Aporting	“Fetch!”	Pointing with one hand in the direction of the thrown aport
	“Drop!”	-
	“Heel“	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh

Name of exercise	Sound command	Sing command
Overcoming an obstacle 1 m high	“Forward!”	Pointing the right hand towards the obstacle
	“Back!”	-
	“Heel!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
Indifference towards persons	“Heel!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
	“Sit!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
Passage through the tunnel	“Forward!”	Pointing the right hand towards the obstacle
	“Heel!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
	“Sit!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
Climbing jump 180 cm - one way (for small breeds lowering obstacles)	“Forward!”	Pointing the right hand towards the obstacle
	“Heel!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
	“Sit!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
Pulley low in one direction	“Forward!”	Pointing the right hand towards the obstacle
	“Heel!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
	“Sit!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
Long-term deferment of the dog	“Down!”	Move (wave) the left hand over the dog's head
	“Stay!”	Putting the open palm of the left hand from above in front of the dog's muzzle
	“Sit!”	Clap the palm of the left hand on the left thigh
Calm during the shot	-	-

Name of exercise	Sound command	Sing command
Search in outdoor spaces and outdoor areas	“Search!”	Pointing your hands in the direction of the search or to search locations
Search on means of transport	“Search!”	Pointing your hands in the direction of the search or to search locations
Indoor search	“Search!”	Pointing your hands in the direction of the search or to search locations
Search in luggage	“Search!”	Pointing your hands in the direction of the search or to search locations

4.2 Czech Customs Administration Cynology Training Center

The Service Cynology Training Center of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic is a specialized unit within the competence of the General Directorate of Customs for the training of handlers and service dogs. This specialized unit is located in the village of Heřmanice in the Frýdlantský výběžek. (Výcvikové zařízení služební kynologie – Celní správa ČR, 2022)

The main tasks of the training center include:

- training of handlers and training of service dogs of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic,
- the purchase of service dogs and the operation of the quarantine facility within the framework of the purchase,
- training of service dogs of other security forces of the Czech Republic,
- organization of training courses for handlers of service dogs of foreign customs administrations,
- organizing anti-drug programs with service dog training demonstrations for schools and the general public. (Výcvikové zařízení služební kynologie – Celní správa ČR, 2022)



Figure 5 – Customs Administration logo (Logo Celní správy ČR, 2024)

Criteria for the purchase of service dogs

In addition to training service dogs, a specialized service cynology training facility also handles the selection of suitable dogs for purchase, with dogs usually purchased at one to two years of age. (Služební psi Celní správy České republiky, 2023)

The criteria for selecting dogs are very strict. In addition to being in excellent health, the adept is subjected to a demanding entrance examination that focuses on selected character traits. The dog must pass disciplines such as appropriate social behavior towards people and other animals, reaction to noise and other distractions, and tolerance of different spaces and surfaces, including dark rooms or steep stairs. (Služební psi Celní správy České republiky, 2023)

Throughout the test, the dog's temperament and willingness to work are also monitored. The dog's interest in the toy, as well as its depth and persistence, is most thoroughly tested during the intake process, as this forms the basis of all further training. The dog's physical condition and general expression, activity, and behavior in an unfamiliar environment with unfamiliar people are also assessed. (Služební psi Celní správy České republiky, 2023)

Breeds of service dogs used for the purposes of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic

Among the service dogs of the Czech Customs Administration, German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois are the most numerous. This applies to dogs trained for sniffer work, which

currently make up nine-tenths of the total number of dogs in the Czech Republic, and to defense dogs. *“We also have several crossbreeds, three Jack Russell Terriers, and one of each of the following breeds: a Parson Russell Terrier, a Border Collie, an English Springer Spaniel, and a Flat-Coated Retriever.”* (Služební psi Celní správy České republiky, 2023)

Category of service dogs serving in the Customs Administration of the Czech

The service dogs of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic fall into two categories: sniffer dogs and defense dogs. Sniffer dogs are trained to search for various goods of interest – drugs, tobacco, banknotes, alcohol, weapons and ammunition, and CITES. The training period is the same for all dogs. The basic course lasts about fifteen weeks, during which the dog learns everything required in its category, including the basics of obedience. After passing the test, the dog can immediately go into service with its handler. The dog is then tested again every year at mandatory recertification courses. (Výcvikové zařízení služební kynologie – Celní správa ČR, 2022)

Commands used for training service dogs at the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic's service cynology training facility

In the rigorous and demanding field of service cynology, the effectiveness of a trained service dog hinges significantly on the commands and training methodologies employed. At the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic's service cynology training facility, a specialized set of commands forms the backbone of the training regimen. These commands are designed not only to foster obedience but also to enhance the dogs' abilities to perform specific tasks crucial to customs operations. The table presented below describes these commands in detail, providing a clear overview of the specific instructions used during training sessions at the Customs Administration's service cynology training facility.

Table 2 – Commands for the purposes of Customs Administration of the Czech Republic
(Tabulka povelů VKC Celní správy, 2024)

Exercise name	Verbal Command	Gesture Command
Guarding at a fixed or mobile station	"Alert!"	Pointing right hand in the directions of guarding

Exercise name	Verbal Command	Gesture Command
Free guarding	"Alert!"	Pointing right hand in the directions of guarding
Guarding while moving on patrol	"Patrol!"	Pointing arms in the direction of the area to be patrolled
Handler defense during an assault	"Heel!" "Release!"	Clapping left hand onto left thigh
Detaining a fleeing person at 150 steps	"Hold!"	Pointing right hand towards the direction of the assistant
Detaining a fleeing person with counterattack at 100 steps	"Hold!"	Pointing right hand towards the direction of the assistant
	"Release!"	
Securing a detained person	"Lie down!"	Waving left hand from a pre-armed position over the dog's head and clapping left hand on left thigh
	"Guard!"	
	"Heel!"	
Independent guarding of a detained person	"Lie down!"	Waving left hand from a pre-armed position over the dog's head and pointing right hand towards the assistant
	"Guard!"	
	"Release!"	
Tracking	"Search!"	Pointing hand in the direction of the start of the track
	"Track!"	
Recall with sitting in front	"Come!"	Raising left arm and free movement of right arm in the direction
	"Free!"	
	"Sit!"	
Control on a leash (off leash)	"Heel!"	Clapping left hand on left thigh at steps and turns
Sit-down-stand exercises	"Sit!"	Clapping left hand on left thigh and waving left hand in front of the dog
	"Lie down!"	
Barking on command	"Bark!"	Three consecutive flicks of the right hand's index finger at shoulder height towards the dog
Fetching	"Fetch!"	Pointing right hand towards the direction of the thrown item
	"Release!"	

Exercise name	Verbal Command	Gesture Command
Overcoming a 1-meter obstacle	"Forward!"	Pointing right hand towards the obstacle
	"Back!"	
Indifference to people	"Heel!"	Clapping left hand on left thigh
	"Sit!"	
Crawling through a tube	"Forward!"	Pointing right hand and clapping left hand on left thigh
	"Heel!"	
	"Sit!"	
Long-term down stay	"Lie down!"	Waving left hand and placing open left palm in front of the dog's snout
	"Stay!"	
	"Sit!"	
Calm during shooting	-	-
Searching in outdoor areas and open spaces	"Search!"	Pointing hands towards or into the areas to be searched
Searching on transport vehicles	"Search!"	Pointing hands towards or into the areas to be searched
Searching in indoor areas	"Search!"	Pointing hands towards or into the areas to be searched
Searching in luggage	"Search!"	Pointing hands towards or into the areas to be searched

4.3 Training center for handlers and service dogs Býchory

Training center for service dogs Býchory is the oldest police training center. Since 1929, the dog handler has been included in the systematic status of gendarmerie search stations. This was a consequence of the affiliation of the Institute for Training and Breeding of Gendarmerie Dogs in Pyšele to the Central Gendarmerie Search Department in Prague. In 1952, a new Public Security Training Center for the training of service dogs was established in Býchory, Kolín district. (Odbor služební kynologie a hipologie, 2024)



Figure 6 – Logo of the Police of the Czech Republic's Cynology (Logo kynologie PČR, 2024)

Dogs are prepared for all-round and specialist training. Dogs are certified in a particular category after completing the course and meeting the examination requirements. (Odbor služební kynologie a hipologie, 2024)

In the same way that police officers are tested every three years on their knowledge of the relevant legislation, the service dogs of the municipal and local police must meet the requirements of the patrol service. They are therefore tested every two years for obedience and defence. (Býchory – přezkoušení služebního psa, 2013)

Throughout the year, the center runs basic and specialist courses for police handlers and dogs, lasting from two to twenty weeks. Dogs are trained for general use, i.e. for patrol and emergency services, as well as specialist dogs. Training focuses on specialty scent work, where the dog is trained to locate and detect specific substances – drugs, explosives, weapons, human remains, accelerants, people in vehicles or the scent identification method. (Býchory – přezkoušení služebního psa, 2013)

Criteria for selecting a service dog

A service dog must meet certain criteria for service, generally good health, suitable personality traits and good sniffing skills, especially when used for sniffer work. The requirements for service dogs are set out in Article 31 of PPP No. 145/2014, which states that in order to successfully complete training and meet the criteria for service with the police, the dog must have:

- the appropriate type of higher nervous activity,

- the necessary physical constitution in relation to the activity envisaged,
- The habits necessary for police service acquired through training,
- the qualities necessary for the development of motivation for work,
- adequate health,
- good olfactory skills (in the case of scent work); good defensive skills (in the case of defence work). (Pokyn policejního prezidenta, kterým se upravuje činnost služební kynologie, 2024)

Breeds service dogs used for the purposes of the Police of the Czech Republic

1. German Shepherd

The German Shepherd is widely recognised as the preferred breed of police and military dogs. Versatile, energetic and rarely tired, this breed is highly intelligent and easy to train, often learning many commands quickly, which is essential in this line of work. Their courage and fierce loyalty saw them first called into service in the First World War, where they found work as Red Cross dogs. These dogs were used for a variety of tasks including carrying messages, rescuing injured soldiers or civilians, guarding, carrying supplies and guarding. (Military and Police Dogs, 2024)

2. Belgian Malinois

Often confused as a smaller German Shepherd due to their similar looks, the Belgian Malinois is just as versatile but lighter in weight, making them an excellent police or military dog. Possessing a keen work ethic, they can undertake a variety of tasks and quickly learn and respond to commands. Much like the German Shepherd, the Belgian Malinois was firstly used in World War I as a Red Cross Dog and interestingly, they were the first police dogs to be used by the Belgian police. (Military and Police Dogs, 2024)

Categorie of service dogs serving in the Police of the Czech Republic

In terms of training and use, dogs are divided into categories within the activities:

- category H (patrol activity) – performance of police cynological activities related to the security of objects and the performance of tasks in the field of security of persons, property and public order,

- category V (raid activity) – performance of police canine activities related to the performance of tasks of police organs in criminal proceedings,
- category Z (activities of the intervention unit) – performance of police canine activities related to the performance of tasks of the intervention units of the police, especially in interventions against dangerous offenders, (Strnadová, 2018)
- category of special canine activities - search for accelerants, search for addictive substances, search for firearms and their components, search for explosives, search for human remains or remains, comparison of scent traces and scent samples of persons, search for wanted and missing persons in the field. (Pokyn policejního prezidenta, kterým se upravuje činnost služební kynologie, 2024)

Commands used for the purposes of the Býchory Training Center

The table of commands presented below is not merely a tool for daily training activities; it serves a critical role in maintaining a uniform approach to instruction and response across all training modules at the Býchory Training Center. By standardizing the commands, the center ensures that all participants, regardless of their specific program or level of experience, are working with a consistent set of directives. This consistency is crucial for fostering an environment where techniques and responses are harmonized, which is particularly beneficial in collaborative and high-stakes scenarios where precise communication and predictable outcomes are vital. Furthermore, this standardization streamlines the training process, making it easier for new instructors to adopt and apply the established protocols effectively, thus enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the training programs.

Table 3 – Commands used for training service dogs – Police of the Czech Republic (Tabulka povelů VKC PČR, 2024)

Exercise name	Verbal Command	Gesture Command
Fixed post guarding	"Alert!"	Pointing right hand in the directions of guarding
Free roaming patrol	"Patrol!"	Pointing arms in the direction of the area to be searched
Handler protection	"Heel!"	Clapping left hand on left thigh

Exercise name	Verbal Command	Gesture Command
Detaining a fleeing suspect	"Hold!"	-
Securing the detained suspect	"Search!"	Pointing right hand in the directions of guarding
Guarding the detained suspect	"Guard!"	Pointing right hand towards the assistant
Lying down while moving	"Down!"	Waving left hand from the front over the head of the dog
Tracking	"Search!"	When initiating the track, the handler may point in the direction of the beginning of the track
Recall with sit in front	"Come!"	Raising left arm
Leash control	"Heel!"	Clapping left hand on left thigh
Sit, down, stand commands	"Sit!"	Clapping or waving hands according to the command
	"Down!"	
	"Stand!"	
Barking on command	"Bark!"	Three consecutive flicks of the outstretched index finger of the right hand at shoulder height
Retrieval	"Fetch!"	Pointing right hand towards the direction of the thrown item
Overcoming obstacles	"Forward!"	Pointing right hand towards the obstacle
Indifference to people	"Ignore!"	Holding hands along the body without movement

5 GUIDED INTERVIEW AND ITS SUBSEQUENT ANALYSIS

To achieve the thesis objectives, a controlled interview was conducted with professional service cynologists from the Center of Military Cynology and the Center of Service Cynology of the Customs Administration. The aim of the interview was to gain a deeper understanding of their work, training procedures, and the use of commands in a military and customs environment.

The questions were formulated in Czech and then translated into English to facilitate communication and understanding between the three groups of cynologists. During the interview, the cynologists were asked questions about their experiences, training procedures, specific skills, and the challenges they encountered in their work.

5.1 Evaluation of the interviews

Guided interview with the members of selected components of the integrated rescue system:

1. How long have you been working as a service dog handler?
 - a. Customs Administration of the Czech Republic: “I have been working in the training department of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic for over 10 years. During that time, I have gained extensive experience in training dogs for various customs purposes, including drug or tobacco detection. I specialize in training several breeds of dogs, but I mostly work with German Shepherds.”
 - b. Army of the Czech Republic: “My length of service is 20 years, with service dogs that were classified in the drug-sniffing category.”
 - c. Police of the Czech Republic: “My total experience with service cynology in the Czech Police is 22 years, of which 15 years in the training center of the Czech Police.”
2. What are the main goals and tasks of your role as a service dog handler?
 - a. Customs Administration of the Czech Republic: “In my role in the training department of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic, I focus on the preparation and training of dogs so that they can effectively perform tasks

related to the detection of various illegal substances and objects during customs inspections. This work includes everything from basic obedience training to specialized training for specific types of detection, such as detecting drugs, tobacco products, endangered species, explosives, weapons and ammunition, and more recently, detecting counterfeit banknotes or protecting against illegal human trafficking.”

- b. Army of the Czech Republic: “As a service dog handler, my main goals and tasks revolve around ensuring the well-being, effectiveness, and safety of the service dog under my care while also utilizing its specialized skills to assist individuals in need.”
 - c. Police of the Czech Republic: “I am currently serving as the Head of the Býchory Training Center, so my main objectives are to manage subordinates in order to perform all functions of the training center and to manage the premises and regime areas.”
3. What specific skills and qualities do you believe are most important to develop in dogs trained for service purposes?
- a. Customs Administration of the Czech Republic: “In my role as a cynologist, I consider it essential to develop excellent olfactory skills in dogs, as these enable the detection of various substances and objects such as drugs, tobacco, explosives, and others in challenging and diverse environments. Another key skill is a high level of concentration and the ability to stay on task even in distraction-filled environments, which is essential for working in busy and often stressful customs inspections. Of course, obedience and the ability to work in cooperation with the handler is also important, which involves trust and mutual understanding between the dog and its handler.”
 - b. Army of the Czech Republic: “From my perspective, there are several key skills and qualities that need to be developed in dogs trained for service purposes. Firstly, a high level of obedience and the ability to respond quickly and reliably to commands is crucial. These dogs must also demonstrate exceptional resilience and adaptability, as they often encounter physically and psychologically demanding situations. Furthermore, the ability to work

independently as well as part of a team is essential, meaning they must cooperate with other dogs and humans alike. High social adaptability is also necessary so that the dogs can be effectively deployed in various environments and situations. Lastly, but equally important, dogs must be trained to maintain calmness and focus even in challenging and stressful situations, which is vital for the successful completion of their tasks.”

- c. Police of the Czech Republic: “As a canine handler working at the Czech Republic Police Training Center, I would emphasize that there are several specific skills and traits that are crucial to develop in dogs trained for police purposes. First and foremost is the adaptation to diverse environments. Police dogs must be capable of operating in various, often challenging situations without being distracted or unsettled by changes in their surroundings. Motivation, whether through food or favorite objects, is also fundamental. This motivation underlies the development of hunting behavior, which is highly sought after in police dogs. Hunting behavior relates to the dog's instinctive desire to pursue and capture a target, which is frequently utilized in police work. Furthermore, the desire to learn and the ability to cooperate are essential for a dog to effectively communicate with its handler and reliably perform its tasks. Developing confidence in dogs is important because a confident dog handles stressful situations better, which are common in police work. Finally, motor learning or physical skills are key for the physical aspects of police duties, such as chasing suspects, navigating through difficult terrain, or overcoming obstacles. These skills together form the foundation of a successful police dog that is not only able to perform its duties efficiently but also remains calm and manageable even in demanding conditions.”
4. What is your process for selecting suitable dogs for service training, and what factors do you consider during this process?
 - a. Customs Administration of the Czech Republic: “When selecting dogs for customs training, the process is complex and involves several key factors that need to be carefully considered to ensure the dogs are best suited for the specific tasks within the customs administration. Firstly, we take into account the breed of the dog, as some breeds, such as German Shepherd Dogs or Belgian Malinois, have a natural predisposition for work requiring high levels of

concentration, excellent scenting skills and physical endurance. The temperament of the dog is also a key factor. We are looking for dogs with a balanced temperament that are able to work in challenging and stressful situations without losing concentration or showing signs of anxiety. Another important aspect is the health of the dog. Before any training begins, we subject dogs to a thorough veterinary examination to ensure that they are not suffering from any health problems that could affect their performance. We also focus on the dog's ability to learn and adapt to new situations, which is essential when working in the changing and often unpredictable environment of customs. Last but not least, the dog's ability to form a strong bond with its handler is essential for successful cooperation. During the selection process, we therefore observe the interaction between the dog and the potential handler to ensure that there is a natural chemistry and mutual understanding between them.”

- b. Army of the Czech Republic: “When selecting suitable dogs for military training, it is essential to consider a number of factors that are key to determining whether the dog will be able to meet the demanding requirements placed upon it. Firstly, we focus on the age of the dog, which should ideally be between the first and third year of life, allowing for sufficient physical maturity while maintaining the ability to adapt and learn. Another crucial factor is the health of the dog, where each individual must undergo a thorough veterinary examination to ensure that it is physically healthy and does not present congenital disabilities or chronic diseases that could affect its training or future service. The preference for certain breeds, such as the German Shepherd Dog or Belgian Malinois, is based on their physical abilities, temperament, and docility, which are ideal for military training. The dog's temperament is also a key element as we look for individuals with a balanced temperament who can work under pressure and remain calm in various situations. We also test for the ability to socialize, courage, and motivation to work for a reward. Motivation and controllability of the dog are essential, with high motivation to work, especially for play or food, making training easier, while controllability ensures that dogs can work effectively with their handlers and respond to instructions. Sometimes, it is also necessary for dogs to have a

specific aptitude for a particular specialization, which depends on the needs of our unit.”

- c. Police of the Czech Republic: “Currently, I prefer what are known as modern training methods for training police dogs, such as NePoPo®, ATA, and positive motivation, which have proven to be highly effective in developing reliability and performance in dogs in challenging police situations. The NePoPo® method, which stands for Negative-Positive-Population, effectively combines negative and positive reinforcement to maximize cooperation and motivation in the dog. This technique involves the dog initially being exposed to a negative stimulus, which is then replaced by positive reinforcement once the dog performs the desired behavior. This teaches the dog to associate correct behavior with the cessation of discomfort and subsequent reward, enhancing learning efficiency. Another preferred method is ATA, or Analysis of Training Attention, which focuses on analyzing and optimizing the dog's attention during training. This method is crucial for developing the dog's ability to concentrate on tasks and handler commands, even in noisy and distracting environments, which is key for police work. Additionally, positive motivation, which uses rewards such as treats, toys, and social interaction, is a fundamental technique in training. This technique promotes the creation of a trust and respect relationship between the dog and handler and motivates the dog to perform tasks out of the joy of anticipating rewards, not the fear of punishment. These methods not only support effective learning and performance but also contribute to the healthy psychological development of the dog.”
5. What are the most common challenges you encounter in training dogs for service purposes, and how do you address them?
 - a. Customs Administration of the Czech Republic: “The most common challenges in training dogs for customs purposes are ensuring consistent motivation and maintaining a high level of dog concentration in busy and distracting environments such as airports. We also have to deal with the variety of scents that dogs encounter and teach them to discriminate between them to increase detection accuracy.”

- b. Army of the Czech Republic: “I have always had a German Shepherd as a service dog, so I don't have much experience with training Belgian Shepherds, but when it comes to German Shepherds and their training, the biggest problem there is to keep their nerves under control, most of the time it is the command "let go!", so if you make a mistake at the beginning and you cannot control the dog, it is a big problem that is hard to correct. Of course, it is different for every dog, but any good handler should tailor their training to the nature of their service dog.”

- c. Police of the Czech Republic: “As a canine handler serving at the Czech Republic Police Training Center, one of the most common challenges we encounter in training dogs for service purposes is managing the diverse temperaments and learning speeds of different dogs. Each dog is unique, and not all respond to training methods in the same way. To address this, we employ a flexible training approach, customizing training plans based on the individual dog's strengths, weaknesses, and motivational triggers. Another significant challenge is maintaining the dog's focus and consistency in various and potentially distracting environments. To overcome this, we gradually expose the dogs to a variety of settings, increasing the complexity and level of distractions as they become more proficient. This helps in building their confidence and ability to perform under different conditions. Additionally, ensuring the dogs maintain a high level of physical and mental health can be challenging, especially given the demanding nature of police work. We address this by implementing a rigorous health monitoring regime, providing regular veterinary care, and incorporating mental stimulation activities into their routine to keep them sharp. Lastly, building a strong bond between the handler and the dog is crucial and can be a challenge. This relationship is the foundation of effective teamwork. We encourage handlers to spend a lot of time bonding with their dogs through play, grooming, and training together, which helps in developing trust and understanding between the dog and the handler. This is essential for achieving high-performance in-service roles.”

6. How do you address behavioral issues in service dogs during training?
 - a. Customs Administration of the Czech Republic: “As a cynologist working for the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic, I encounter various behavioural problems in service dogs during their training. Consistency and structure in the training process is a key element in solving these problems. First, it is important to identify the cause of the undesirable behaviour. This may include stress, excessive energy, or a misunderstanding of the expected behavior. When we identify the problem, we use positive reinforcement to emphasize the correct behavior instead of punishing the wrong behavior. This includes rewards such as treats, toys, or verbal praise when the dog performs a desired task or behaves correctly. Adaptability in training methods is also important. If standard approaches do not work, alternative methods should be tried or the intensity and length of training sessions should be adjusted. Sometimes it can also be useful to include more rest and relaxation in the program, which helps dogs to concentrate better during training sessions.”
 - b. Army of the Czech Republic: “I take a systematic approach to identifying and addressing behavioral problems in dogs in training for military service, with an emphasis on the individuality of each dog. My experience has shown that early identification and proper response to these problems are key to successful correction and continued training. The first step is careful observation of the dog during the various phases of training and in different situations in order to correctly identify the cause of the undesirable behavior. This requires a deep understanding of canine psychology and the ability to recognize what factors - whether internal, such as fear or stress, or external, such as changes in the environment - may be influencing the behavior. Once a problem is identified, I use a combination of positive reinforcement and behavior redirection to correct it.”
 - c. Police of the Czech Republic: “In addressing behavioral issues in service dogs during their training, we adopt a proactive and comprehensive strategy. Firstly, we thoroughly observe the dog in various situations to understand the underlying causes of the behavioral issues. This involves consulting with experienced trainers and behaviorists to gain deeper insights. Once we have

pinpointed the root of the behavior, we tailor our training approach specifically to address these issues. We often employ positive reinforcement to encourage desirable behaviors and use behavior modification techniques to replace or correct undesirable ones. Additionally, we might use controlled exposure to various stressors to help build the dog's resilience and ability to cope with stressful situations. It is also crucial to involve the handlers directly in this process. We train the handlers to recognize signs of stress or discomfort in their dogs and how to respond appropriately. This not only aids in correcting behavioral issues but also strengthens the bond between the handler and the dog, which is absolutely essential for effective teamwork in the field.”

7. What methods do you use to assess the success of service dog training, and what criteria do you apply?
 - a. Customs Administration of the Czech Republic: “As a cynologist with the Czech Customs Administration, I use various methods to evaluate the success of training service dogs, which is essential to ensure their readiness to perform their tasks. During the training process, I regularly conduct tests that simulate real-life situations that dogs may encounter during their service, such as searching for prohibited substances or obedience and command response exercises. I evaluate success based on several key aspects, including accuracy and reliability in task performance, where I measure how well dogs detect target substances or perform other specified tasks. I also assess the dog's obedience and controllability, which includes the dog's ability to respond immediately to instructions without hesitation. I also assess the dog's behavior and socialization skills, which are essential for effective interaction with people and other animals in public spaces. Finally, I examine the dog's adaptability and stress tolerance, which indicates how well the dog can adapt to new or changing situations and maintain performance under pressure or stressful conditions.”
 - b. Army of the Czech Republic: “When evaluating the success of training dogs for military purposes, I use a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods that allow me to get a comprehensive overview of the progress of

each individual dog; this includes, for example, the aforementioned cynological tests and regular advocacy of service dogs and their handlers. The criteria we apply to evaluate the success of the dogs' training are based on the requirements and standards for that type of service. They include factors such as obedience, reliability, effectiveness in performing tasks, courage, motivation, and ability to work in a variety of environments and conditions. Each dog is evaluated individually and with respect to its specific abilities and potential for military service.”

- c. Police of the Czech Republic: “To assess the success of service dog training, we employ several methods that measure both the dog’s performance and the strength of the handler-dog partnership. First and foremost, we conduct regular performance evaluations through simulated scenarios that mimic real-life situations. These scenarios help us observe how effectively a dog can apply trained behaviors under different conditions and stress levels. We also utilize obedience tests to evaluate a dog’s responsiveness to commands under various distractions. This is crucial for ensuring that the dog can perform reliably in the dynamic environments they will encounter in service. Furthermore, we track the progress of each dog through a standardized training log, which includes detailed records of their performance in training sessions, behavioral changes, and any specific challenges they face. This helps us monitor improvements over time and adjust training methods, as necessary. The criteria we apply are based on specific operational needs, including the dog’s ability to detect substances, track individuals, apprehend suspects, and protect their handler. Additionally, we assess the dog's temperament, stress tolerance, and ability to recover from setbacks, which are all critical for their long-term success in service roles. Ultimately, the goal is not only to have a dog that performs tasks effectively but also one that is mentally and physically healthy, and well-adapted to working closely with their handler in stressful situations.”
8. What are your experiences with utilizing modern technologies and techniques in service dog training?
 - a. Customs Administration of the Czech Republic: “I personally have had the opportunity to use modern technology and techniques in training service

- dogs, which has resulted in a number of positive experiences. Access to modern training methods allows for better tailoring of training to the individual needs of each dog, leading to more effective and faster results. Overall, my experience with the use of modern technology in service dog training has been very positive. I believe that the integration of these modern approaches into traditional training methods significantly increases the effectiveness of training programs while providing the best possible preparation for the dogs for their future roles in the Czech Customs Service.”
- b. Army of the Czech Republic: “I have positive experience with the use of modern technologies and techniques in training dogs for military purposes. Modern technology, such as electronic collars with GPS, allows for more effective tracking and control of dogs in the field. We also use special training equipment, such as interactive toys and simulators, to help dogs better understand and respond to different situations. In addition, training methods based on positive motivation and reinforcement of correct behavior are constantly being improved, allowing us to work more effectively and humanely with dogs in a military environment.”
- c. Police of the Czech Republic: “Utilizing modern technologies and techniques in service dog training has been excellent. It is crucial not to remain stagnant but to continuously educate we and apply new knowledge. We have integrated advanced training methods and tools that enhance both the efficiency and effectiveness of our training programs. For instance, we employ automated training devices that can deliver consistent and precise stimuli, such as scent dispensers for detection training and programmable obstacles for agility and tactical exercises. These tools help us to provide a consistent training environment and to precisely measure a dog’s responses and progress. Moreover, ongoing advancements in training techniques, such as behavior shaping through positive reinforcement and the use of biofeedback to monitor the dogs’ physiological responses during training, allow us to tailor our approaches to the individual needs of each dog. This ensures optimal learning outcomes and prepares them thoroughly for the demands of service work. Overall, embracing innovation in our training programs enables us to maintain high standards and continuously improve the skills of our service dogs.”

9. What are the procedures for training dogs to track, search, and signal the presence of prohibited substances or objects?
- a. Customs Administration of the Czech Republic: “I train dogs to track, locate and signal the presence of prohibited substances or objects using specific methods. First, we teach dogs to recognize specific odors of prohibited substances through associative learning, where the dog learns to associate a specific odor with a reward, such as treats or praise. When the dog correctly identifies the odor, it is rewarded, which reinforces the desired behavior. The dog is then gradually taught to respond to the scent in a specific way, for example by sitting or scratching where the substance is hidden. The whole process requires repetition and a gradual increase in the difficulty of the conditions so that the dog is able to work reliably in different environments and situations.”
 - b. Army of the Czech Republic: “Procedures for training dogs to track, locate, and signal the presence of prohibited substances or objects in a military environment are based on systematic and progressive training that emphasizes cooperation between the dog and its handler. Dogs are trained to follow tracks and trace the scents of target substances or objects, which involves systematically keeping the dog on the trail and strengthening its ability to maintain contact with the scent trail. They are also trained to systematically search an area to locate target substances or objects in various terrains and environments. Dogs are also taught to signal the presence of target substances or objects through specific behaviors or gestures such as barking, sitting, or other agreed-upon signals between the dog and its handler. Repeated training and progressively increasing the difficulty of tasks is an important part of the training to increase the reliability and accuracy of the dog's performance in realistic operational situations, thus preparing the dogs to perform their tasks effectively and reliably in a military environment.”
 - c. Police of the Czech Republic: “Training dogs to track, search, and signal the presence of prohibited substances or objects involves a systematic and progressive approach. We start with basic obedience training to ensure that the dog can follow commands accurately. This is fundamental because a well-disciplined dog is essential for any type of specialized training. Once a dog

masters basic commands, we introduce them to scent discrimination techniques. This involves teaching the dog to recognize and differentiate specific scents associated with the substances or objects we want them to detect. We typically use positive reinforcement to reward the dog for correctly identifying the target scent. This could be food, play, or verbal praise, depending on what motivates the dog most effectively. For tracking, the dog is trained to follow the scent trail left by a person or object. This training starts in a controlled environment with few distractions and gradually progresses to more complex scenarios involving different terrains and more distracting environments to mimic real-life situations. In search training, dogs learn to navigate various environments and indicate the location of a hidden target without disturbing the scene. This could involve alerting their handler by sitting, standing, or barking once they detect the target scent. Each step of training is repeated and reinforced until the dog consistently performs with high accuracy. Regular maintenance training is also conducted to ensure that the dogs retain their skills and adapt to new substances or objects as needed. This ongoing training is crucial, as it keeps the dogs sharp and ready for operational deployment.”

10. What role do motivation and rewards play in training dogs for military/customs/police purposes, especially in terms of obedience and following commands?
 - a. Customs Administration of the Czech Republic: “Motivation is essential because dogs that are motivated are more willing and enthusiastic to learn, which contributes to faster and deeper skill acquisition. In customs training, motivation is usually achieved through rewards, which can be physical, such as treats, or social, such as praise. These rewards reinforce positive behavior and encourage repetition of the desired behavior in the future. Rewards are not only a means of motivation, but also a way to strengthen the bond between the dog and its trainer, which is particularly important in situations where reliability and accurate response to command are needed. The use of rewards also helps to ensure that the dog not only performs the required tasks, but that it performs them willingly and enthusiastically, which is essential for customs services as these tasks can often be repetitive and routine.”

- b. Army of the Czech Republic: “Motivation and rewards are crucial in training dogs for military purposes, as they encourage their willingness and enthusiasm for learning. Dogs learn more quickly and are more likely to repeat the desired behaviour if they are rewarded for it, which may include treats, toys, or praise. This approach helps to reinforce obedience and the ability to follow commands, which is essential for military purposes.”
 - c. Police of the Czech Republic: “Motivation and rewards are fundamental in training dogs for police purposes. They play a crucial role in reinforcing desired behaviors and ensuring the dogs' obedience and responsiveness to commands. We primarily use positive reinforcement—such as treats, praise, or play—to reward dogs when they correctly follow a command or perform a task accurately. This not only strengthens the behavior but also helps to build a strong, trust-based relationship between the handler and the dog. Such methods have proven effective in maintaining high levels of motivation and enthusiasm in the dogs throughout their training and operational careers, which is essential for their success in demanding environments.”
11. What basic commands are used in service dog training within the military/customs/police training?
- a. Customs Administration of the Czech Republic: “Several basic commands are used in the training of service dogs in the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic. The most common are commands such as "Sit!", which is used to keep the dog in a resting position, "Stay!", which instructs the dog to remain in place regardless of surrounding distractions, and "Heel!", which calls the dog back to the handler. In addition, the "Search!" command is used to activate the dog to search for specific substances or objects. This command is essential to the successful performance of tasks within Customs, as the dog must be able to locate prohibited items effectively and accurately. These commands are continually practiced to ensure that the dog can perform them reliably in a variety of situations and environments.”
 - b. Army of the Czech Republic: “Specific commands are set for service dogs according to their category. While they include basic commands such as sit, lie down, down, stay, and bark, each category has its own key commands. For example, the command "look!" is essential for special service dogs, while

"Heel!" is key for patrol dogs. The new patrol-explosives category is dominated by the command "Let go!". As far as skills are concerned, it is crucial that the dog is able to recognize different scents and respond appropriately to them. The patrol dog must be able to identify and signal the presence of unusual substances or objects. For dogs in the special category, their uncompromising courage and ability to act in difficult situations is a priority."

- c. Police of the Czech Republic: "In the basic training of service dogs in the Police of the Czech Republic, great emphasis is placed on controlling the dog at a distance and at close range. Commands such as "Sit!" and "Lie down!" are basic commands for achieving control of the dog in various situations. The command "Stay!" is crucial for situations where the dog needs to remain in place regardless of surrounding disturbances, which can be essential, for example, during police raids or inspections. The command "Heel!" ensures that the dog always returns to the handler, which is important for quick movements or when the dog needs to be withdrawn from a potentially dangerous situation. "Let go!" is again useful in situations where the dog must immediately drop any object or move away from a person being restrained. In addition to these basic commands, specialized skills such as drug, explosive or scent tracking are also worked on during training, requiring additional specific training techniques and commands that are tailored to the specific needs of police work."

12. Do you have any suggestions for improving specific commands based on your experiences and observations?

- a. Customs Administration of the Czech Republic: "From my experience as a cynologist with the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic, I could recommend improving specific commands in service dog training by increasing the frequency and quality of rewards. It is important that the rewards are sufficiently motivating for the dog and adapted to its preferences. Variety in rewards can help maintain the dog's interest and motivation. In addition, it is advisable to start training in a controlled environment with minimal distractions and gradually add distractions so that the dog learns to perform commands in more challenging conditions. This gradual approach helps dogs to

adapt better and increases their ability to respond reliably to commands even in real operational situations.”

- b. Army of the Czech Republic: “Personally, I am satisfied with the commands and, in general, with the command methodology we use here at the Cynology Center. Of course, we are trying to introduce newer things like the clicker, as it has not been used that much before. However, there are also some opinions that we could try to introduce an electronic collar combined with sound commands, but in a positive sense.”
- c. Police of the Czech Republic: “As a cynologist with the Police of the Czech Republic, I would suggest improving specific commands by increasing the emphasis on gradually increasing the difficulty of training scenarios. It would also be beneficial to conduct regular reflective sessions where trainers could analyse and discuss training successes and difficulties, allowing methods and approaches to be adapted to better suit the specific needs and abilities of the dogs. In addition, more use could be made of video analysis to assess in detail the dogs' behaviour and reactions in different situations, which would help to identify areas that need further improvement.”

13. What are your expectations for the future of service dog training, and what changes or improvements would you like to see in this area?

- a. Customs Administration of the Czech Republic: “I believe that further development and innovation in this area will lead to even more effective and adaptive training programs that better meet the rapidly changing needs of security forces. First, I anticipate an increased emphasis on personalized training that will more closely reflect the individual abilities and temperament of each dog. By doing so, we can maximize their potential while ensuring that each dog receives training tailored to their specific needs and abilities. I would also like to see greater integration of interdisciplinary collaboration in service dog training, with experts in psychology, veterinary medicine and dog training working together to develop training methods. This would improve the overall quality and effectiveness of training programs. Ultimately, I expect that with continued development and research, understanding of the cognitive abilities of dogs will increase, allowing for the development of new training

methods and techniques that will better meet both the psychological and physical needs of service dogs.”

- b. Army of the Czech Republic: “I have high expectations for the future of dog training for military service. I believe that as technology advances and training methods continue to evolve, we will be able to use the abilities and skills of our service dogs even more effectively in a variety of operational environments. One of my desires is for training to focus even more on the individuality and potential of each dog, which would lead to even better results and efficiency in mission accomplishment. I would also like to see further technological innovations that would provide us with even better means to track, communicate, and protect our service dogs in the field.”
- c. Police of the Czech Republic: “For the future of service dog training, it is clear that while we can't fully replace dogs with technology, the advancement of technology will undoubtedly change the landscape to some extent. I hope to see more funding directed towards service dog programs, the acquisition of more capable dogs, and an increase in enthusiastic handlers who are eager to engage with these incredible animals. These changes and improvements would significantly enhance our ability to train and deploy service dogs across a variety of fields, increasing their effectiveness and the safety of the public. More resources would allow for broader training programs, the adoption of new technologies that complement traditional training methods, and a greater capacity to innovate and improve how we prepare these dogs for service.”

5.2 Analysis of responses from the guided interview

An in-depth interview with representatives of the Czech Republic's Customs Administration, Army, and Police revealed interesting differences and similarities in approaches to training service dogs that are key to understanding the specifics of each of these forces. Each of these representatives has extensive experience in their field, with service ranging from ten years to more than two decades. This experience has had a significant impact on training methodology, objectives, and the selection of dogs for specific tasks.

Customs focuses primarily on training dogs to detect illegal substances and objects. Special emphasis is placed on the dogs' ability to detect drugs, tobacco, endangered species,

explosives, weapons and ammunition, and more recently, counterfeit currency and human trafficking. From this perspective, a key skill is the excellent olfactory ability that enables dogs to discriminate between many different scents, which is essential for the successful performance of their tasks. In addition, a high level of concentration and the ability to ignore distracting stimuli is required, which is important for working in the often stressful and busy environment of customs inspections.

On the other hand, the Army of the Czech Republic emphasizes the physical and mental endurance of the dogs, their ability to respond quickly to instructions, and a high degree of social adaptability, which enables their use in a variety of environments and situations. Military dogs must demonstrate not only a high level of obedience, but also the ability to work independently and cooperate with other dogs and people. Courage and the ability to remain calm and focused in challenging situations are also important and critical to the successful performance of military tasks.

The police focus on training dogs to be able to work in diverse and often challenging situations without being distracted by changes in their environment. Police dogs need to be highly motivated, which is encouraged through food or favorite object based motivation. This motivation promotes the development of hunting behavior, which is highly valued in police dogs. Furthermore, it is important that the dogs show a high level of cooperation and ability to communicate with the handler, which is essential for reliable task performance.

Another interesting aspect is the selection process of the dogs, which varies from service to service. While the Customs Service and the Army prefer German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois because of their physical and mental disposition, the Czech Police prefer modern training methods that improve the reliability and performance of the dogs. This process includes not only an assessment of physical and mental health, but also the dog's temperament and ability to learn new skills and cooperate with the handler.

Overall, despite differences in specific training emphasis and methods, all three components place a strong emphasis on obedience, adaptability, and the mental and physical health of the dogs. These aspects are essential to the successful performance of specific tasks within each component and underscore the importance of a strong handler-dog relationship, which is key to successful operational activity.

5.3 Proposed measures

From the results of interviews with members of selected components of the Integrated Rescue System of the Czech Republic, it is clear that the processes of training service dogs differ according to the specific needs and tasks of each component, such as the Customs Administration, the Army and the Police. Each component emphasizes different aspects of training that are essential for the successful completion of their specific tasks. This implies that there is a need to improve and standardize certain aspects of this training in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the dogs in all components.

Data collection and analysis

Implementing a centralized system for collecting and analyzing dog training and performance data would allow real-time monitoring of training progress and provide critical information for continuous improvement of training methods. Through the use of advanced analytical tools, it would be possible to identify areas for improvement and respond quickly to any problems that may arise during training.

The implementation of such a system would require the installation of software and hardware capable of handling large amounts of data, including monitoring the health, behavior and performance of the dogs during different phases of training. This data would be analyzed on a regular basis in order to optimize training protocols and adapt them to the specifics of each dog and task. This would allow a better synchronization between the needs of the components and the abilities of each dog.

Individualized approach to training

An increased emphasis on an individualized approach to training is essential. Each dog has a unique personality and abilities that require training programs tailored to their specific needs. This approach would include increased collaboration with behavioral psychologists and specialized trainers to help handlers better understand and address the specific needs of their dogs.

Individualized training should include not only basic obedience and service-specific skills, but also specialized programs focused on stress management, social interaction, and adaptation to different environments. This holistic approach would promote the dogs' overall mental and physical resilience, which is critical to their long-term functioning in challenging environments. In addition, regular evaluation and adjustment of training plans based on feedback would ensure that each dog reaches its maximum potential.

Training and resting conditions for service dogs

Improving training and resting conditions for dogs is also crucial. Creating an environment that allows for optimal physical and mental development of dogs is key. This would include modernising training facilities with the latest equipment and improving rest and relaxation conditions for dogs, which would have a positive impact on their overall wellbeing and performance.

Modern training facilities equipped with the latest technological aids and environments that simulate real-life scenarios can provide dogs with a comprehensive training experience. In addition, rest and relaxation are critical to maintaining the mental health of dogs, which has a direct impact on their performance. Improved kennel conditions, regular health checks and adequate downtime are essential components of a holistic training strategy.

Funding innovations in training

Improving the training of service dogs also requires increased attention to funding. Improvements and innovations in training programmes, as well as the introduction of modern technology and methods, require adequate budgetary resources. In order to effectively implement the proposed changes, it would be appropriate to increase the current budgets of the individual components, which would include funding for the purchase of the latest training aids, the provision of quality training facilities and the creation of a stimulating environment for service dogs.

Securing increased funding is vital for the introduction of new technologies, such as virtual reality simulations, which can prepare dogs for a variety of scenarios that may be difficult to replicate physically. In addition, funding is needed not only for physical assets, but also for research into new training methods that could further enhance the capabilities of service dogs. Adequate funding would also support the ongoing maintenance and upgrading of facilities to ensure they remain state of the art.

Training and staffing of operators

Another key factor that should be adequately funded is investment in handler training. The provision of regular training and seminars for handlers by qualified experts is essential to maintain a high level of training. These activities should not be limited to the initial phase of training, but should be part of the ongoing professional development of handlers. In addition to funding, staffing of service dog training programmes is essential. One of the major problems we face is the inadequate number of handlers compared to the number of dogs, resulting in a mismatch between training needs and available human resources. This shortage of handlers has a direct impact on the quality and effectiveness of training, as each handler

cannot give each dog the time and attention necessary for successful training. To improve this situation, measures must be taken to increase the number of qualified handlers. This would include not only increased investment in the education and training of new handlers, but also improving the working conditions and motivation of existing staff to prevent turnover and maintain a high level of expertise.

The shortage of qualified handlers has a significant impact on the training and operational effectiveness of service dogs. Addressing this shortage can not only make training programmes more effective, but also ensure that each dog receives the attention it needs to reach its full potential. Increasing the number of qualified handlers means increasing recruitment efforts, offering competitive salaries, and providing career development opportunities that attract and retain top talent. In addition, creating a supportive working environment with access to mental health resources and reasonable working hours could further increase handler retention rates and overall job satisfaction.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this thesis effectively synthesises the findings from the extensive examination of service cynology within selected components of the Integrated Rescue System (IRS) of the Czech Republic. It highlights the essential role of service dogs in increasing operational efficiency and safety in various critical and emergency situations. The research highlights the need for continuous improvement in the training processes, equipment and methods used in cynology centers to keep pace with evolving operational requirements and technological advances.

The thesis advocates a more standardised approach to training across the various service cynology centers, which would help to create consistency in the performance standards of service dogs across the IRS. It suggests that the integration of new technologies, such as virtual reality and advanced simulation tools, could significantly enhance realistic training environments, thereby better preparing dogs for real-life scenarios.

In addition, the conclusion points to the need for increased collaboration and knowledge sharing between different cynological centers. This could lead to better use of resources, innovative training methods and ultimately more skilled and versatile service dogs. The findings also emphasise the importance of welfare-oriented practices that ensure the physical and mental health of dogs, which is paramount not only to their performance but also to their well-being.

Overall, this thesis provides valuable insights into the field of service canine studies and offers practical recommendations for enhancements that could lead to significant improvements in the capabilities and effectiveness of service dogs within the IRS. These recommendations, if implemented, could potentially increase the success rates of operations involving service dogs and ensure a higher level of safety and efficiency in emergency and rescue operations.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
HG	Home Guard
IRS	Integrated Rescue System
MoD	Ministry of Defence
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
VKC	výcvikové kynologické centrum

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APPENDICES

Appendix P I: Guided interview

APPENDIX P I: GUIDED INTERVIEW

Otázky pro služebního kynologa Armády České republiky

1. Jak dlouho jste již pracoval/a jako vojenský kynolog a jaké máte zkušenosti s výcvikem psů pro vojenské účely?
2. Jaké jsou hlavní cíle a úkoly vaší role jako vojenského kynologa?
3. Jaké specifické dovednosti a vlastnosti je podle vás nejdůležitější rozvíjet u psů, kteří jsou vycvičeni pro vojenské účely?
4. Jaký je váš postup při výběru vhodných psů pro vojenský výcvik a jaké faktory při tomto procesu zohledňujete?
5. Jaké jsou nejčastější výzvy, se kterými se setkáváte při výcviku psů pro vojenské účely a jak s nimi pracujete?
6. Jaký je váš postup při identifikaci a řešení behaviorálních problémů u psů ve výcviku pro vojenskou službu?
7. Jaké metody používáte k hodnocení úspěšnosti výcviku psů pro vojenské účely a jaká kritéria při tom aplikujete?
8. Jaké jsou vaše zkušenosti s využíváním moderních technologií a technik ve výcviku psů pro vojenské účely?
9. Jaká očekávání máte ohledně budoucnosti výcviku psů pro vojenskou službu a jaké změny nebo vylepšení si přejete vidět v této oblasti?
10. Jakým způsobem se učí psi rozpoznávat specifické vojenské nálezy a jaké povelové techniky jsou využívány k posílení této dovednosti?
11. Jaké jsou postupy pro výcvik psů k provádění sledování, vyhledávání a signalizace přítomnosti zakázaných látek nebo předmětů ve vojenském prostředí?
12. Jaká role hraje motivace a odměny ve výcviku psů pro vojenské účely, zejména pokud jde o poslušnost a dodržování povelů?
13. Jaké základní povely jsou využívány při výcviku služebních psů v rámci vojenského prostředí?

14. Máte nějaké návrhy na zlepšení konkrétních povelů v rámci výcviku psů na základě vašich zkušeností a pozorování ve vojenském kontextu?

Otázky pro služebního kynologa Celní správy České republiky

1. Jak dlouho jste již pracoval/a ve výcvikovém oddělení celní správy a jaké máte zkušenosti s výcvikem psů pro celní účely?
2. Jaké jsou hlavní cíle a úkoly vaší role ve výcvikovém oddělení celní správy?
3. Jaké specifické dovednosti a vlastnosti je dle vašeho názoru nejdůležitější rozvíjet u psů, kteří jsou vycvičeni pro celní účely?
4. Jaký je váš postup při výběru vhodných psů pro celní výcvik a jaké faktory při tomto procesu zohledňujete?
5. Jaké jsou nejčastější výzvy, se kterými se setkáváte při výcviku psů pro celní účely a jak s nimi pracujete?
6. Jaký je váš postup při identifikaci a řešení behaviorálních problémů u psů ve výcviku pro celní službu?
7. Jaké metody používáte k hodnocení úspěšnosti výcviku psů pro celní účely a jaké kritéria při tom aplikujete?
8. Jaké jsou vaše zkušenosti s využíváním moderních technologií a technik ve výcviku psů pro celní účely?
9. Jaká očekávání máte ohledně budoucnosti výcviku psů pro celní službu a jaké změny nebo vylepšení si přejete vidět v této oblasti?
10. Jakým způsobem se učí psi rozpoznávat specifické celní nálezy a jaké povelové techniky jsou využívány k posílení této dovednosti?
11. Jaké jsou postupy pro výcvik psů k provádění sledování, vyhledávání a signalizace přítomnosti zakázaných látek nebo předmětů?
12. Jaká role hraje motivace a odměny ve výcviku psů pro celní účely, zejména pokud jde o poslušnost a dodržování povelů?
13. Jaké základní povely jsou využívány při výcviku služebních psů?
14. Máte nějaké návrhy na zlepšení konkrétních povelů v rámci výcviku psů na základě vašich zkušeností a pozorování?

Otázky pro kynologa Policie České republiky

1. Jak dlouho jste již pracoval/a ve výcvikovém centru PČR a jaké máte zkušenosti s výcvikem psů pro účely PČR?
2. Jaké jsou hlavní cíle a úkoly vaší role ve výcvikovém centru PČR v Býchory?
3. Jaké specifické dovednosti a vlastnosti je dle vašeho názoru nejdůležitější rozvíjet u psů, kteří jsou vycvičeni pro účely PČR?
4. Jaký je váš postup při výběru vhodných psů pro výcvik a jaké faktory při tomto procesu zohledňujete?
5. Jaké jsou nejčastější výzvy, se kterými se setkáváte při výcviku psů pro účely PČR a jak s nimi pracujete?
6. Jaký je váš postup při identifikaci a řešení behaviorálních problémů u psů ve výcviku pro PČR?
7. Jaké metody používáte k hodnocení úspěšnosti výcviku psů pro účely PČR a jaké kritéria při tom aplikujete?
8. Jaké jsou vaše zkušenosti s využíváním moderních technologií a technik ve výcviku psů pro účely PČR?
9. Jaká očekávání máte ohledně budoucnosti výcviku psů sloužících u PČR a jaké změny nebo vylepšení si přejete vidět v této oblasti?
10. Jakým způsobem se učí psi rozpoznávat specifické nálezy a jaké povelové techniky jsou využívány k posílení této dovednosti?
11. Jaké jsou postupy pro výcvik psů k provádění sledování, vyhledávání a signalizace přítomnosti zakázaných látek nebo předmětů?
12. Jaká role hraje motivace a odměny ve výcviku psů pro celní účely, zejména pokud jde o poslušnost a dodržování povelů?
13. Jaké základní povely jsou využívány při výcviku služebních psů?
14. Máte nějaké návrhy na zlepšení konkrétních povelů v rámci výcviku psů na základě vašich zkušeností a pozorování?