

Minutes Dog-Handler Workshop

20160508-DOG Villanders, South Tyrol, Italy / May 4th-8th, 2016

Wednesday May 4th, 2016

Marcel Meier, Leader of the ICAR Sub-Commission Dog-Handlers, visits together with Wolfgang Rainer the training ground for the coming days. The program is discussed and reviewed in detail. Then the course gets explained to the colleagues of South Tyrol.

Main theme of the course: Training of young dogs in the following areas:

- Site search dogs
- Trailing dogs
- Human remains detection dogs

The attendees arrive individually. In the end a total of 48 dog-handlers are present. After check-in at the Salmbergerhof Hotel in Villanders, there is dinner at 19.00.

Thursday May 5th, 2016

Weather	sunny
Breakfast	07.30
Opening of the workshop/orientation of the participants	08.30
Start at the workplaces	10.30
Dinner	19.00
Presentations	20.30

Punctually at 08.30 Marcel Meier of Alpine Rettung Schweiz opens the workshop. He emphasizes on three points in focus:

- no biting
- dog waste is picked up
- punctuality, compliance with the given times

In the morning and in the afternoon we work in the field. The representatives of the different countries show us their work with young dogs. Each workplace creates interesting discussions and exchanges of experience. The way how the dogs are lead is extremely interesting to observe. Also very exciting is the basic training of Main Trailing dogs.

In the evening:

- The colleagues of South Tyrol present their new e-learning module.
- Seppolo Lederhaas presents a brochure on training in Austria.

Friday May 6th, 2016

Weather	sunny
Breakfast	07.30
Start of the training exercise	08.30
Start at the workplaces	13.00
Review of the training exercise	17.30
Dinner, informal time together	19.00

Training exercise: In the morning a training exercise is conducted. Our South Tyrolean friends didn't spare on efforts for that: A collection of GPS data of all attendees (dog-handlers, dogs and fake victims) takes place. Everything is covered by local TV and a radio station. Scenario: Five missing persons successfully tracked and located by the Main Trailing dog or the site search dogs.

In the afternoon work continues in two groups. Main topic is the basic training work with young dogs in detail. It's impressive to see how our colleagues of the Guardia di Finanza work with young dogs.

Before dinner two presentations take place:

- Review of the training exercise with all collected GPS data.
- Our Austrian colleagues show how to play with dogs.

Dušan Polajnar (link into the ICAR Executive Board) and his wife Radna visit the event as guests. With a cool bright yellow drink we let the day come to an end.

Saturday May 7th, 2016

Weather	sunny
Breakfast	07.30
Start at the workplaces	09.00
End at the workplaces	16.30
Review of the workshops	18.15
Dinner, informal time together	19.00

The participants are split up in four groups:

- Main Trailing
- Human remains detection dogs
- Site search dogs
- Playing with dogs

Each of the above themes has its own workplace. Every dog-handler performs exercises with his own dog. Once again interesting discussions and exchanges of experience are a highlight.

For the review Marcel Meier welcomes the participants in the dining room. The recap of the day is done in brief words, followed by an open discussion. All participants are satisfied with the process and the organization.

Special thanks ("one meter of beer") are given to the Chairman Wolfgang Rainer and his colleagues for the excellent support and organization. Marcel Meier acknowledges as well the friendly hosts for food and accommodation. A very fine Tyrolean evening brings the day to an end.



Sunday May 8th, 2016

Weather	sunny
Breakfast	08.00
Individual departure	as of 09.00

After breakfast all attendees say goodbye and make themselves on the way back home.

