DOG WELFARE

LAKE DISTRICT MOUNTAIN RESCUE SEARCH DOGS
ABOUT ME:

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• TRAINED 3 MOUNTAIN RESCUE SEARCH DOGS
• WILDERNESS AND AVALANCHE
ICAR BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR DOG HANDLERS WITH REGARD TO HEALTH SAFETY AND WELLBEING

1. Nutrition & Hydration

2. Hazard Analysis

3. Physically fit and capable of carrying out the task required

4. Equipment

5. Behavioural
ICAR: Overall, the proper balance of protein, energy, vitamins and all nutritionally important minerals in the dogs' diets are needed to make a successful nutritional diet that is both healthy and productive for a search dog diet. Also crucial to the nutrition program for search dogs is access to clean drinking water.

WATER — the ultimate nutrient:

- Dehydration — dogs don’t sweat as we do
- Cools / prevents overheating
- Wet nose needed for effective scent detection
- Dogs must have access to clean water — carry on hill
- Add water to meals
What does balanced diet mean?

Obesity/cancer/skin irritations/heart disease/arthriti....

On the rise, parallels rise in humans

Cellular and gene health influenced by diet

Poor nutrition leads to chronic disease, food intolerances and allergies

Foods that promote healthy cells and genes are called functional foods

What are functional foods for dogs?

• Provide essential vitamins, minerals, nutrients
• Fight and supress disease
• Different for every dog
NUTRITION & HYDRATION

• Carbohydrates? Not needed-functional C’s have good health benefits-include fruit/veg/gluten free grains

• Proteins? – v. Important for production of antibodies, connective tissue, muscles, amino acids, circulation…

• Therefore, a good quantity of quality proteins are needed to provide essential amino acids that dogs cannot produce themselves

• Functional proteins include: dairy-milk/cheese/yogurt-eggs-fish-muscle meat-organ meat

• Not all protein is digestible – puts pressure on digestive system
• Fats? – dogs DO NOT need a no or low fat diet-unless medical reason.
• Fat important source of nutrients
• Most important concentrated source of energy (Burn it 2x faster than us)-generate less heat-stay cooler
• Twice the calories than carbs/protein, smaller quantities needed – weight control
• Functional fats: in meat/dairy/oils/fatty fish -omega 3
• Avoid Hydrogenated oils/trans fats (go solid)

REMEMBER:
• Dogs are carnivores – meat should be main component of meals- not carbohydrates
• Bones are needed to provide calcium, jaw strength, clean teeth

Supplements: Vitamins/joints/arthritis....
HILL FOOD

• What should dogs eat when working?

Fat and protein:
• High Fat content is the best source of energy
• Good quality protein that is easily digestible is needed for good health, maintenance of muscles and circulation
• Functional carbohydrates-minor content to provide vitamins and nutrients.

Why should we feed dogs when working?
• Maintains energy and stamina and performance, helps prevents fatigue/cramps

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2. HAZARD ANALYSIS

ICAR: The process of recognizing hazards and risks that may arise from the environment and identifying their unwanted consequences and analyzing their potential causes and putting into place manageable control measures.-Risk Assessment

• Environment – extreme conditions: heat, cold-snow, ice, wind, sleet, storms-lightening, heavy rain, water-swift/floods……

• Terrain-avalanche/woodland/mountains/cliffs/bog/sinking sands/marshes/tides/URBAN/CREVASSE/ROCK FORMATIONS……

• Human factors-accidents-injuries caused by handler/others/equipment

• Vehicles/helicopters/travel

• Potentially aggressive/violent missing persons

• Noise/dust

• Animals/wildlife-UK-cows/snakes
HAZARD ANALYSIS

LOCKERBIE - AVIATION FUEL/DEBRIS

GRAYRIGG TRAIN CRASH

• Unusual incidents:
  • Plane/train crashes/shootings...floods
  • Chemicals/gases/fuels/sharp/explosion risk/shot

• IMPACT ON PERFORMANCE/INJURY RISK
• MANAGE/ADAPT TO SITUATION
3. PHYSICALLY FIT AND CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT THE TASK REQUIRED

ICAR: Ensuring the state of health and well-being and, more specifically, the ability to perform all aspects of search dog activities.

Physical fitness is generally achieved through proper physical exercise and sufficient rest.

WORKING /TRAINING:
• Build up stamina
  • Gradually build fitness/stamina
  • Time/training frequency
  • Terrain-agility/confidence
• Ability to work in all weathers
• Maintain performance
• Warm up/down-stretching/massage
• Hill Food – maintain energy
PHYSICALLY FIT AND CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT THE TASK REQUIRED CONT..

AT REST:

• Provide safe calm rest area
• Bed – large enough to stretch out
  • home and vehicle-especially overnight
  • Small space/curved bed-plastic?-encourage curved spine/cramped muscles
• Consider stretching exercises and massage
  • Keeps joints/muscles supple
  • Helps prevent injuries
  • Promotes recovery
  • Relaxation/Good mental state
• Keep warm – joint problems –use heat and wraps e.g. Back on track
• Food after searching
4. EQUIPMENT

ICAR: Providing and utilising suitable equipment to protect the search dogs exposed to the identified hazards, from the risks of injury and illness.

- Protect from elements – cold and heat
- Harnesses – pulling/tethering/HELICOPTER -protect neck
- Eye/ear protection
- Paw protection
- Buoyancy aids
- Vehicles – restraint/safety/space
- Unusual searches – chemicals/gases/fuels
- Parasites-ticks/flies/fleas
COLD WEATHER

- When working/standing – shelter/ jackets
- Jackets-insulated/shell-protects from Wind/snow/sleet
- Jerven bags for training – provide shelter/warmth
- Boots/socks/paw wax – harsh terrain/snow/ice
- Doggles
- Hill food&water
EQUIPMENT - HEAT

• Shade/water/cooling jackets/pads
• Beware of heat exhaustion/heat stroke
• Regular breaks/short working times
• Carry lots of water
• Sunscreen for pale fur/visible skin-like noses
• Keep long coats trimmed
• Boots/wax to protect pads from hot surfaces/chemicals

• In vehicles? – Screws/fans/cool pads/jackets
WORKING WITH HELICOPTERS

• The new SAR helicopter – the S92-strong downwash so both handler and dog need to wear ‘doggles’ to prevent damage from grit or stones thrown up.

• We don’t currently use ear protection – should we?

• Dog harnesses – need to be safe, light and supportive

• Dog attachment to handler – chest harness
5. BEHAVIORAL

ICAR: Coordinated responses of handlers and search dogs to internal and external stimuli.

Including progressing at a suitable rate, in line with the physical and emotional state of the dog.

• Positive reward training/support dog
  • Dogs mature at different rates/breed TRAITS
  • Adapt training to suit
  • Socialisation/habitualisation
  • Confidence

• Dog/handler bond

• Reading body language

• Handler ability to control mental state under stress
  • Be the same person for the dog
  • Bad weather – cold/hot
  • Helicopters/TRAVEL/VEHICLES
  • Working with other dogs/ANIMALS
  • Unusual situations

• Dogs react to handlers mental state
When to stop working?

- Dogs will keep going
- We are also driven by the search and adrenaline-do we know when to stop?
- Especially in extreme conditions
- Do we take breaks or enough breaks?
- Dogs can work for hours with breaks and energy food…..But there is a limit..
- Ability to switch state of mind-helicopter to work?
- Are we being an effective team?
I THINK THERE IS SOMEONE DOWN HERE!

Diving Equipment?
Thank You