

Policy regarding the operational use of a dog by a security dog handler whilst providing security services to clients.

Code of Practice while using General Purpose Security Dogs

Devised by:
Business Standards Company

BS 8517-1: 2009; is the code of practice designed by the **BSI (Business Standards Company)** which gives guidelines to follow during the operational use of dogs by a handler whilst providing security services on various types of sites.

According to the BSI, they developed this policy by conducting research among a variety of users some of which included law enforcement officers, construction site managers and security services providers. As The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) ranks security dogs as second to just firearms when it comes to effectiveness in terms of force, thus there was a need for a proper policy for the help of security dog handlers.

As per research, there are about 5000 security dogs deployed all over UK within the security sector. This code therefore is pivotal in providing guidance to dog handlers regarding routine activities and how those activities can be carried out in accordance to relevant legal frameworks such as The Guard Dogs Act 1975, The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, and the latest Animal Control Bill 2015.

Due to its versatility, this policy is fit to use for a variety of settings be it in bomb detection or for construction and building sites. The use of security dogs is essential not just for the protection of a site but also for the protection of personnel including the handler themselves as security dogs act as a highly effective visual deterrent.

The marketing department at BSI states that both BS 8517-1 and -2 were specifically designed so as to simplify the set of laws for the security dog handlers. It is of extreme importance that both the dog handler and the security dog should be appropriately trained and work in unison so that the dogs are safe when moved to a public environment while also being equipped to defend the handler if need be.

BS 8517-1; Code of practice for the use of general security dogs:

Deals with the wellbeing of the dog including things like veterinary guidance and kenneling. The policy is designed specifically to cater to the changes in dog breeds and the highlights the importance of micro-chipping of the security dogs. The policy also emphasizes the need for handlers to be equipped with necessary tools and relevant insurances.

BS 8517-2; Code of practice for the use of detection dogs:

In addition to the issues already covered in the previous policy, this policy deals with more advanced purposes for which security dogs are used like detecting drugs, explosives, firearms and munitions. Furthermore, the policy also includes recommendations that make sure that the security services are in-line with the specific requirements of the client.

Some of the other authorities that were involved in devising the policy included Security Industry Authority, The Royal Army Veterinary, the National Association of Security Dog Users (NASDU) and the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.