

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.

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
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.
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
11. Reason for loss or retirement from active service

Retired due to inability to continue to work	<input type="checkbox"/> tick go to 12
Euthanased (put to sleep) whilst in active service	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

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

Please indicate by placing a numeral 1 in the appropriate box

(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).

Behavioural problem

Type of behavioural problem	aggression	<input type="checkbox"/>
	not following commands	<input type="checkbox"/>
	other	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Loss of tracking

Inability to meet the physical demands of the job

Other, please describe

13. What was the MAJOR reason your dog was euthanased whilst still in active duty

Please place a numeral 1 in the box for the most important contributing factor and a (2, 3 etc) for other minor but contributing causes).

Behavioural problem

Type of behavioural problem	aggression	<input type="checkbox"/>
	not following commands	<input type="checkbox"/>
	other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Medical problem (place a tick next to as many below as apply)

Heart problem

Musculoskeletal

Neurological

Breathing issues

Urinary Issues

Back/Spinal problems

Arthritis

Stomach problems but not bloat/GDV see below

Intestinal

Gastic Bloat/GDV

Other Please give the name of the medical condition

(if known) _____

Inability to meet the physical demands of the job

(please describe the issues) _____

14. What was the medical condition / illness which led to the death of your dog whilst on active duty

(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 []

Seizuring []

Breathing problem []

Infectious disease []

Spinal problems []

Bloat/GDV []

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

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

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 []

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

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