



# **UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY SERVICES**

**FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

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**PROJECT TITLE**

**WORKING DOGS WELFARE IN SECURITY FIRMS IN NAIROBI COUNTY**

**BY DENNIS MAUBE**

**J30/2062/2010**

**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare this project is my original work and to my best of my knowledge it has never been submitted to any University or institution of higher learning for award of any degree

MAUBE DENNIS

SIGN.....DATE.....

This project has been submitted with my approval as the university of Nairobi supervisor

JAFRED M.A KITAA (BVM, MSC, PhD)

SIGN.....DATE.....

## **DEDICATIONS**

This research project is dedicated to my loving uncle Geoffrey Kwendo Atieli for his continued support in my pursuit of my professional qualification

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## **ABSTRACT**

The use of working dogs in security matters has increasingly become common in the world, Kenya, is no exception. This study establishes working dogs' welfare and effect on performance in Nairobi county security firms; knowledge and training techniques used by employees. Questionnaires were used to collect data and characterize dogs' behavior and welfare with relevancy to the dogs' environment. Identification of physical stressors and veterinary care of the dogs was also undertaken. It was found out that the number of male dogs kept was higher than females. The percentage males was 66.4% with females at 33.3%. The common dog breed kept was German shepherd. Dogs were exercised an average of 30 minutes per day and given obedience training. In all the firms they used verbal reprimand and reward based as method of training. 25% the firm groomed their dogs after 3 days while 75% of the firms groomed their dogs weekly. In all the firms feeding was done once per day in the morning. In all the firms dogs were kept in spacious kennels  $>3M^2$  floor space and provided with clean water ad lib. The findings from this study showed working dogs welfare was understood in the firms and implemented. It was also found that the persons dealing with dogs in the security firms understood dogs' welfare issues.

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Dogs play important roles in human life, they provide security, service and companionship (Rooney *et al.* 2009). Working dogs have become common in Kenya ([www.kenyaguarddog.com](http://www.kenyaguarddog.com)). Security firms in Kenya have embraced this business due to dog's ability to detect territorial intruders, detect threatening people or animals, confronting intruders and alerting the owner that something is wrong ([www.kenyaguarddog.com](http://www.kenyaguarddog.com)). It is the moral obligation of the firms to consider the welfare of these dogs. 'The greatness of a nation and its progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated' Mahatma Gandhi ([www. Brainyquotes.com](http://www.Brainyquotes.com)). Some of the key welfare issues which are supposed to be checked are the five freedoms: Freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain or injury or disease, freedom to express normal behavior and freedom from fear and distress (Brambel *et al* 2002). Another reason to consider welfare is legal obligation. In Kenya, Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act (cap 360) is the law that ensures that dogs are not beaten, kicked, tortured or terrified. The law states that injured dogs or physically unfit dogs are not supposed to be used. The law ensures dogs are not confined in a manner causing them to suffer. The law also shows dogs are not supposed to be kept in a dirty place and the law also shows it is an offence not to provide veterinary treatment for dogs. This study will determine if working dogs are treated humanely

### 1.2 OBJECTIVES

#### 1.2.1 General objective

Determining working dogs welfare in security firms in Nairobi County

#### 1.2.2 Specific objectives

The specific objectives of this study were:

1. To investigate if working dogs in Nairobi County are treated humanely
2. To investigate if the security groups using dogs in Nairobi County are aware of the welfare.

### **1.3 HYPOTHESIS**

Increased use of working dogs in security firms has led to abuse of the five freedom of animal welfare by the security firms.

## CHAPTER 2

### 2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1.1 Defining working dogs

According to American Kennel Club these are canines kept for working and performing tasks to assist human and such tasks include guarding, draught dogs, service dogs, rescue dogs, herding, hunting dogs, track dogs, war dogs and police dogs. Examples of dogs seen in this field include German Shepherd Dogs, Labrador Retrievers, and Border Collies among others (Kovacs *et al.*, 1996). These dogs are kept sometimes for commercial purposes and are cared by employees or volunteers. A small number of people are responsible for taking care of a large number of dogs (Rooney *et al* 2009).

#### 2.1.2 Working dog standards and guidelines

##### 2.1.2.1 Responsibilities and Skills of Staff

The person in charge is supposed to be present all the time and must have knowledge and skills to take care of dogs' welfare, feeding dogs, protection from distress, responsible for hygiene of the facility. If the person does not have the skills then they must be supervised by a person who is trained and experienced. (Rooney *et al* 2009)

##### 2.1.2.2 Dog Housing

Dogs are highly social animals. The shelter should be water proof and wind proof and of suitable size. (Dawson *et al* 2013). The animal humane society suggest the following housing requirement for dogs

## Dogs over 16 weeks or up to 4 puppies under 16 weeks of age

**Table 1**

Height of dog at shoulder	Minimum floor area in Metres square	Minimum height in cm	Minimum width in cm	Maximum number of Dogs	Increased floor area for each additional dog in m square
<40cm	1.5	180	90	1	1.0
40-60cm	2.4	180	100	1	1.7
>60cm	3.5	180	120	1	1.7

**Table 2**

## Bitch with puppies upto 8 weeks of age

Minimum floor area in Metres square	Minimum height in cm	Minimum width in cm	Increased floor area for each additional dog in m square
3.5	180	120	0.4

\*minimum floor area includes area allocated for bedding

\*minimum height include if roof is closed

The structure should also not retain heat, should be made of durable materials with solid floor raised about inches from ground. Bedding materials should also be provided ([www.animalhumanesociety.org](http://www.animalhumanesociety.org))

### **2.1.2.3 Food and Water**

According to American Society for Protection and Care of Animals ( [www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org)). Adequate food and water should be provided .The dietary needs of working canines, such as police dogs, guide dogs and cattle dogs, will depend on their occupations. Energy needs will increase with the work level or stress level. A dog with a moderate work load may require an energy increase of 40 percent compared to maintenance, whereas a dog with a high work load may require an extra 50 to 70 percent. Dogs should be fed twice in a day. (American Society for Protection and Care of Animals, [www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org))

### **2.1.2.4 Training techniques for dogs**

Some training techniques cause fear and pain in dogs hence increasing the dogs fear or anxiety about the situation in which it is used. Some techniques will cause the following([www.animalwelfarecampaign.org](http://www.animalwelfarecampaign.org)):decrease the dog's ability to learn ,associate other coincidental events with a fear provoking event ,inhibit behavior but leave the underlying emotional response unchanged increasing the chance of future problems, induce a new avoidance or aggressive response ,cause confusion as to which behavior is required and cause physical injury

### **2.1.2.5 Veterinary Care for Working Dogs**

Dogs need to be attended to by a qualified Veterinarian for vaccinations, monthly and annual health checks and whenever they fall sick (Africa Network for Animal Welfare, Magazine December March 2014)

## CHAPTER 3

### 3.1 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was carried in Nairobi County involving–KK Security Group, Riley Security, Securex and Security Group Africa. During the study interviews and questionnaires were used to collect data .This is because questionnaires were less expensive and easier to administer and they also allowed confidentiality, Leary (1995). The questionnaire used according to Leary 1995 used precise terminology in phrasing questions, avoided difficult words, used appropriate response format and avoided making unwarranted assumptions .Information about working dogs was obtained from publications both printed and internet information Data analysis was descriptive statistics , filling tables, use of computer databases , use of graphs and charts.

## CHAPTER 4

### 4.1 RESULTS

#### 4.1.1 Dog composition

**Table 3 showing number of dogs, breeds and sex compositions of dogs in the four firms**

	NO OF DOGS	MALE	FEMALE	BREEDS
KK	300	180	120	German shepherds Rotweiler Boerbel
SGA	98	83	15	German shepherds Rotweiler
SECUREX	102	70	32	German shepherd
RILEYS	24	15	9	German shepherd

From the table the number of males kept is higher than the females in all the firms, the common breed kept was German shepherd.

#### 4.1.2 Training

All the four security firms gave obedience training to their dogs, all their dogs instructors were trained to handle dogs.

#### Type of training

**Table 4 summarizing the type of training given to dogs**

	KK	SGA	RILEYS	SECUREX	
Reward based	Yes	yes	yes	Yes	100%
Mostly corrections	No	no	no	Yes	25%
Assertive	No	no	no	No	0

Reward based training had positive results as dogs were reported to be more obedient and learned new task easily

#### 4.1.3 Type of punishment

**Table 5 summarizing the types of punishments given to dogs**

	KK	SGS	RILEYS	SEUREX	
Physical	No	no	no	No	0
Noise	No	no	no	No	0
Verbal	Yes	yes	yes	Yes	100%
Physical handling	No	yes	no	Yes	50%

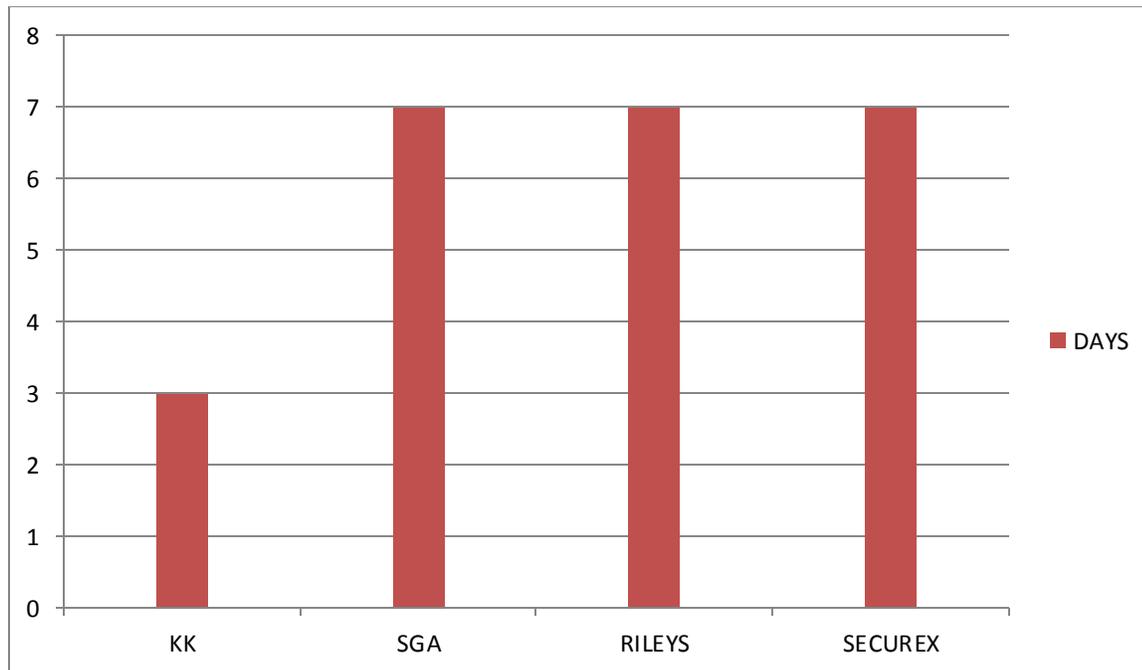
All the security firms used verbal reprimands as form of punishment with securex and SGA using both verbal reprimands and physical handling. The reasons for not using more punishments were that dogs trained with more punishment: interacted less with people, showed more behavior problems ,were less playful and dogs had little confidence in handlers who used physical punishment.

#### 4.1.4 Exercise

It was found that all the security firms gave their dogs exercise every day with an average 30 minutes (duration). It was found that dogs which are exercised had less barking. The respondent stated that more exercise, more than 2 hours impacted negatively on dogs reducing their performance as they were more tired. From the study it was established that exercise provided dogs with opportunity to move, explore and have social interaction. The effect dependent on whether the dog was on or off lead, duration and frequency of the exercise. It was found out that exercising dog in short period of time gave the dogs enough time to rest

#### 4.1.5 Grooming

Bar graph 1



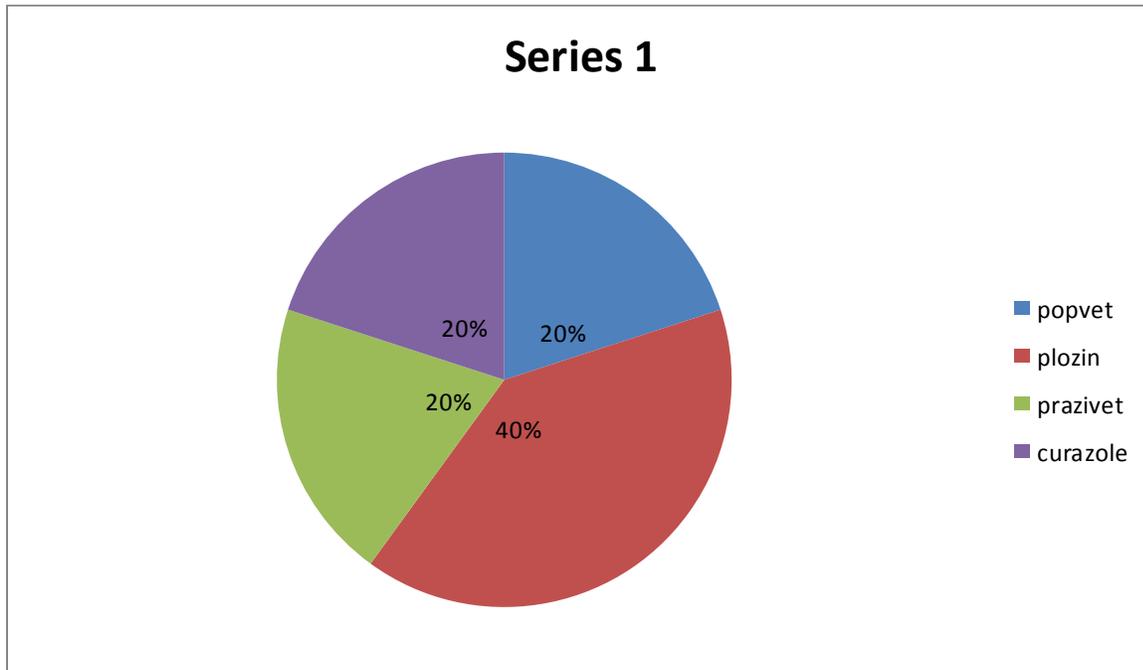
KK security grooming their dogs after 3 days, SGA, RILEYS and SECUREX grooming their dogs weekly. KK security wash their dogs with protex soap, followed by shampoo , then followed by baccip (pyrethrin), SGA ,RILEYS and SECUREX use bar soap, followed by shampoo then frontline (fipronil)

They stated grooming improves performance of dogs as the incidences of tick related and flea related diseases are minimized. The dogs are also comfortable due to reduced itching and nuisance from ectoparasites

#### 4.1.6 Deworming

Deworming was done after 3 months in all the firms and the drugs that were used are summarized below

Pie chart 1



KK security used popvet<sup>R</sup>(praziquantel,oxantel and oxantel) for deworming, while SGA Used a combination of both prazivet<sup>R</sup> and curazole<sup>R</sup>(Fenbendazole), RILEYS and SECUREX used plozin<sup>R</sup>(praziquantel,oxantel and oxantel). In all the firms it was said deworming reduces mortality, morbidity of dogs and also the dogs have a high food conversion.

#### 4.1.7 Vaccination

Table 6 summarizing the vaccination regimes

<b>FIRM VACCINATION</b>	<b>KK</b>	<b>SGA</b>	<b>RILEYS</b>	<b>SECUREX</b>
<b>PARVOVIRUS 1</b>	4weeks	6weeks	6weeks	6weeks
<b>PARVOVIRUS2</b>	6weeks	8weeks	8weeks	9weeks
<b>PARVOVIRUS3</b>	9weeks	-	-	-
<b>DHLP 1</b>	12weeks	10weeks	12weeks	12weeks
<b>DHLP 2</b>	-	12weeks	16weeks	16weeks
<b>RABIES 1</b>	12weeks	10weeks	12weeks	12weeks
<b>RABIES 2</b>	-	12weeks	16 weeks	16 weeks
<b>RABIES 3</b>	-	16weeks		

\*DHLP.....Canine distemper,hepatitis,leptospirosis and parvovirus vaccination

#### 4.1.8 Veterinary attention

In all the four firms the dogs got veterinary attention whenever there was need,in KK security and Securex they had veterinary doctor who reported every day to check on the dogs, in RILEYS a veterinary doctor visited weekly and in SGA a veterinary doctor visited after 2 weeks

#### 4.1.9 Food and water

The water given to the dogs was clean tap water *ad lib*.Food given per dog varied by age,sex and level of activity of the dog

#### 4.1.10 Housing

Table 7

	KENNEL SIZE	FLOOR SPACE
<b>KK</b>	<b>4M × 3 M × 2.5M</b>	<b>12M<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>SGA</b>	<b>3M × 2M × 2M</b>	<b>6M<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>RILEY</b>	<b>2M × 1.5M × 1M</b>	<b>3M<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>SECUREX</b>	<b>2.5M × 1.5M × 1.2M</b>	<b>3.75M<sup>2</sup></b>

In KK,SGA and SECUREX kennels made of ,concrete floor, wooden walls and wire mesh, roof made of iron sheets, while in Rileys the kennel floor were raised with wooden walls and an opening made of wire mesh, the roof was made of iron sheets. The reasons stated for spacious kennels were to reduce stress for dogs. In all the firms the kennels were cleaned every day. In all the four firms the kennel life was made more interesting and comfortable by provision of dry beddings. In KK security they further provided chew toys

## CHAPTER 6

### 6.1 DISCUSSION

Research that was done by Rooney *et al* (2009) at Bristol University, Anthrozoology Institute, showed that improving working dog welfare improves the dogs' performance . This study showed the working dogs welfare in security firms in Nairobi. The welfare issues under study were housing, training, punishment, exercise, feeding, veterinary care and grooming .

The kennels were spacious with minimum floor size of more than 3M<sup>2</sup> in all firms .The dogs were provided with beddings for heat, reducing stress in dogs due to cold. Study done by Seksel in 2013 showed the minimum floor space for an adult large breed is, floor size 3M<sup>2</sup>.

In all the firms dogs were allowed to socialize with a minimum exercise time of 30 minutes. This allowed them to express normal behavior with other dogs during exercise. The responded from the security firms said also training dogs for more than one hour made the dogs tired. Rooney *et al* (2009) established that training within 30-60minutes time improved dogs performance as they had enough time to rest as over exercising dogs resulted in increased cortisol levels causing stress and anxiety in dogs.

Study done by Doctor Rooney at Bristol University showed it was important to use dog instructors who are trained as they understood the welfare needs of the dogs. This work found that the security firms gave obedience training to their dogs and the dog instructors were trained.

It was found that reward based was the adapted method of training, reward based was 100% adapted as in table 5.2, with verbal reprimands as a 100% adapted method of punishment. Physical handling was used at 50%. It was said the dogs obeyed and learned new task easily when reward based method was used. Rooney's work (2013) showed reward based method as the best method of training as it did not create fear in dog during training and dogs learned new trait easily.

Dogs were fed once per day in all the firms and the food given varied depending on age and sex of the dog .Water was given ad lib. High energy feeds were given adult dogs. This was in contrast with the American society for Care and Protection of animals recommends dogs. American Society for Protection and Care of animals suggests working dogs to be fed twice per day in the morning and evening with high energy food and water should be provided throughout.

In all the firms the dogs got veterinary care whenever there was need .American Society for Care and Protection of animals recommended monthly visits for veterinary doctors. In 50% of the firms had a permanent veterinary doctor on duty. One of the security firms had a vet who visited weekly while another firm had a veterinary doctor who visited after 2 weeks. Deworming was routine in adult dogs , in all firms it was done after 3 months and the common dewormer was (praziquantel/oxantel/pyrantel) . The vaccinations done were parvovirus ,canine distemper, canine hepatitis, leptospirosis and rabies.

## **6.2 CONCLUSION**

This study established that security firms in Nairobi county using dogs understood working dogs welfare issues and implemented them.

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