

THE CANINE ENFORCEMENT

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Customs and Border Protection Officers use specially trained detector dogs to interdict large quantities of illegal narcotic substances, smuggled agriculture products, and unreported currency at our nation's ports of entry.

Customs and Border Protection Officers use a wide variety of dogs including, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds and many mixed breeds. The most important factor in selecting detector dogs for training is not its breed, but the extent of enthusiasm the dog displays toward retrieving a given object.



All potential Customs and Border Protection dogs are tested to see if they possess the inherited traits that make them a likely candidate for detection training. Many dogs are tested, but relatively few are procured. Dogs used by the CEP can be of either sex, but must be between 1 and 3 years of age.



Dogs meeting the entrance qualifications are also taken as donations from private owners. Some dogs are purchased through contract vendors.



Narcotic detector dogs are taught to detect concealed narcotics, such as heroin, cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy, methamphetamine, and other dangerous substances. Some dogs are trained to detect either currency, concealed humans, agriculture products or dangerous materials that could be used by terrorists.

While the dogs are trained to detect specific odors, the officers are trained how to effectively utilize the detector dogs, and to enhance the detection capabilities. Officers are also instructed in the various areas of Customs law, Immigration law, agency regulations, policies and procedures, proper firearms techniques, use of force issues and non-lethal control procedures.



Canine teams conduct training exercises to enhance the dog's performance in the work environment.



The Customs and Border Protection Officers employs dogs as long as they can successfully perform and meet workload requirements. The service career of a detector dog will typically last no longer than eight years. Upon retirement, their handlers usually adopt the dogs or a good home is found for the animal.



Thank you for your attention!

