

DOG WELFARE



LAKE DISTRICT MOUNTAIN
RESCUE SEARCH DOGS

ABOUT ME:



- ELLY WHITEFORD
- DOG HANDLER/TRAINER/ASSESSOR
- 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



1. NUTRITION & HYDRATION

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.

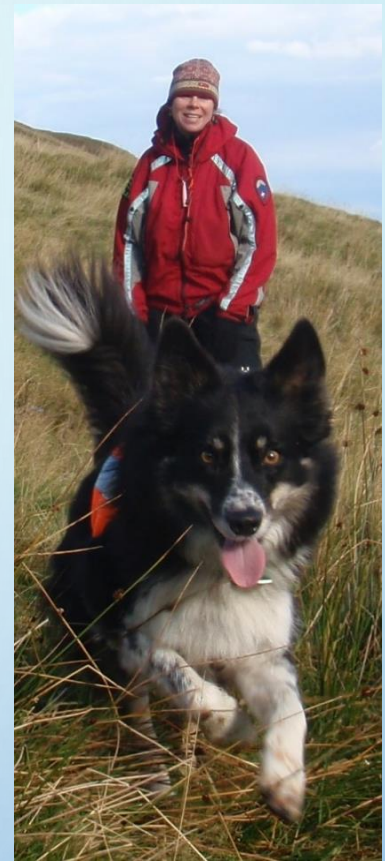
Also crucial to the nutrition program for search dogs is access to clean drinking water.

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

NUTRITION & HYDRATION

- What does balanced diet mean?
- Obesity/cancer/skin irritations/heart disease/ arthritis.....
- 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 suppress 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

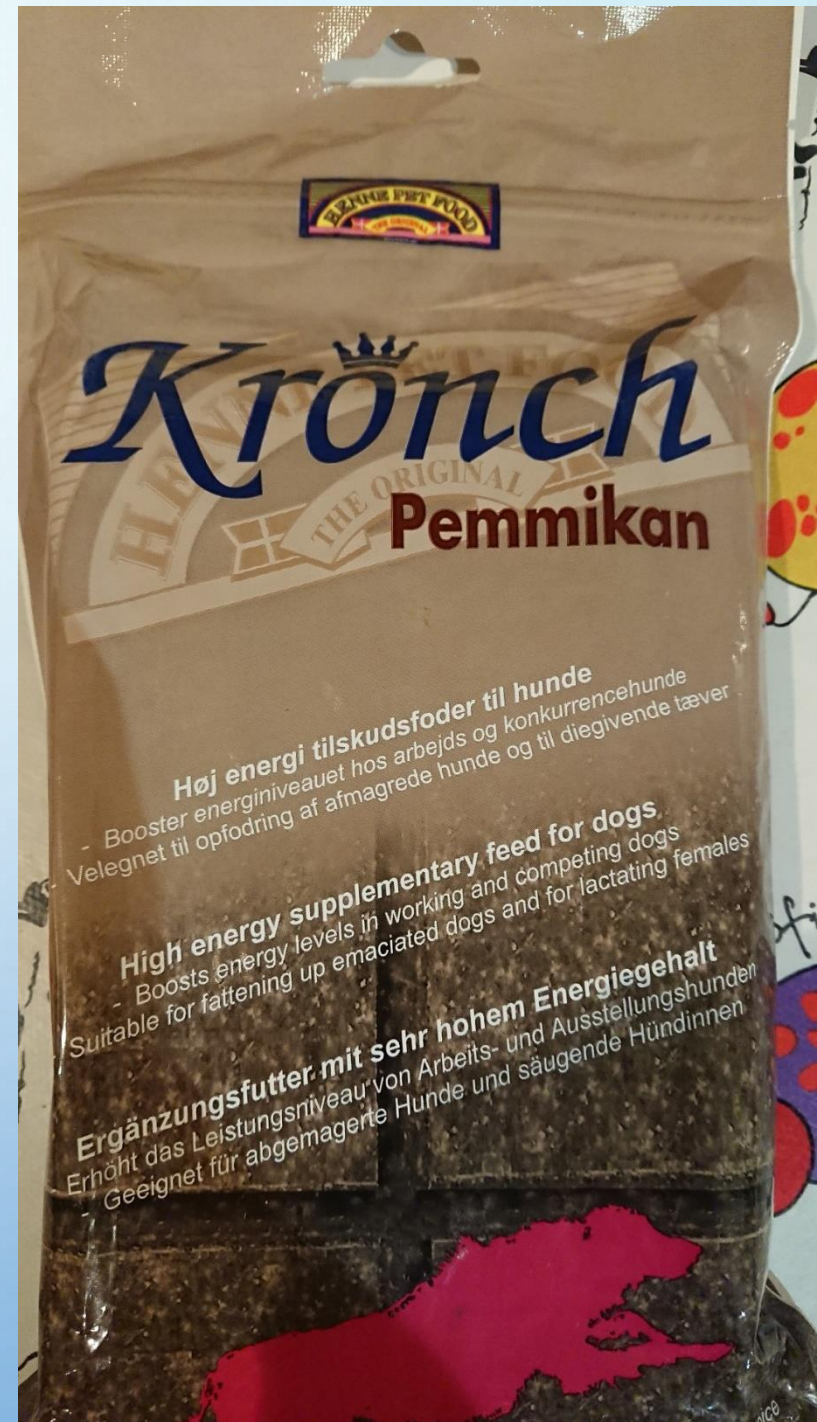
- What should dogs eat when working?

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 prevent fatigue/cramps



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

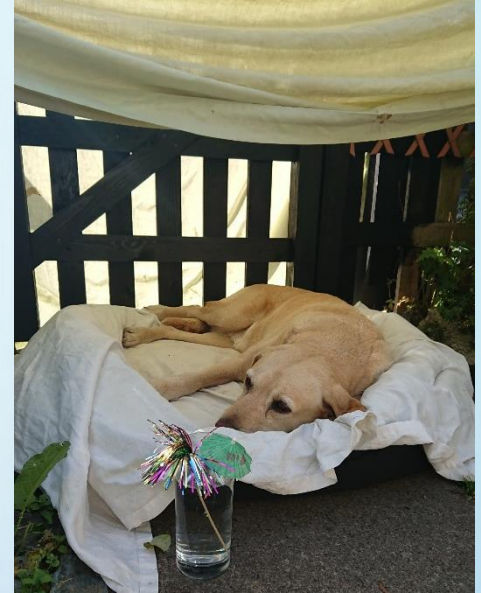


COLD WEATHER

- 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? –Screens/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



BEHAVIORAL

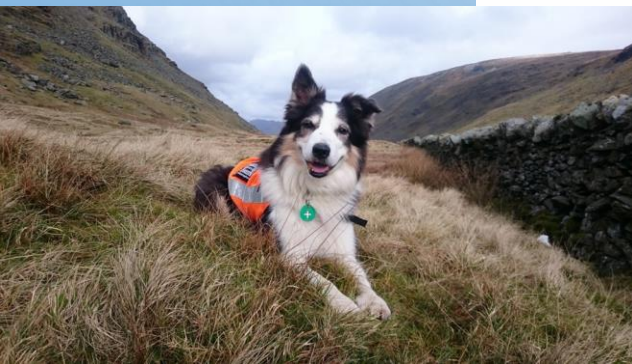
When to stop working?

- 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