

Demonstrate handling techniques for the operation of a quarantine detector dog

Level 5

Credits 15

Purpose People credited with this unit standard are able to: identify fundamental requirements of quarantine detector dog handling; describe and demonstrate the critical elements of quarantine detector dog handling; conduct a structured and methodical search for quarantine risk goods in a controlled environment; demonstrate interpretation of canine response to target and non-target odours in a controlled environment; demonstrate knowledge of basic operational objectives; and carry out proficiency training to maintain the efficiency of a quarantine detector dog.

Subfield Biosecurity

Domain Border Quarantine

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Accreditation Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.

Standard setting body (SSB) Forest Industries Training and Education Council (FITEC)

Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference 0173

This AMAP can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Special notes

- 1 The *training manual* refers to the *MAF Quarantine Detector Dog Programme Training Manual*, produced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Quarantine Service (MAFQS). The manual is a restricted document available only to staff of MAFQS warranted or authorised under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

- 2 *Risk goods* are defined in the Biosecurity Act 1993 as ‘any organism, organic material, or other thing, or substance, that, (by reason of its nature, origin, or other relevant factors) it is reasonable to suspect constitutes, harbours, or contains and organism that may cause unwanted harm to natural and physical resources or human health in New Zealand; or interfere with the diagnosis, management, or treatment, in New Zealand of pests or unwanted organisms.’
- 3 Legislation applying to this unit standard includes the Biosecurity Act 1993, Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1968, Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989, Conservation Act 1987, Animal Welfare Act 1999, Dog Control Act 1996, and their subsequent amendments.
- 4 The term *presentations* refers to the handler indicating as necessary to the detector dog, the item to be searched, at the point indicated.

Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Identify fundamental requirements of quarantine detector dog handling.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 The importance of national consistency in handling quarantine detector dogs is explained in accordance with the training manual.

Range consistency between – handlers, commands, objectives, targets.
- 1.2 The quarantine detector dog is acclimatised to the operational training area and introduced to the basic commands in accordance with the training manual.
- 1.3 Training is varied and carried out to a specific objective in accordance with the training manual.

Range may include but is not limited to – types of containers, set time, scent picture, common denominators, placement, randomisation, degree of difficulty.
- 1.4 The concept of an optimum training cycle for an individual quarantine detector dog is explained in accordance with the training manual.
- 1.5 The seasonal training cycle is explained to maintain proficiency of a quarantine detector dog in accordance with the training manual.
- 1.6 The recognised protocols for determining proficiency in an individual quarantine detector dog are described in accordance with the training manual.

Range untrained dog – new task – 20 unassisted responses;
untrained dog – new odours – 10 unassisted responses;
trained dog – new task – 10 unassisted responses;
trained dog – new odours – 5 unassisted responses.

Element 2

Describe and demonstrate the critical elements of quarantine detector dog handling.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 The use of the voice in working a quarantine dog is demonstrated in accordance with the training manual.
- Range includes but is not limited to – clear, consistent, conveying the correct message, appropriate to the situation, use of tone, speed, volume, pitch.
- 2.2 The use of nationally consistent commands when working a quarantine detector dog is demonstrated in accordance with the training manual.
- Range includes but is not limited to – seek, find it, easy, sit, over here, round this way, up seek, let's go, leave, no, where is it?
- 2.3 The lead is used to provide safety and direction to the dog in accordance with the training manual.
- Range includes but is not limited to – suitable length, suitable pressure, suitable position, neutral position.
- 2.4 Presentations cue the dog to search a specific item and control the search in accordance with the training manual.
- 2.5 A thorough and systematic search pattern is used to maximise the dog's ability to detect target odour in accordance with the training manual.
- 2.6 An optimum speed is maintained to maximise the intent and efficiency of the search in accordance with the training manual.
- 2.7 An optimum amount of space is allowed between the handler and the object to be searched to allow the dog room to work in accordance with the training manual.
- 2.8 The dog's behaviour is monitored to detect changes that may indicate target odour in accordance with the training manual.
- 2.9 Eye contact is used to establish the appropriate level of control over the dog in accordance with the training manual.
- 2.10 Rewards are used to maintain the dog's motivation and increase the likelihood of desired behaviour recurring in accordance with the training manual.
- 2.11 The use of body language conveys clear and consistent messages to the dog and complements other verbal and non-verbal messages in accordance with training manual.

- 2.12 The handler uses an overall level of control of the dog which maintains the dog's motivation, with a minimum of coercion, force or negative stimuli in accordance with the training manual.
- 2.13 The handler applies the concept of 'trouble shooting' during training and operational work with their dog in accordance with the training manual.
- Range attentive to dog behaviour, anticipating potential problems, looking ahead during search.

Element 3

Conduct a structured and methodical search for quarantine risk goods in a controlled environment.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 The area to be searched is checked and the search pattern determined in accordance with the training manual.
- 3.2 Presentations are made in accordance with the training manual.
- 3.3 The search pattern moves from left to right in accordance with the training manual.
- 3.4 A search pattern which allows a quarantine detector dog to work at an optimum proficiency level is demonstrated in accordance with the training manual.
- 3.5 A search pattern which maximises a quarantine dog's ability to detect target odour is demonstrated in accordance with the training manual.
- 3.6 The handler assists the dog to access scent from items to be searched in accordance with the training manual.

Element 4

Demonstrate interpretation of canine response to target and non-target odours in a controlled environment.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Dog behaviour is interpreted for indications of target odour.
- Range may include but not limited to – change in sniffing behaviour, closing of the dog's mouth, sudden directional change.
- 4.2 The handler demonstrates appropriate reactions to the response of the dog when encountering target odour in accordance with the training manual.
- 4.3 The dog's indication is assisted in accordance with the training manual.

Element 5

Demonstrate knowledge of basic operational objectives.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 The concept of the basic operational search with a quarantine detector dog is described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range search pattern, searching baggage, reacting to response behaviour, optimum training cycle.

Element 6

Carry out proficiency training to maintain the efficiency of a quarantine detector dog.

Performance criteria

- 6.1 The primary function of proficiency training is described in accordance with the training manual.
- 6.2 The complexity of the task performance in proficiency training is designed to mirror as close as possible the actual work situation.
- Range includes but is not limited to – planting of training aids, amount of target odour, type of target material, set up of training exercises.
- 6.3 Proficiency training exercises are conducted on a regular basis to monitor dog/handler team performance in accordance with the training manual.
- 6.4 Proficiency training is set up on the job to provide realistic conditions for the training in accordance with the training manual.
- 6.5 Proficiency training exercises are randomly varied.
- Range may include but not limited to – number of training aids planted, location of training aids, quantity of each aid, type of container, set time, person making up the aids, height of the container above floor level.
- 6.6 Deficiencies in canine performance are analysed to determine cause/source.
- Range may include but not limited to – false response, urination during search, missed aid during training, response to non-target, will not pin-point aid.
- 6.7 Identified handler errors are addressed.
- Range excessive eye contact, excessive presentations, search pattern stop/go search pattern, leash too tight/loose, incomplete search pattern, pulling dog off source.

- 6.8 Monthly training plans are developed and utilised to identify areas where proficiency training should be directed in accordance with the training manual.

Please note

Providers must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority, or an inter-institutional body with delegated authority for quality assurance, before they can report credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for organisations wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Forest Industries Training and Education Council feedback@fitec.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.