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Dogs in Police Work

Jackson Morley

Utah State University, Jackson.morley27@gmail.com

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Should we have more K-9 units to help keep us safe?

Jackson Morley

Introduction

Police dogs have a reputation of being heroes. It seems that almost everyone enjoys seeing “man’s best friend” out on the street helping those who keep our streets safe. So why don’t we see more of them? Why does every police officer not have a K-9? Is there a change that needs to be made?

Research

K-9 units are considered specialty units that are used in specific special times. They are utilized because dog’s have great abilities that can be used to save lives and apprehend criminals.

Canines can be used for much good, but the costs are often not seen. Each individual dog costs a lot of money to purchase, train, feed, and they also require constant care. With most police funds already dedicated to salaries and the rest usually going to upkeep there is little left over for police dogs.

Another potential draw back is the abuse of power that could arise. With constant updates on the news about police brutality increasing, increasing the amount of police dogs could result in an uproar especially with recent incidents like the Jeffrey Ryan’s case.

Conclusion

A massive increase in K-9 units would not be helpful or advisable at this time. Even though police dogs can help a lot in police work, every officer having one would be too costly and essentially “over kill”. A much more efficient approach would be to have a K-9 unit per county, and only having the dogs engage when needed.

DOGS AND SAFETY

Police dogs are excellent at their job, but it is possible to have too many.



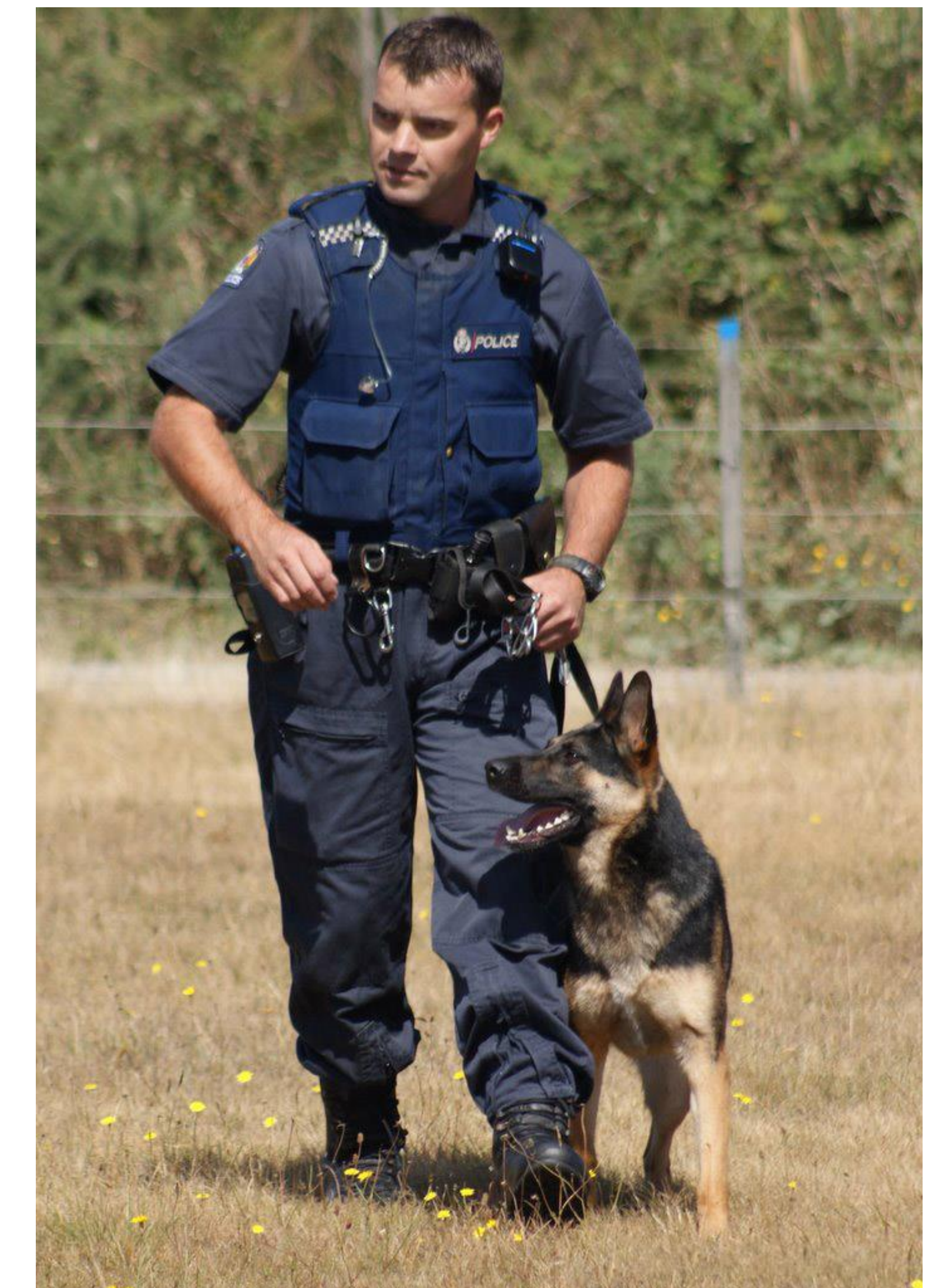
“Human law enforcement officers need to be a special type of person, and police dogs must be a special type of dog.”

K-9 USES AND CAPABILITES:

- Search and rescue
- Detection
- Apprehension
- Protection for officers
- Quick and efficient

COSTS OF A K-9 UNIT:

- Around \$8,000 per dog
- \$12,000-15,000 training per dog
- Potential abuse of power
- Can be inaccurate while doing searches



Each dog has its own handler who takes constant care of the dog.

Bibliography

