

5 Appendix 1



Handler Survey of the Causes of Loss of Working Police Dogs

The purpose of this survey is to identify the major causes of loss of working police dogs. Police dogs are retired/rehomed, die on the job or are euthanased for many reasons. If we can identify these causes then effective strategies to mitigate losses may be possible.

The Centre for Service and Working Dog Health and Research at Massey University and the Police Dog Section would appreciate your time to fill out this survey as the information is vital to developing future strategies to mitigate these losses.

15 In order for an accurate analysis it is important that we also collect data on dogs that are still in service, especially if they are known to be suffering from an ailment that could lead to retirement. For fit and healthy dogs we are simply recording numbers in service.

For **each dog** that you are currently handling, or have worked in the past (i.e. was once your **operational dog**) can you please give as many of the following details as possible. If a date is not known completely accurately, please estimate the month and/or year.

1. Date of survey completion

2. Your Name

20 3. Name of dog

4. Date of birth of dog

5. Tattoo number if known

6. Microchip number if known

7. Police District to whom you were assigned at the time his dog was in service.

25 8. Date of this dog entering service with you as handler

9. Is this dog still in active service with no known health issues for which retirement may be indicated, if **yes** go to survey completion, if **no** (health issues or not in service/died) continue to 10.

10. Date of loss or retirement from active service or still in service [] tick

30 11. Reason for loss or retirement from active service

Retired due to inability to continue to work [] tick go to 12

Euthanased (put to sleep) whilst in active service [] tick go to 13

Died of a disease / illness whilst in service [] tick go to 14

Killed whilst in active service [] tick go to 15

35 12. What was the MAJOR reason your dog was unable to continue to work and which led to retirement?

70 (if there was more than one contributing factor please indicate a (1) for the most important reason and a (2, 3 etc) for other minor but contributing causes).

Medical problem

Heart problem []

Poisoning []

75 Seizuring []

Breathing problem []

Infectious disease []

Spinal problems []

Bloat/GDV []

80 Perforated bowel []

Other (please describe _____)

15. How was your dog killed in active service.

Injured by offender (stabbed / gun shot / other please describe) _____

Motor vehicle accident

85 Poisoning

Other (please describe) _____

16. If you indicated arthritis as a cause of retirement or euthanasia in 12 or 13 above, please state the joint/s affected

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------------|-----|---------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| 90 | Hip | [] | Stifle (knee) | [] | Hock (ankle) | [] |
| | Hind foot | [] | Shoulder | [] | Elbow | [] |
| | Carpus (wrist) | [] | Fore foot | [] | | |

17. If you indicated back/spinal problem as a cause of retirement or euthanasia in 12 or 13 above, please state the area/s affected

Neck []

95 Thoracic spine (between the neck and the last rib) []

Lumbar spine (the rest of the spine except for the lumbo-sacral junction []

Lumbo-sacral junction (junction between the lower back and the pelvis/tail bone) []

Yours sincerely

100 Andrew Worth, Senior Lecturer and Registered Specialist in Small Animal Surgery, Massey University Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Sergeant Mark Sandford, Police Dog Training Centre, Trentham