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Standards for the Use of Service Animals in the Polish Police

The issue of using animal help by formations serving society has a centuries-old tradition. Literature shows that especially the role of dogs has been enormous. Dog domestication was one of the most important processes in human history. The partnership between dogs and humans was based on a human need for help with hunting or protecting. The dog stayed with man permanently not for its beauty, fur or meat, but because it was necessary, it recognized its leader in a human. It stayed because, cooperation of these two species benefited both parties.¹ It can be said that since the dawn of time people have subordinated some animals and used them, in particular for purposes related to the protection of various human societies (it is assumed, among others, that the ancient Egyptians began to use dogs for police tasks, primarily related to guarding property).² These animals have a particular role, because they are used in the work of many formations, which are responsible for ensuring public order and security.

The importance of those animals is different, depending on their functions. On the wall paintings that were created 4,000 years ago, we can see an Egyptian warrior holding a dog (on a leash) which attacks the enemy.³ It allows us to say that dogs were first used in wars. Nowadays, dogs serve together with people in various formations, such as: army, police, border guards, fire brigade, mountain and water rescue. There is no doubt that the nature and role of the Polish Police makes that the animals working for this formation are highly valued.

¹ Z. Mierzwińska, *Bierz się do pracy z psem*, „Pies” 2002, Nr 2, p. 42.

² B. Hołyst, *Policja na świecie*, Warszawa 2011, p. 43.

³ G. Wiorowski, K. Lubrzyński, *Kynologia policyjna*, red. K. Jałoszczyński, Szczytno 2011, p. 11.

Dogs are not the only animals, which are used by the Police. Horses are the second group of animals which help the Police in their work. These animals' role in ensuring public order and security is simply invaluable. For this reason, these animals should be provided an extensive protection and special living conditions. Therefore, the rules on protection of police animals⁴ should be looked at in more detail.

In Poland, standards for the use of police animals can be found in the various legislative instruments. In the legal provisions of Art. 12 para. 1 items 9 and 10 of the Act of 24 May 2013 on Direct Coercion Measures and Firearms (hereinafter referred to as ADCMF),⁵ the service dog and the service horse were mentioned as types of means of direct coercion. Arts. 21 and 22 of the above-mentioned act specify the cases and rules on the use of these animals. Hence, there have been introduced certain rules for officers of various formations who have the right to use these "specific means of direct coercion".

In Art. 21 of the ADCMF, the legislator indicated that a service dog may be used (only against a person) in cases of:

- repelling a direct, unlawful attempt on the life, health or freedom of the entitled person or another person,
- counteracting a direct attack on areas, objects or equipment protected by an entitled person,
- protection of the order or safety in areas or objects protected by an entitled person,
- counteracting the attack on the inviolability of the state border within the scope specified in Art. 1 of the Act of 12 October 1990 on the State Border Protection,⁶
- ensuring of safe escorting or submission,
- apprehending a person, preventing him/her from running away or chasing such a person,
- detaining a person, thwarting his/her escape or chasing such a person,
- overcoming active resistance.

The rule is that the service dog should wear a muzzle during the performance of its official duties. A service dog does not need to be muzzled when:

- 1) it was trained to act without a muzzle, or
- 2) such a dog is used for:
 - a) repelling an attempt on the life or health of the entitled person or another person,

⁴ In the article, police dogs and police horses are also called "service dogs" and "service horses".

⁵ Consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2018, pos. 1834, as amended.

⁶ Consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2018, pos. 1869, as amended. In the indicated Art. 1 of the Act, the state border was defined as: a vertical surface passing through the border line separating the territory of the Polish state from the territories of other states and from the high seas. The state border also separates air space, water and the interior of the earth.

- b) performing official duties towards persons in relation to whom the use of firearms is allowed in cases of:
- the need to repel a direct, unlawful attack on:
 - a) the life, health or freedom of the entitled person or another person or the need to counteract activities aimed directly at such an attack,
 - b) important objects, devices or areas or the need to counteract activities aimed directly at such an attack,
 - c) property which at the same time poses a direct threat to the life, health or freedom of the entitled person or another person, or the need to counteract activities aimed directly at such an attack,
 - the need to oppose a person:
 - a) not complying with the call for immediate abandonment of arms, explosives or other dangerous tools, the use of which may threaten the life, health or freedom of the entitled person or another person,
 - b) who attempts to unlawfully take away a firearm from an authorized or another person authorized to possess it,
 - a direct pursuit of a person against whom:
 - a) the use of firearms was allowed in the cases specified in item 1 letter a–d and item 2,
 - b) there is a reasonable suspicion that he/she has committed the offense referred to in Art. 115 para. 20 (terrorist offense), Art. 148 (murder), Art. 156 para. 1 (grievous bodily injury), Arts. 163–165 (causing a commonly hazardous event, causing immediate danger of the incident, causing states commonly dangerous to life or health), Art. 197 (rape and extortion of sexual activity), Art. 252 (taking hostage) and Arts. 280–282 (robbery) of the Act of 6 June 1997 – Penal Code.⁷ In the provisions of the ADCMF, no other issues related to work with the service dogs were settled. In Art. 22 of the ADCMF, it was indicated that the service horse is used for:
 - repelling a direct, unlawful attempt on the life, health or freedom of the entitled person or another person,
 - preventing public order or safety violations,
 - counteracting the attack on the inviolability of the state border within the scope specified in Art. 1 of the Act of 12 October 1990 on the State Border Protection,
 - preventing property damage,
 - overcoming passive resistance,
 - overcoming active resistance.

In addition, in Art. 22, para. 2 of the ADCMF, it was specified that a service horse is used (using its weight) to control the movement of a group of people. These provi-

⁷ Consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2018, pos. 1600, as amended.

sions are laconic and insufficient, in particular in terms of ensuring the protection of service animals. This regulation is limited to listing the cases in which these animals can be used. Many issues related to working with service animals are regulated in implementing regulations or internal regulations. It should be emphasized that the legislator did not ensure the uniformity of these provisions and therefore they can differ significantly in particular protective formations. In the Police, the legal regulation of working with service animals allows to determine standards for the use of these animals and thus defines the scope of protection for these animals. Currently, these issues are regulated by internal provisions:

– Regulation No. 296 of the Police General Commandant of 20 March 2008 regarding methods and forms of performing tasks using service dogs, detailed rules for their training and food standards (hereinafter referred to as Regulation No. 296),⁸

– Regulation No. 884 of the Police General Commandant of 21 July 2009 regarding methods and forms of performing tasks by police officers using service horses, detailed training rules and food standards (hereinafter referred to as Regulation No. 884).⁹

Due to the fact that among the indicated service animals in the Police, the dog is the one whose scope of tasks is more extensive and varied, I will begin the further part of the analysis by characterizing the standards for the use of service dogs in the Police.

Regulation No. 296 specifies:

- 1) organization and methods of using and maintaining service dogs, including the performance of tasks by police dog handlers,
- 2) organization of training, improvement and testing of police dogs' utility,
- 3) nutrition, including food standards, prevention and ensuring proper living conditions for police dogs,
- 4) selection, purchase, retraining, transfer and withdrawal of police dogs from active duty,
- 5) supervising the implementation of the tasks in the field of police cynology.

Regulation No. 884 regulates:

- 1) methods and forms of tasks performed by police officers with the use of police horses, including tasks performed by mounted police officers,
- 2) organization and methods of using and maintaining police horses, including detailed rules for training and testing the performance of service horses,
- 3) nutrition, including food standards, prevention and ensuring proper living conditions for police horses,
- 4) acquisition, allocation, transfer to service and withdrawal of police horses from active duty,
- 5) supervising the implementation of tasks related to police horses.

⁸ Consolidated text, Journal of Laws KGP of 2019, pos. 11.

⁹ Consolidated text, Journal of Laws KGP of 2018, pos. 125.

These two Regulations serve to systematize all issues – not only those related to working with these animals, but also the ones referring to their entire life “in service” from their selection/acquisition to withdrawal from service.

Referring to Regulation No. 296, which regards police dogs, it should be noted that it did not explicitly set limits to the protection of these animals, but specified living and working conditions that contribute to the protection of these animals.

It is significant that police dogs can be used for various purposes. In para. 3 item 6 of the Regulation there was provided a classification of police dogs. According to this classification, the dogs are used to serve in the following sections: 1) preventive service: a) patrol, b) tracking, c) patrol and tracking, d) combat operations, e) to search for explosives, f) to search for drugs, g) to search for human corpses, h) water rescue and detecting human bodies; 2) criminal service – for osmological examinations.

All over the world, the Police use both thoroughbred and non-thoroughbred dogs for their purposes. The main factors determining the admission of a dog as a police dog are its predispositions to work. Depending on the intended use of a particular dog in policing, they have to meet certain expectations and requirements and these might be different depending on the sector in which the dog is used. For example, in the case of patrol and tracking dogs, these requirements are extended by trainability, size, body composition, resistance to adverse weather conditions, the possibility of being in the pen in the open air all year round. In addition, a patrol and tracking dog must have an appropriate appearance and body structure, i.e. it must impress. However, the dog cannot arouse excessive interest among bystanders, as it can be an excuse for provocation or offensive comments, hinder the police work and provoke unnecessary tensions with other people.¹⁰

Years of experience have led to the identification of breeds which are most often chosen to assist the Police. For example, the breeds which are most often used for training-patrolling and tracking include: German Shepherd, Belgian Shepherd Malinois, Giant Schnauzer, Rottweiler, Black Russian Terrier, Doberman, Bouvier des Flanders. There are different reasons for choosing each of these breeds. For example, the German Shepherd is the most commonly used breed of dogs due to its popularity among breeders and therefore high availability. In addition, these dogs are characterized by: intelligence, fortitude, ease of adaptation to new conditions, high olfactory ability, high trainability, willingness to carry out all commands.¹¹ Belgian Shepherds (more popular in Western Europe than in Poland) are energetic, versatile, strong, they love to work long and hard, they are very involved in exercises, they have a great deal of stamina, and the sharp sense of observation allows them to act in advance if a similar situation has occurred in the past.¹² The Giant Schnauzer is a strong dog

¹⁰ G. Wiorowski, K. Lubryczyński, *op. cit.*, p. 65.

¹¹ B. Wilcox, Ch. Walkowicz, *Atlas ras psów świata*, Warszawa 1997, p. 423.

¹² L. Smyczyński, *Psy. Rasy i wychowanie*. Warszawa 1957, p. 335.

with a lively disposition, brave, calm, cautious, loyal to his master. This breed has very well developed sense organs, it is also resistant to weather changes and diseases, however, due to its vitality and great need for movement, it is not a dog suitable for everyone.¹³ Rottweilers, which are hardly available in Poland, are not very popular in the Polish Police. Their short hair makes that they very badly tolerate low temperatures in boxes located in the open air, which shortens the period of their service. It also generates additional costs related to the need to train new dogs. What is more, despite the fact that they are alert, reliable, skilful and persistent, breeders warn that they can be aggressive towards other dogs and may question human dominance.¹⁴ Other dog breeds listed above appear extremely rarely in the Polish Police. Mainly due to their small population.

Every police dog (owned by the Police)¹⁵ must have a certificate, i.e. a document confirming its ability to perform the tasks for which it was trained.¹⁶ The dog obtains such a certificate after the completion of the training, which takes the form of a course, or at the request of the provincial police commander and with the consent of the school commander – individual training.¹⁷ Successful completion of the training results in a dog's certificate. This document is issued for a specified period (depending on the dog's age), and obtaining subsequent certificates involves verification of the dog's functional fitness (i.e. the ability to perform the tasks for which it was trained).¹⁸ To enhance the functional fitness of police dogs means to ensure the proper work of these animals. It is the job of police dog handlers and it has the form of cyclic training carried out individually or collectively (together with other handlers).¹⁹ In order to improve functional fitness of the dogs, the training must take place at a certain frequency. The handler must be provided with one day per two weeks for improving functional fitness of the dogs (regardless of the number of dogs allocated) but sometimes (e.g. in justified cases) one day per a week.²⁰

Service dogs can be trained for: patrol service; tracking marks; combat operations; searching the terrain, rooms, vehicles, inland waterway, sea and air vessels or parcels and luggage in order to: a) find people or objects, b) search for traces left by people, c) search for explosives, d) search for drugs, e) search for human corpses; osmological tests; ambushes and blockades; rescuing drowning people; taking action in cases specified in the provisions on means of direct coercion and firearms.²¹ In para. 18 of

¹³ L.J. Dobroruka, *Psy*, Warszawa 1992, p. 50.

¹⁴ B. Wilcox, Ch. Walkowicz, *op. cit.*, p. 721.

¹⁵ Section 3 item 1 of Regulation No. 296.

¹⁶ Section 2 item 4 of Regulation No. 296.

¹⁷ Section 29 items 1 and 3 of Regulation No. 296.

¹⁸ Section 30 of Regulation No. 296.

¹⁹ Section 31 para. 2 of Regulation No. 296.

²⁰ Section 31 para. 3–5 of Regulation No. 296.

²¹ Section 18 of Regulation No. 296.

Regulation No. 296 it is stated that police dogs can be treated not only as means of direct coercion, but they are also used in the implementation of many other tasks entrusted to the Police. Under certain circumstances it is possible to retrain the dog, but this must be done under a special procedure.²²

In para. 21 of Regulation No. 296 there is a rule that a dog may only be used in service for tasks corresponding to the category in which it was trained. In addition, the dog must be kept on a leash and in a muzzle, except for dogs trained for service without a muzzle and in situations justified by the tactics and aim of using the dog, which include in particular: tracking of traces, searching for missing persons, combat operations, osmological tests, saving drowning people, searching for drugs, explosives and human corpses.²³

Regardless of the type of activities performed by the dog, it should not be directed to new activities not earlier than at least three hours after leaving the previous service.²⁴ The dog must also be given daily care, so when planning the service of a handler, during working or duty hours, he/she should be provided with one hour for this purpose.²⁵ To ensure the welfare of the dog, it is necessary to take into account weather conditions during the process of organizing the work of a handler with his dog.²⁶ Section 24 para. 9 of Regulation No. 296 indicates that in adverse weather conditions, the handler's superior may: 1) not direct the dog for service; 2) shorten the service time with a dog; 3) introduce additional rest for the dog.

Regulation No. 296 also introduced certain standards for feeding police dogs. First of all, it is recommended that the dog must be fed high-quality, complete, dry food, intended for working dogs, depending on the dog's age and veterinary health status. In addition, para. 33 of Regulation No. 296 indicates that dogs are fed once a day in summer and twice a day in winter. Dogs must have constant access to water throughout the year.

In Section 37 para. 1 of Regulation No. 296 there is an obligation to submit service dogs to: 1) compulsory vaccination against rabies; 2) other preventive vaccinations; 3) periodic veterinary examinations – at least twice a year; 4) quarter deworming; 5) other preventive procedures – according to the veterinarian's instructions. Police dogs must also stay in certain places, i.e. on the premises of the police organizational unit, at the handler's place – if he/she has the relevant conditions or in another area designated by the head of the police organizational unit (cell). Enclosures for dogs should also meet the standards contained in the provisions on the conditions of keeping individual species of animals used for special purposes, and they should also be constantly kept

²² Specified in Section 40 of Regulation No. 296.

²³ Section 22 para. 1 of Regulation No. 296.

²⁴ Section 23 para. 5 of Regulation No. 296.

²⁵ Section 24 para. 1 of Regulation No. 296.

²⁶ Section 24 para. 8 of Regulation No. 296.

clean, disinfection and deratization should be carried out at appropriate intervals.²⁷ Police dogs should be provided with the welfare, in accordance with the needs of a given race and gender. Regulation No. 296 also concerns the issue of acquisition, transfer and withdrawal of dogs from service. These provisions not only guarantee that animals will be able to work efficiently for the Police, but they also provide protection for such animals in situations where, for example, they permanently lose their functional fitness or suffer from disease with little chance of recovery.

The issue of responsibility for dogs in the Police is also regulated. In para. 2 of Regulation No. 296, there were indicated certain categories of persons entrusted with specific functions to the extent necessary to perform tasks using police dogs. These persons are: the coordinator, police dog handler, candidate for a police dog handler, dog guardian, service dog training instructor, civilian instructor, helper and veterinarian. Each of these groups of people was assigned different tasks. A key role, with regard to direct work with a service dog, is played by a dog handler, i.e. a policeman who has undergone proper training at the police school, in which specialized courses for dog handlers and training of these animals are conducted. A guide of a dog used for osmological examination may also be a police employee.²⁸

The allocation of the right number of dogs to one handler is important for the correct implementation of their tasks. Pursuant to Section 4 para. 3, a handler in preventive service can be assigned at the same time no more than two dogs.²⁹ In criminal service, a guide can be assigned a maximum of three dogs for osmological examinations, including dogs under individual training.³⁰

In a similarly way – although taking into account the diversity of species – there were formulated regulations concerning police horses in the above-mentioned Regulation No. 884. This regulation was issued in 2009, so it was modeled (in terms of the scope of regulation) on the basis of the regulation on police dogs. It is not surprising, therefore, that these solutions are analogous, especially with regard to the police horse's work cycle (from starting service, through assignment, to withdrawal from service).

Each police horse, like a police dog, must have a properly trained person assigned. In the case of horses, this person is called a "mounted police officer" and similarly to police dogs, he is responsible for all the duties related to the functioning of the horse in the Police, i.e. 1) performing horse service and documenting these activities in accordance with the provisions on the forms and methods of performing tasks by police officers in terms of patrol service and coordination of preventive activities, as well as with the provisions on recording, filling and storing service notebooks; 2) carrying out exercises; 3) taking care of: a) the welfare and physical condition of horses, includ-

²⁷ Section 38 para. 5 and 6 of Regulation No. 296.

²⁸ Section 2 item 2 of Regulation No. 296.

²⁹ Exceptions to this rule were specified in Section 4 item 4 and Section 4 item 5 of Regulation No. 296.

³⁰ Section 4 item 6 of Regulation No. 296.

ing subjecting them to preventive measures, vaccinations, veterinary examinations, treatment and shoeing; b) stables, which include sets of rooms consisting of boxes for horses, feeds, saddles, duty rooms and social rooms for policemen and employees, as well as the area adjacent to them – by using them properly and keeping them clean; 4) improving skills in tactics and techniques of using horses in service; 5) performing other works related to maintaining horses.³¹

The list of tasks entrusted to police horses is much shorter than in the case of police dogs, which results from the specificity of these animals. In Section 14 para. 1 of Regulation No. 884, there was formulated an open catalog in which it was indicated that the horses are used in particular for: 1) patrol service; 2) activities related to ensuring and restoring violated public order during mass events or assemblies.

The Regulation indicates acceptable norms of the working time of mounted police officers. Under normal conditions this kind of service can last for no more than 6 hours a day, during which a 30-minute break must be provided for the horse (time of service also includes the time of transporting the horse from the stable to the service area). In justified cases, the time of service may be extended to max. 12 hours a day. If the service period is extended to 8 hours, the horse must have two rest periods – 30 minutes each, and in the case of duty extended to 12 hours – 3 rest periods, 30 minutes each³².

In Section 15 of Regulation No. 884, the organization of service with the use of police horses was made dependent on prevailing weather conditions – the rules are similar as in the case of police dogs. When planning the mounted police officer's service, it is also necessary to take into account the time devoted to the daily care of the horse (as a rule, 2 hours a day, unless the policeman has been assigned 2 horses, in that case the time is extended by 1 hour) and the time for carrying out the exercises, and for necessary movement to keep the animal in the proper condition.³³ Police horses – similarly to police dogs – must be properly prepared for service and thus they must participate in training completed by obtaining appropriate certificates.³⁴

Regarding the issue of feeding, while in the case of dogs (and more precisely the purchase of food and proper feeding of a dog), the handler is paid a monetary equivalent for each day of the month, set at the level of the specific feeding rate of the policeman (hereinafter referred to as SZ [*szkolna stawka żywienia policjanta*]), in the case of police horses the daily monetary rate was set at PLN 16.18. Despite the fact that the prices of products increase year by year, this rate has not changed for years. However, the provincial police commanders were allowed to increase the rate indicated. However, in case of illness, convalescence or other justified cases, the food

³¹ Section 7 of Regulation No. 884.

³² Section 14 para. 3–5 of Regulation No. 884.

³³ Section 17–19 of Regulation No. 884.

³⁴ In Section 21–26 of Regulation No. 884, there was regulated the procedure of these trainings.

dose is adjusted according to the individual needs. Moreover, in Annex 6 to Regulation No. 884, the material dimension of the basic feeding standards for the service horse is specified (daily in grams). The list includes items such as: wheat bran (2,000 g), linseed (100 g), carrot (1,500 g), salt lick (30 g), oats (8,000 g), hay (7,000 g), straw (8,000 g), complete mixtures (500 g) and feed additives (as needed). Annex 6 to Regulation No. 296 contains a table of feeding rates for a dog, in which the division of dogs – into those weighing over 20 kg and those up to 20 kg – was made, and in which summer and winter feeding standards were also specified. The summer standard for a dog over 20 kg (0.7 SZ rate) is the basic standard, the winter standard for such a dog is 0.9 SZ rate, while for a dog below 20 kg the summer standard is 0.5 SZ rate, and winter standard – 0.7 SZ rates.

In the case of police horses, prevention is extremely important. For this reason, horses are subjected to: 1) mandatory deworming and vaccination against rabies, influenza, tetanus, fungal infections and diseases caused by herpes viruses; 2) periodic veterinary examinations – at least twice a year; 3) other preventive procedures as instructed by the veterinarian; 4) cleaning and forging hooves every 6 to 8 weeks or more often if necessary.³⁵ For the benefit of police horses, buildings intended for them are subject to periodic disinfection, disinfestation and deratisation. They must also meet certain technical and sanitary requirements.³⁶

Regulation No. 884 also determines the issue of acquisition, transfer and withdrawal of horses from service in the Police. Bearing in mind that the function of police horses is specific, it is extremely important that their efficiency guarantees the proper performance of the activities for which they are used. For this reason, Regulation No. 884 specifies the grounds for mandatory and optional withdrawal of horses from service. There are cases in which the animal cannot serve in the Police. These are *inter alia*: permanent loss of usefulness; little chance of improvement; vices; the lack of progress in training, which is necessary to achieve the level of training required to issue a first degree certificate.³⁷

Each of the activities related to the use of service animals in the Police must be properly documented. To facilitate this, the Police General Commandant introduced annexes to each of Regulations, including protocols for performing specific activities using police animals. These protocols allow the collection and systematization of information about individual police animals, so that their life and service in the Police can be verified at any time. There is no doubt, that the Police General Commandant, when issuing both of these Regulations, had a difficult task, consisting not only in providing persons responsible for police animals with appropriate conditions to per-

³⁵ Section 33 para. 1 of Regulation No. 884.

³⁶ Section 34 and 35 para. 2 of Regulation No. 884.

³⁷ Section 40 of Regulation No. 884

form their duties, but also in guaranteeing police animals optimal working and living conditions in the Police.

The provisions of both Regulations were formulated in such a way that a lot of attention was devoted to various procedures related to the selection, training or withdrawal of animals from active duty, as well as to persons entrusted with the care of these animals. This solution is intended – as indicated explicitly in both Regulations – to ensure the welfare of these animals. Therefore, we can ask: What is animal welfare in fact? In the literature on the subject, this concept is defined heterogeneously. As a rule, when describing this concept, we can refer to terms such as “stress”, “tolerance”, “adaptation”, “fitness”, and “homeostasis” – which may indicate that this concept is associated with the body as a whole.³⁸ For example, Barry Hughes defined welfare as a state of physical and mental health achieved in conditions of full harmony of the system in its environment.³⁹ According to Donald M. Broom, the term “welfare” is a state of the system in which the animal can cope with circumstances occurring in the environment,⁴⁰ whereas David Sainsbury claims that welfare is a set of conditions covering the biological and behavioral needs of the organism, which allows revealing the fullness of its genetic capabilities.⁴¹ In the Farm Animal Welfare Code, written by English specialists from the Farm Animals Welfare Council, the concept of animal welfare boils down to the following points: freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury and disease, freedom from fear and stress, and the ability to express normal behavior. In order for these conditions to be met, the animals must be provided with fresh water, adequate feed, secured rest area, shelter, optimal environmental conditions, veterinary care, elimination of stressors and adequate living space and social composition in the group.⁴²

The above definitions show that animal welfare is a very broad concept. When defining the concept of the welfare of police animals, it is necessary to take into account their specificity, and therefore to assume that it is a state of physical and mental health achieved in optimal conditions that can be guaranteed by ensuring that these animals meet their needs while not overloading them with work excessively in relation to their possibilities. So, we can ask the second question: Is it possible to achieve it in the case of police animals, which in principle are used for work under special conditions?

Undoubtedly, the provisions of the regulations are formulated in such a way as to provide animals with the greatest comfort of work and life. In addition, it should be taken into account that sometimes what constitutes work for a human is only fun for

³⁸ R. Kołacz, E. Bodak, *Dobrostan zwierząt i kryteria jego oceny*, „Medycyna Weterynaryjna” 1999, Nr 3, p. 147.

³⁹ B.O. Hughes, *Welfare of Intensively Housed Animals*, “Veterinary Research” 1988, No. 33, p. 123.

⁴⁰ D.M. Broom, *The Veterinary Relevance of Farm Animal Ethology*, “Veterinary Record” 1987, No. 17, p. 400.

⁴¹ D.W.B. Sainsbury, *Pig Housing and Welfare*, “Pig News and Information” 1984, No. 4, p. 337.

⁴² R. Kołacz, E. Bodak, *op. cit.*, p. 147.

the animal, e.g. walks with a patrolling policeman, is even necessary to maintain the physical and mental condition of the animal. Therefore, the people responsible for these animals have to devote a certain amount of time to dealing with them every day. These animals must meet certain health requirements at the time of admission to the service, and during performing their duty must be guaranteed proper care, periodic examinations and preventive measures so that their health does not deteriorate. The tasks entrusted to these animals must be adapted to their abilities and certificates. In addition, by issuing both Regulations, the Police General Commandant introduced the concept of adverse weather conditions in which the working time of police animals could be reduced.

Nevertheless, the work performed by these animals is stressful, sometimes performed under time pressure, requiring concentration and attention, and therefore may cause some discomfort and disrupt the welfare of these animals. Therefore, constant and proper care for them at every stage of their work in the Police and later is of crucial importance. Officers should show particular diligence in their work with police animals.

It should be noted that in the performance of certain tasks, service animals are simply irreplaceable. It should be assumed that the role of service horses over the years was limited. The reasons are in particular: technological progress and the possibilities offered by other means of transport, as well as the threats that may currently be associated with the use of these large animals as means of direct coercion. But it should not be forgotten, that there were periods of Polish history when these animals were of key significance.

The situation is completely different in the case of dogs. These animals are still necessary in some areas of police work. Although technological progress allows the creation of means and mechanisms which are more effective than police dogs, the limited budget makes that the work of police dogs is still crucial for the implementation of a number of activities related to the detection of specific odors or substances. Many activities targeted at police dogs are human-oriented. For this reason, it should be evaluated whether this could lead to a restriction on the use of constitutional freedoms and human rights and whether it would not be better to introduce these regulations into a legal act.

Based on the above considerations, service animals should be provided with maximum work comfort and protection which is crucial for their welfare and therefore ensures high quality of their work.

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Abstract: The issue of using animal help by formations serving man has a centuries-old tradition. It can even be said that since the dawn of time people have subordinated certain animals and used them, in particular for purposes related to the protection of various human societies. The notion of service animals in the Police, included in the law and legal literature, includes dogs and horses, whose role in ensuring safety and public order is almost invaluable. Therefore, these animals should be given adequate protection and guaranteed special living conditions. Pertinent regulations referring to the use of service animals can be found in legal acts. In the provisions of Art. 12 para. 1 point 9 and 10 of the Act of 24 May 2013 on Direct Coercion Measures and Firearms, a service dog and service horse are listed, including these animals as means of direct coercion. In Arts. 21 and 22 of this Act, there are specified the cases and rules for the use of these animals. Therefore, certain principles were introduced for officers of all formations authorized to use these "specific means". However, these provisions are laconic and insufficient. Many issues related to the use of service animals shall be governed by regulations or applied internally. It should be emphasized, however, that the legislator did not ensure the uniformity of these provisions, as a result of which they may differ significantly in individual protective formations. The article discusses the legal regulations regarding service dogs and service horses (including methods of their use and maintenance; ensuring proper living conditions; selection, transfer and withdrawal from service). The analysis of legal solutions applicable in this field was used to assess standards for the use of service animals in the Polish Police.

Keywords: police animals; police (service) dogs; police (service) horses; protection of police animals; work with police animals; police animals' welfare

