

Minutes Meeting Sub-Commission Dog-Handlers

20161020-DOG Borovets, Bulgaria

Chairman: Meier Marcel, Swiss Alpine Rescue
Participants: 38 Dog-Handlers from 17 countries

- Agenda:
1. Welcome / Address List
 - 2.1 Minutes of the Meeting in Killarney Ireland
 - 2.2 Minutes of the Workshop in Villanders South Tyrol
 3. Presentation of new Members
 4. Missions, especially with avalanche, ground search, man trailing and death body search dogs
 5. A country presents its organization and the work with dogs
 - ◆ Bulgaria
 6. Workshop for avalanche search dogs in 2017 or 2018
 7. Various
 - ◆ Information from the ICAR Executive Board Meeting in August 2016

1) Welcome / Address List

The chairman Marcel Meier welcomes all attendees to the meeting. A special welcome goes to the 12 first-time participants. It's a pleasure to note that the interest in the sub-commission could once more be increased.

2) Minutes

- ◆ Meeting in Killarney Ireland / October 15th, 2015
- ◆ Workshop in Villanders South Tyrol / May 4th-5th, 2016

Both minutes are anonymously owed and approved without amendments.

3) Presentation of new Members

The participants briefly present themselves.

4) Missions, especially with avalanche, ground search, man trailing and death body search dogs

Various interesting lectures and case studies are once again presented this year, coming from:

- ◆ Norway
- ◆ Italy
- ◆ Romania
- ◆ Canada
- ◆ Scotland
- ◆ Austria
- ◆ United States of America, WBR
- ◆ Switzerland, ARS

5) A country presents its organization and the work with dogs

Die Bulgarian hosts present their work with dogs. In Bulgaria, avalanche dogs have been trained since 1977, as well as ground search and disaster search dogs. The German Shepherd is the preferred dog breed. Some 24 dogs are in training or operational.

6) Workshop for avalanche dogs in 2017 or 2018

The chairman opens the agenda with proposed dates and the main theme for the next workshop. After a lively discussion there is a vote on both topics, with the result, that the next workshop shall take place end of March 2018. The main theme will be "Search on an Avalanche". Slovakia is a potential organizer. The President will discuss the next steps with the people of Slovakia in charge and then inform the delegates.

7) Various

In order to ensure a smooth and structured flow of the meeting by the chairman, he appeals to the participants that:

- Those wishing to make a presentation announce that before the Congress to the chairman.
- Everyone should endeavor to elaborate and present a presentation.
- Advertising shall be made for new members in various organizations and countries for the sub-commission dog-handlers.

Marcel will update the address list with Tom Spycher and then send it to the attendees.

- Knut Skår from Norway makes the proposal to establish a Facebook page for the sub-commission dog-handlers, which is unanimously endorsed. Knut will draft a proposal and submit it to the chairman.
- Marco Terroni from Italy makes the request that we should do more practical work with the dogs. Also there should be an exchange of experience about problems with dogs in training and in missions.
- The dates of training courses in the different countries shall please be announced to the chairman. Distribution thereafter via e-mail to all members.

➤ **Separate own Commission**

- ◆ The President informs that the ICAR Executive Board, respectively the coordinator Dušan Polajnar, wants to update us sometimes during the convention. On Friday afternoon Dušan informs us about the board's decision.
- ◆ On the basis of that decision, the chairman of the sub-commission dog-handlers asks for a common discussion with the entire ICAR Executive Board.
- ◆ Upon that exchange of views between the delegation of the sub-commission dog-handlers and the ICAR Executive Board, both parties develop a positive solution for ICAR as a whole. The chairman of the sub-commission dog-handlers thanks the ICAR Executive Board for the constructive cooperation and the positive joint path in view for the near future.

➤ **Decision**

- ◆ The chairman of the sub-commission dog-handlers shall become a member of the ICAR Technical Committee (with voting rights).
- ◆ The chairman of the sub-commission dog-handlers can participate in the ½-day meeting of the ICAR Technical Committee of the ICAR Executive Board.
- ◆ The sub-commission dog-handlers is no longer directly attached to the Avalanche Rescue Commission, instead it is listed as a separate ICAR Sub-Commission.
- ◆ The next steps will be discussed at the next ICAR Convention in Andorra in October 2017.

As a successful congress comes to an end, the chairman thanks all those present for the constructive and comradely cooperation.

Einsiedeln, Switzerland / October 24th, 2016 / Marcel Meier