



Workshop in Berninapass

(Switzerland) from 14th to 18th June 2023

Wednesday, 14th June 2023

Greeting

Checkin at the hotel Berninapass with a dinner at 7.00 pm.

Meier Marcel, president from the subcommission open the workshop.

18 doghandlers from 8 countries are joining the congress.

Thursday, 15th June 2023

Workshop

Weather, warm, windy, temp. 10°

Breakfast, 7.30 am

Starting with dogwork, 09.00 am

Feedback about the day, 15.30 pm

Dinner, 7.00 pm

Subject :

Station 1, Patric (Cadaver search)

Patric showed basic work in cadaver search from puppy and onwards, how to sense and indicate. Then he made different tasks based on the level and knowledge of the different participants.



Tomaz liked the methods used and he had had a good day

Nicolo: Got good solution of how to use the line and was also very pleased.

Davide also liked the methodes used not only for the cadaver but also in the other stations and applauded today's instructors.

Station 2 Gina and Knut (Indication)

Knut and Gina started with a short discussion about indication and the importance of a good indication. Since everybody in the workshop expect from Swiss and Norway are using bringsel they talked about pro and cons of the two methods. Gina demonstrated teaching of bringsel with her dog. After each doghandler had to be instructor for another doghandler to show how indication and search would be combined with a fresh doghandler in their country.

Ola commented that they liked the introduction to bringsel, but had some comments if the dog could hold the bringsel in harsh environment but Marcel, Knut and Gina assured that this was no problem.

Station 3, Marcel (Running)

Marcel showed his system to make the dog work in good distance from the handler. During the day they got good discussions about other methods to obtain long ranging dogs.

As in all other station there are many roads to Rome.



Marco commented that the day was very good because we all was able to see and discuss a lot of methods that we could bring with us in further dog training.

At the end of the meeting Marcel showed the group the presentation from ICAR virtual conference from the doghandler committee. In this was the video made by Rob Grange about the winter course in Norway and Marcel's presentation from a avalanche accident in Switzerland this winter.

Fryday, 16th June 2023

Workshop

Weather, Cloudy , temp. 8°

Breakfast, 7.30 am

Starting with dogwork, 09.00 am

Feedback about the day, 15.30 pm

Dinner 7.00 pm

Subject :

Station 1, Patric (Cadaver search)

Patric made made different tasks based on the level and knowledge of the different participants. Some quite easy other more difficult. He showed different types of equipment to use for the learning of the search.

Some of the doghandlers had problem with precision and timing when it came to rewarding the dog. This is wery essential to get a good detection dog, people can use clicker, voice or maybe a ball launcher as a suggestion if this is a problem.



Marcel commented that his 11 year old dog tried this for the first time and he was pleased that his dog showed interest for the objects
Gina was very pleased that she was able to try this since we do not have this opportunity in Norway. She was also pleased with Patric's system and help in rewarding her dog. It is good to see that the dog for her sake was not trying to avoid the smell.

Station 2 Ernest and Monika (Mantrailing)

It's not easy to explain mantrailing in 1,5 hour so they tried to demonstrate how they used their dogs. It was not ideal conditions today with a lot of wind and traffic in the area, but they did their best.

Ola commented that it was very interesting to see the methods since they do not do mantrailing in TOPR

Marcel thanked for the introduction and informed that he had made a test for Ernest that was unknown, and Ernest solved this very good.

Station 3, Marco (learning barking on young dogs)

Marco showed how Guarda de Financa taught young dogs to bark and to do it in the right position with good distance to the body. They used a "stand" where the dog should learn that sitting there barking was the right position. This was very helpful in the training to avoid the dogs to be too close to the bodies.

There was several comment that people liked this system.

GOPR showed the medicine system they have made for their dogs. They have one small pack for the doghandlers that contains the most needed equipment for first aid to the dog.



It contains thermometer, pawsock, bandages, eyedrops for vomiting, saltwater, pencilling,+++++

Then they had a large bag with more or less everything needed for any thinkable situation in the field.

At the end of the meeting Marcel showed a film from the start of avalanche training I Switzerland and probably the first in the world.

Saturday, 17th June 2023

Workshop

Weather, Sunny , temp. 15°

Breakfast, 7.30 am

Starting with dogwork, 09.00 am

Final report, 15.30 pm

Dinner 7.00 pm

Summary of the workshop:

Daily work

Each dog handler could make a search with his dog. A person was missing. Each handler found the person in a short time.

Patryk showed us how to train the dogs with a strange person.



At the closing of the workshop Marcel asked all participant some question to have a survey to learn from for future workshops

1. How was the stations and the organization of the workshop?

Answers:

Good learning, changes the traditional way of thinking how things can be done

A lot of new information's and methods to put into the toolbox

Good discussions about dog training

People was very pleased in generally, good atmosphere open minded people who wanted to learn from each other.

New things for some are common for other such as mantrailing, cadaver, bringsel ...

A lot of learning to watch other dog handlers

Everybody had the goal to share information and learn from each other.

This kind of workshops help us to be better in our daily work with search dogs.

Not only for the participants, all of us will bring new ideas back home and share it with colleagues there.



2. How did you find the area of the workshop?

Answers:

A little close to the road but very efficient

Good overview for the participants to the workstations

Varying good terrain for search

Nice hotel, social

The garage with boxes for the dogs

For mantrailing, more urban terrain would be better.

The rockslides was good for challenging the dogs and give variation.

3. Any comments to the timeplan?

Answers:

Generally very good

Gave room for discussions after training

Some time to reflect over what we had seen

Circulation between the stations was good so everybody could get the same information.

Gave the dogs enough resting time.

Ok with short time for each dog, discussions are more important



4. Accommodation / food?

Answers:

Everybody was very satisfied

Marcel had a goal that everybody should learn something during the workshop and having a good time, and he felt that this was achieved

5. Other comments:

Ernest would like to say that this was his first ICAR workshop and it had been way over his expectations.

Tomas had a suggestion if next workshop could focus on tactical planning for search of an area.

Marcel closed the workshop and thanked all of the participants for their contribution to make this a successful workshop.

Hope to see many as delegates for the ICAR meeting in October.

Sunday, 18th June 2023

Check out

After the breakfast every body goes home.