

TESTING AND ANALYZING OF PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS OF SCENT DETECTION DOGS IN SEARCH OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES.

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RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

The study focuses on how service dogs distinguish between different variations of ecstasy and amphetamine, and what substances should be used in their training to ensure the highest possible accuracy and reliability. The study focuses on the specificity of service dogs' noses - the ability to correctly select a target odor from a mixture of drug related odors.

RESEARCH PURPOSE

The aim of the study is to validate the amount and composition of the training material used to detect ecstasy and amphetamine, and to develop standardized training and handling protocols that would support consistent and high levels of odor recognition. Training that, directs dogs to respond primarily to the active substance, rather than to other components used in the manufacture of tablets.



METHODOLOGY

The test will involve all drug detection service dogs from Estonian authorities, who are trained at the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences Service Dog Training Center.

The test will take place in a console system. Each dog will be assigned ten different selection paths with ten consoles.

The consoles will be sterilized at washing machine at 95 degrees for each dog to remove the odor left by the previous dog.

Each dog will sniff through 100 consoles, which may contain confiscated Ecstasy tablets or Amphetamine of different compositions, pure narcotics, over-the-counter medications, packaging material, rubber gloves, etc. The dog handler and the dog cannot see which console the target is hidden in. If the dog thinks it has identified the target, it will point to it in the manner it was taught.

RESULTS

The tests will end in July. 32 dogs have currently participated in the trial. The aim is to obtain comparable data on 20 dogs in detecting amphetamine and to publish the results (ETIS 1.1, 2.5, 6.3).

