

## **Animal Service: Mounting Integrated Social Security in Nigeria Using Domesticated Dogs (*Canis familiaris*) to Combat Crimes**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The central focus of this study is on the employment of trained domesticated dogs in the security service of man. Domesticated dogs (*Canis familiaris*) have been used for many centuries as pets, guard dogs, watch dogs and hounds in advanced countries of the world like England, Germany, U.S.A., Belgium, Holland, Russia and many others. The types of canids breeds that could be trained for crime control and security purposes were enumerated in this study. The study pinpoints the people or places where trained dogs could be used for security purposes such as: airports, sea ports; banks, residential areas, business premises, Police and Military services as well as during warfare. Well trained dogs, called guard dogs, or watch dogs could be used to track down criminals, sniff out and locate bombs, guns, explosives and hard drugs: defeat hoodlums and overpower armed robbers. Experts' modalities for dog training and dogs' health-care services were included in this treatise. Employment of trained dogs in human services would reduce crime, create serenity and ensure individual, corporate and national security in Nigeria.*

**Key words:** *Social Security, Animal Service, Domesticated dogs, Combat crimes.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Dog (*Canis familiaris*) has been very useful to man all over the world since its domestication 15,000 years ago. They were probably domesticated from the Wolves (*Canis lupus*) around 13,000BC. They were the first animals ever to be domesticated (Young 1973; Green and Gipson 2004). The dog is usually a pet animal. It has a high sense of smell; therefore it is trained for different tasks. Dog hardly deceives its owner. It possesses highly specialized social and cognitive skills that allow it to read human communicative behaviour. Because of their great intelligence, domesticated dogs have been used for many centuries as pets,

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watch dogs, guard dogs and as hounds for hunting. In advanced countries of the world such as the USA, France, Germany, Russia etc trained dogs have been in-use for centuries for security and crime control (Akinluyi, 2014). Recently in the United States, the unique role of the dog in their national security was noted such that a National Dog Day Celebration has been slated for every August 26 in each year (Gagnon and Dore 1992; Wobber and Hare 2009; Akinluyi 2014).

Coming down home to Nigeria, the temperature of criminality has reached a boiling point such that every hand should be on deck to curb this national stigma. Nigeria as a nation is bedevilled with many problems amongst which the most perturbing are: Crime and Insecurity. No real sustainable national development would emanate in any nation where there are crimes and insecurity as it is in Nigeria today. No foreign investors would dare come to a national territory where lives and property are unsecured. It is on this platform that this study considers the use of man's "historic best friend" (dog) in combating crimes and enhancing integrated social security in Nigeria.

#### **Classification of Dog (*Canis familiaris*)**

In the course of this study, dog shall be classified [a] according to the type of task it performs; and [b] according to the biological or scientific ethology of dog

##### **(a) Classification of dog according to tasks performed**

In this regards, dogs are classified as:

- i Watch dogs, (Scaring dogs)
- ii Guard dogs (Attack dogs)
- iii War dogs (Militant dogs)
- iv Working dogs
- v Gun dog (hunters or hounds)
- vi Sporting dogs
- vii Companion or pet dogs
- viii Service or assistance dogs

##### **(b) Biological classification of dog with reasons;**

Kingdom	:	Animalia	(All animals)
Phylum	:	Chordata	(Animals with a notochord)
Subphylum	:	Vertebrata	(Animals with backbone)
Class	:	Mammalia	(Animals with hairs, mammary glands, suckle their young ones)

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Order	:	Carnivorae	(All animals that eat flesh)
Family	:	Canidae	(Mammals that eat flesh)
Genus	:	<i>Canis</i>	(Mammals that eat flesh, having sharp claws and teeth) (Possess powerful jaws with tight articulation)
Species	:	<i>familiaris</i>	(Modern domesticated dog)

Adapted from: Young (1973) Life of Vertebrates

**Table 1:** Breeds of dogs commonly used for human services and the countries where obtained

<b>Dog breed</b>	<b>Country found</b>
Bull –Mastiff	England
Bull –Terrier	England
Boxer –bull	Germany
German Shepherd	Germany
Giant Schnauzer	Germany
American Bulldog	USA
Dutch shepherd	Netherlands
Fila Brasileiro	Brazil
Dogo Argentino	Argentina
Cane Corso	Italy
Chow chow	China
Akita Inu	Japan
Canary Dog	Spain
Dogue de Bordaeaux	France
Beauceron	France
Combai	India
Kaikadi	India
Black Russian Terrier	Russia
Anatolian Shepherd	Turkey
Kangal Dog	Turkey
Bouvier des Flandres	Belgium
Caucasian Shepherd	Georgia
Komondor	Hungary
German Shepherd (Imported from Germany)	Nigeria
Rottweiler dog (Imported from Germany)	Nigeria
Boxer-bull (Imported from Germany)	Nigeria

*Table adapted from Cooper et al (2003); Green and Gispson (2004); Hare and Tomasello (2005); Wobber and Hare (2009); Akinluyi (2014).*

### **Dogs' qualities enhancing their security potentials.**

- (i) Most dog breeds used for security and other services possess broad chest and heavily built strong muscles. E.g Rottweiler and German shepherd dogs; they are aggressive and dangerous. When they move, they display strength and stamina; they look fearless, alert and confident. They possess powerful canine dentition for tearing and grabbing (Young 1973, Hare and Tomasello 2005, Akinluyi 2014).
- (ii) They possess a high sense of smell, perception and sight; therefore they could be trained to perform different tasks (Brauer, Call and Tomasello, 2004). Dog has over 300 million neuron receptors for perception and smelling. Man has just 6 million (Hare and Tomasello, 2005).
- (iii) Dogs possess high level of intelligence, they could perceive information, retain it as knowledge, and apply the knowledge to solve problems. They learn by inference. A study with Rico dog showed that it knew the labels of over 200 different items (Frank H. and Frank M., 1982; Sovalainen 2013).
- (iv) Dogs are good listeners, they listen to humans. Psychobiologists affirm that any animal organism that listens would be a good learner (Brauer, Kaminski, Riedel, Call and Tomasello, 2006; Miklo'si and Soproni 2006).
- (v) Dogs are playful, friendly, obedient and loyal, they hardly deceive their owners, and they are dependable (Frakuzawa, Mills, and Cooper 2005).
- (vi) Dogs have acquired the ability to understand and communicate with humans; they are uniquely attuned to human behaviour. They have a life's span between 7 to 10 years (Frank H. and Frank M., 1982; Gaksi, Miklosi, Varga, Topal and Scanyi 2004).

### **Historic Security roles of dogs (*Canis familiaris*)**

#### **Warfare**

Man's best friends have been used in warfare since ancient times and in this contemporary time. These specialized trained combatants are taking on crucial military roles and have become guardians of national security. An assertion was made by Debbie Kandoll-an officer in the U.S. Army that a "typical war dog could save the lives of 150 armed soldiers during his service in the military" (Cooper, Ashton, Bishop, West, Mills, Young 2003, Hare and Tomasello 2005).

Mathew-Shaw reports in his article entitled “The War Machine” that the Belgian machine gun carriages were pulled by trained war dogs during the battle between Belgium and France (Green and Gipson 2004). The Mastiff war dogs proved so capable that the Belgian army appointed 36 war dogs to each battalion.

During the World War II, the U.S. military called for the donation of pet dog. War dogs e.g. Belgium Malinois, Labrador retriever were used in running errands, they carried information tags during the war (Woober and Hare 2009).

### **Bomb Detection**

Trained dogs have been used in many advanced nations for bomb detection as supported by the statement below:

*Tony Mitchell January 27, 2016 “Great job there Mr Rose. A wonderful service for your country. Would love to get involved in this kind of work. I’m Canadian, do you have any suggestions on where to start? Like to get some training and great dog for bomb detection”.*

Trained dog teams could search for explosives in car parks, navigation facilities, unattended cars, bags, cargo, and aircraft (Tomasello and Hare, 2005). Dogs run at double speed of man and can discover and recognise explosives; search building, and provide intelligence via camera links. Specially trained search dogs could be equipped with special apparatus such as ‘dog tactical assault vests’ and ‘dog goggles’ enhancing night vision and infrared capabilities that enable the dogs to see through concrete walls and spot human heat forms (Topal, Miklosi, Csanyi and Do’ka 1998; Brauer, Call and Tomasello, 2004; Miklosi and Soproni 2006). It was reported that the team that detected Osama bin Landen’s compound in Abottabad, Pakistan during Operation Neptune Spear in May 2011, had in their company rigorously trained German Malinois dog (Kaminski and Nitzschner 2013; Cooper *et al*, 2003).

Soviet Union used specially trained dogs called anti-tank dogs to blow up about 300 German tanks during World War II (Cooper *et al*, 2003; Hare and Tomasello, 2005). From 2006 to 2012, the Pentagon reportedly spent almost 20 million dollars on the best methods of bomb detection and neutralization, surprisingly with all the U.S.A technology, it was convincingly determined that the best agents for bomb and explosives detection are the dogs (Kaminski and Nitzschner 2013).

## **Dogs as Agents of Integrated Social Security and Crime Control in Nigeria**

**Household and Residential Security:** Trained **watch dogs** can offer a sense of protection by alerting their owners to approaching strangers or unusual circumstances in the home, the dogs also bark loudly to scare away the intruder. Whereas a watch dog is capable of attacking or restraining the intruder a **guard dog** is trained to fight and bite intruders or scary humans in the premises (Gagnon and Dore 1992, Hare, Brown, Williamson and Tomasello, 2002).

**Personal protection:** Some guard dogs are trained to protect individuals against threats. They closely accompany their owners everywhere and they are ready to attack anyone who threatens their owners in complex situations such as crowded areas, during stampedes, incidents involving gunshots and other signals of violence (Copper *et al* 2003).

**Security Patrol:** Trained patrol dog team could be used in Nigeria for guiding critical national infrastructure such as Oil pipelines, Airports, Sea ports, National museum building, this would reduce crimes such as illegal oil-bunkering and pipe line vandalization. The German shepherd dog is widely used by Customs, Police Force and private companies in UK, USA and Germany. Security patrol dogs e.g. Rottweiler, Schutzhund are trained to fight, bite, restrain and only release an intruder or suspect only on specific command of its handler.

**Criminal Raids and Deterrence:** Trained dogs could be employed to search out or comb off hideouts such as un-used bushes and uncompleted buildings to fish out criminals or thieves. Trained dogs could also be used in large public venues to ensure public security and by their being visible, the dogs act as a deterrent to criminals such as burglars, shop looters; they chase and pin down burglars, intruders in malls and supermarkets etc.

**Farmland security:** Incessant and unabated kidnap and attack of farmers on their farmland could be brought to a total halt if trained attack dogs are used on Nigerian farmlands. Trained dogs' mode of operation is scary ferocious, this would keep away bush or forest hoodlums and kidnappers.

**Herds and Livestock Security:** Gun dogs or hounds could serve as guards to ward off predators like wolves and cattle stealers that could possibly come to attack goat, sheep and other livestock on the farms. Piggery and poultry farmers would also have a good lease by using guard dogs on their farmlands. Livestock guard dogs are friendly with the animals they are meant to protect.

***Institutional Security:*** The security units in Nigerian higher institutions, Colleges of Education, Polytechnics and Universities can enhance and improve their security system through the use of articulated trained dogs. This would instil discipline and guide against crimes, drug patronage and cultism in schools. The trained dogs are articulated, would perceive situations and take action as directed by their human instructor or handler.

***Banking and financial institutions' security:*** The use of trained canis in the security system of Nigerian banking institutions is urgently necessary. Below is a request made by a Security Officer (James Erickson 2016) in the U.S: "Hi, I'm a Security Officer in Dekalb IL. 40 miles West of Chicago. I don't like carrying gun. But still need to protect myself. I'm thinking what better way than a service dog. It would be great for kids at my post, and I would love to have a service dog/companion to help me in my duties at work". From the on-going, employing well trained security guard dogs would forestall constant robbery attacks on the Banks as witnessed in Nigeria. Dog breeds recommended for institutional security are Rottweiler, Dutch Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Belgium Mallinois and Springer Spaniels (Tomasello 2003, Woobar and Hare 2009; Akinbiyi 2014, 2016)

***Anti-Militants Insurgency Security:*** Trained military team dogs could be used to combat the dreaded insurgencies witnessed in Nigeria. Militants insurgency erupting here and there could be reduced to some degree by the use of ferocious, well-articulated trained war dogs (Akinluyi 2014, 2016).

***Special anti-robbery squads:*** The special anti-robbery squads established in each State of Nigeria could boost their militancy and security operations through the employment of skilful intelligent military dogs. Trained dog team will be good for this purpose. This will make their security operations efficient to track down criminals. Trained dogs are not left alone during combats; their handlers (human instructors) are supportive in the operations by giving signals or commands.

***Anti-drug trafficking security:*** Dog possesses well-developed olfactory organs more than that of humans and a strong sense of smell (Cooper *et al* 2003, Gaski *et al* 2004). The Nigerian drug control agencies could equally employ the services of dogs in their patrols and at checking points to sniff vehicles and people to detect drug traffickers.

## **Types of Dog training**

Some breeds of dog are better than the others, so in dog training, choice of appropriate breed is advisable. The type of training given depends on the purpose for which the dog is meant to serve. According to Akinluyi (2014), the three breeds of dog available in Nigeria for training are: Boxer-bull, German shepherd and Rottweiler. Some modes of dog training are highlighted below:

**Basic obedience training:** Here, the dog is taught the basic human-dog communication rules. Dog communication centres on how they understand messages that humans send to them, and how humans can translate the ideas that dogs are trying to transmit. These communication behaviours include: eye gaze, facial expression, vocalization and body posture. Humans communicate with dogs by using; vocalization, hand signals, body posture and gesticulation. Basic obedience training involves, task performance e.g. tricks and running, climbing, jumping, sitting, standing etc. (Akinluyi 2014, 2016).

**Agility training:** Dogs that are competent at Basic obedience training (BOT) are made to undergo agility training. Dog trainers' start at ground based agility techniques to build dogs focus and attention.

**Search and Rescue Dogs Training:** This training is good for dogs with sound smell or perception receptors; whose function is to help with search and rescue during emergency cases (Kimihski 2013 and Akinluyi 2016).

**Assistance Dog Training:** This is a specialist area, assistance dogs are trained to help their owners e.g. leading their blind owners, helping during epileptic seizures, helping in the bank, specially trained dogs would tell their owners if the phone rings or if someone is at the door (Fakuzawa et al 2005; Akinluyi 2014, 2016).

**Vocational Training:** Specific breeds of dogs are capable of learning a wide variety of skills just like people. There are dog breeds that could be trained for skills such as hunting, searching, herding, rescuing, assisting disabled, and performing military tasks.

## **Dogs' Health Care**

Dogs are so useful to man, they possess human-like nature; they are intelligent,

loving, caring, obedient, protective, friendly and hardworking. The health of such animals should be paramount: The assistance of animal health workers or Veterinary Doctors is needed in dogs' health care services. There are experts treatment on dogs to cure or prevent ectoparasites e.g. tick and mites; worm infestation, dental infection. A particular tick called *Ixodes holocyclus* causes ascending paralysis in dogs by injecting toxin into them. Chemicals such as Advantix or Nexgard are commonly used to control tick and mites. Although, specific dog breeds are trained to hurt, fight, scare, and probably kill human criminals, yet administration of vaccines to prevent serious infection such as rabies is paramount for the safety of dog handlers and trainers.

## CONCLUSION

It is not an overstatement that man's best friend (*Canis familiaris*) has unparalleled usefulness to humanity. They can be trained for human services; for personal guard; residential Security; institutional Security; military services; and the sort. It is believed that if the Nigerian Government and the various Security Agencies in Nigeria embrace these outlined security guidance with the assistance of trained canis, the rate of crime and criminal tendencies in Nigeria will be drastically reduced. In addendum, clinical treatment of dogs is important for their overall healthy living. Periodic clinical examination and treatment of dogs' dentition is essential to ensure healthy teeth, this essentially underscores the pre-eminence and the usefulness of dogs' dentition used in combatants for grabbing, holding and tearing of their human criminals. Dogs should be fed with nourish well foods but not overfed, they should be made active and agile through daily exercise to avoid lethargy, this gives way for their optimum utility (Gagnon and Dore, 1992, Cooper *et al*, 2003, Hare and Tomasello, 2005, Akinluyi, 2014).

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