



The importance of using dogs in executing search and seizure warrants

The importance of using dogs in enforcement of search and seizure warrants

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SUMMARY

This paper aims to analyze the importance of using dogs to execute search and seizure warrants, highlighting the legal, operational, and institutional aspects of this practice within the public safety context. The research adopts a methodological approach based on a literature review, analyzing academic literature, legislation, and technical documents addressing the use of dogs by police forces in combating crime, especially drug trafficking and illegal possession of weapons. The legal provisions that legitimize canine activity, the institutional protocols regulating their use, and the ethical requirements related to animal welfare are considered. Training methods, physical and mental health care, and the bond established between the dog and its handler are also examined, factors that directly impact operational effectiveness. The results show that the use of dogs in search warrants increases the accuracy of operations, reduces investigation time, and contributes to the safety of officers, without violating fundamental rights when judicially authorized. It was also observed that the effectiveness of canine work is directly related to the quality of training, the available physical infrastructure, and the existence of policies that ensure the protection of animals during and after their period of active service. The study concludes that, in addition to their strategic role in combating crime, the work of dogs requires ongoing institutional commitment to legality, technical expertise, and ethics, constituting a relevant resource in the consolidation of more efficient public safety practices that respect legal standards and animal care principles.

Keywords: Police Dogs; Search and Seizure; Public Safety; Training.

ABSTRACT

This paper aims to analyze the importance of using dogs in enforcing search and seizure warrants, highlighting the legal, operational, and institutional aspects that involve this practice in the context of public safety. The research adopts a methodological approach based on a bibliographic review, with analysis of academic productions, legislation, and technical documents that deal with the use of dogs by police forces in actions to combat crime, especially drug trafficking and illegal possession of weapons. The legal provisions that legitimize canine activity, the institutional protocols that regulate their use and the ethical requirements related to animal welfare are also considered. Training methods, physical and mental health care, and the bond established between the dog and its handler are also examined, factors that directly impact operational effectiveness. The results show that the use of dogs in search warrants increases the accuracy of operations, reduces due diligence time and contributes to the safety of agents, without violating fundamental rights when there is judicial authorization. It was also observed that the effectiveness of canine work is directly related to the quality of training, the physical structure available and the existence of policies that ensure protection for animals during and after the period of active service. The study concludes that, in addition to the strategic role in combating crime, the work of dogs requires continuous institutional commitment to legality, technique and ethics, configuring itself as a relevant resource in the consolidation of more efficient public safety practices that respect legal standards and principles of animal care.

Keywords: Police Dogs; Search and Seizure; Public Safety; Training.



1 INTRODUCTION

The use of dogs in the execution of search and seizure warrants is a relevant strategy within public security operations, especially when the objective is locate narcotic substances, weapons or other objects that are difficult to detect by means conventional. According to Santana (2020), the use of these animals in operations related to drug trafficking has proven effective, as dogs have a highly sensitive sense of smell developed, which allows you to accurately identify hidden storage locations. This sensory capacity enhances the effectiveness of police investigations, as it reduces the time operation and increases the chances of finding evidence. Rodrigues, Silva and Minazaki (2023) highlight that, from a legal point of view, the use of dogs is not characterized as a violation of domicile or means of illicit evidence, since its action takes place within the legal limits of authorized search. In this context, canine action becomes a complementary instrument to human work, allowing for safer and more targeted interventions.

In addition to operational efficiency, the use of dogs contributes to increased safety of the agents involved in the proceedings, as the presence of the animal can inhibit violent reactions or escape attempts by suspects. Santos (2021) argues that dogs represent an expansion of the workforce in the field of security, as their physical attributes and specific training make them active agents in operations, including serving as a protective element. Ferreira and Marques (2022) explain that these animals are trained based on conditioned stimuli, which ensures that their actions are controlled and predictable, respecting institutional protocols. Therefore, the dog does not act in a autonomously or instinctively during the proceedings, but rather as an extension of the commands issued by drivers, which guarantees legal and technical security for the operation.

The use of dogs in search operations also requires health and safety precautions. welfare of animals, which must be understood as subjects of law within the logic functional of the corporation. According to Notomi et al. (2020), maintaining the health of dogs military involves nutrition protocols, health control, rest and adequate stimuli, ensuring optimal performance in operations. Directive No. 007/2025, in its prescriptions various, letter “n”, cites “that the care, preservation and maintenance of the quality of life of movement must be one of the basic principles of all members of Dog Operations, monitoring and inspection of hygiene and health conditions (physiological and psychological) of the animal”. Costa (2016) adds that the training process cannot

compromise the welfare of animals, and should occur gradually, with reinforcements positive and respecting the physiological and behavioral limits of each dog. Lauria, Valverde and Norões (2024) problematize the absence of regulations that ensure rights minimum to dogs after their working life, which implies reflection on responsibility institutional in guaranteeing legal protection to animals that serve in corporations. This In this way, the importance of using dogs should not be limited to their functionality operational, but expanded to their condition as work agents with needs specific.

Another important aspect is the technique used in identifying substances and objects, in which sniffer dogs are fundamental. Dantas, Müller and Araújo (2022) explain that the canine sense of smell operates by memorizing specific odors, being trained to indicate the presence of illicit materials with previously conditioned body signals. This ability makes the dog's performance especially strategic in search warrants that involve non-obvious hiding places, such as false bottoms, underground structures or adapted compartments in vehicles. Santos et al. (2025) point out that the courses of training for police officers includes modules on driving and reading the behavior of dogs, which contributes to the appropriate and efficient use of these animals during operations. Therefore, the success of executing search warrants depends not only on the the dog's ability, but also the technical qualification of the police officer who handles it, highlighting the importance of integrated practices between human training and animal training. This articulation strengthens the role of the dog as a legitimate tool for investigation and repression crimes, especially when combined with police intelligence strategies.

This research aims to answer the following question: how does The use of dogs by police forces contributes to the effectiveness, legality and safety of operations to comply with search and seizure warrants, especially in cases related to drug trafficking? Based on this question, the general objective is defined this study to understand the importance of the use of dogs by police forces in compliance with search and seizure warrants, considering operational aspects, legal and technical aspects involved in this practice. To achieve this purpose, the following are established: following specific objectives: (I) identify the main legal and operational foundations that legitimize the use of dogs in police search and seizure operations; (II) analyze the practical contributions of dogs' work in locating illicit substances and other

hidden elements during operations; and (III) examine the care related to training, welfare and rights of dogs used in police forces.

The justification for this research lies in the growing use of dogs as tools to support police operations, particularly in combating trafficking drugs and in the search for illicit materials, which raises relevant questions about the effectiveness of this strategy, the legal limits involved and the ethical implications regarding the actions of animals. Although there are empirical and normative records that support the practice, There are few systematic studies that comprehensively analyze the different aspects related to the use of dogs in the execution of search warrants. Thus, This work seeks to fill this gap by articulating debates on performance operational, legal foundations and animal welfare guarantees, promoting a critical and informed reflection on the importance of this practice in the context of policies public safety.

2 LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE USE OF DOGS IN SEARCH AND SEIZURE OPERATIONS

The use of dogs by police institutions in the execution of search warrants and seizure finds legal support in regulations and practices that ensure its legality within public security operations. The normative basis is based on the function assistance performed by these animals, whose actions do not constitute a violation of the home, because it occurs under judicial authorization and under direct command of public agents. Rodrigues, Silva and Minazaki (2023) highlight that the use of dogs is subject to the principles of legality and proportionality, being regulated by operational protocols. Santana (2020) notes that the canine presence in investigations is justified not only by its effectiveness sensory, but also by the regularity with which these procedures are legitimized by formally issued court orders, which places them fully within the scope of legality procedural.

Police corporations are structured around devices that recognize the dog as a specialized instrument, integrating into the institutional framework of the forces of security. The formalization of the dogs' activities is done through internal regulations and administrative guidelines that recognize its technical function. In the Military Police of Paraná its use is regulated through specific Ordinances, Guidelines and POPs.



For Ferreira and Marques (2022), the institutional framework of the police dog as tactical resource legitimizes its use in activities such as home searches, as long as supported by a valid court order. Additionally, Santos (2021) highlights that the institutionalization of animal labor accompanies a process of technification of forces police officers, which requires compliance with normative principles compatible with the use of means auxiliary and less harmful in qualified crime repression actions.

The legal framework for the use of dogs requires normative interpretation that considers its performance as a means of technical assistance, not autonomous, within the legal structure of search operations. Rodrigues, Silva and Minazaki (2023) argue that dogs are operational extensions of the police, and must act under their supervision and within the limits judicially determined. As Santos (2021) points out, this condition rules out allegations of violation of fundamental guarantees, such as the inviolability of the home, provided that the entry into the premises is protected by a warrant issued by the competent authority. Therefore, the use of dogs does not represent an increase in police power, but a reinforcement of its technical capacity.

Brazilian legal doctrine recognizes the use of technological and biological resources in criminal prosecution actions, as long as constitutional principles are respected and procedural. Santana (2020) emphasizes that dogs, because they are not autonomous agents, do not affect the legal prohibition of illicit evidence by derivation, as long as the police action is based on a valid warrant. Similarly, Ferreira and Marques (2022) indicate that the dogs' performance is interpreted as a preparatory stage of the diligence, acting in the location of elements that, once found, will be formally seized by the police, which reinforces the legal regularity of the practice.

The internal rules of military corporations establish specific standards for the use of dogs, considering the legal context and operational limitations imposed by legal system. Santos et al. (2025) show that police officers trained to driving dogs receive specific training regarding the legal limits of their activities, reinforcing the regulated nature of the use of this resource. According to Dantas, Müller and Araújo (2022), these internal regulations act as guarantors of legal compliance, establishing standardized conduct that avoids excesses and preserves the fundamental rights of investigated. In this sense, the Paraná Military Police has a Canine Training Course Police, which trains police officers for various activities.

The use of dogs in operations must respect constitutional principles, such as dignity of the human person and due process of law, without compromising their actions legal guarantees. Rodrigues, Silva and Minazaki (2023) clarify that the dogs' actions occur under direct mediation of the police officer, who is legally responsible for all actions of the diligence. Costa (2016) adds that adequate training and behavioral control of dogs are essential elements to ensure that your performance remains compatible with the legal limits of the operation, avoiding unnecessary deviations or damage.

The legality of canine activity must also consider the animal's rights. as a member of the police force, even without full legal recognition as such. subject of rights. Lauria, Valverde and Norões (2024) highlight the lack of regulation specific regarding the legal protection of dogs after their working life, which highlights a gap institutional. Santos (2021) points out that, while they are active, dogs must be inserted into a functional structure that respects their physical and mental integrity, as their performance depends directly on maintaining these conditions.

The role of the dog in executing warrants is not limited to the legality of the operation, but also to the State's responsibility to ensure that its use occurs within ethical and technical standards. Ferreira and Marques (2022) argue that the indiscriminate use of dog, without proper training and supervision, can compromise the validity of search results. For Santana (2020), the preparation of the team involved, including drivers and dogs, constitutes an institutional requirement essential to compliance with the procedure with current legal parameters.

The normative provision for the use of dogs in police operations also implies a structure for controlling and evaluating the legality of the acts carried out, including with regard to admissibility of the evidence obtained. Rodrigues, Silva and Minazaki (2023) mention that the evidence generated by the dog's actions must be properly contextualized and formalized in court records themselves, in order to respect the adversarial system and broad defense. Costa (2016) argues that the The effectiveness of canine action must be proven not only by the presence of the animal, but by adaptation of the procedure to the legal procedures established for search and seizure actions.

The legal recognition of dogs as auxiliary agents of corporations demands, furthermore, compliance with standards that ensure its status as a specialized instrument, not just a trained animal. Notomi et al. (2020) emphasize that the use of dogs must be submit reports, records and technical monitoring that attest to their qualifications. Dantas, Müller and Araújo (2022) reinforce that this documentary structure is fundamental for

ensure the validity of the acts carried out during the diligence, avoiding questions regarding the legality of the evidence obtained. Thus, the use of dogs falls within a legal framework and institutional that requires both technical preparation and procedural rigor so that its action has full legitimacy.

3 OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF DOGS IN COMPLIANCE WITH SEARCH AND SEIZURE WARRANTS

The use of dogs to execute search and seizure warrants has been highlighted as a practice supported by technical criteria, especially the capacity sensory sense that these animals possess. The canine sense of smell, vastly superior to that of humans, humans, allows the accurate detection of illicit substances, such as drugs and weapons, in hidden and difficult to access locations. Dantas, Müller and Araújo (2022) emphasize that the performance of scent hounds rely on conditioned stimuli, allowing a direct response to odors previously memorized. In addition, Notomi et al. (2020) explain that these skills are not only instinctive, but also the result of rigorous training that explore the physiological potential of animals, increasing the effectiveness in locating narcotics in police investigations.

The performance of dogs in search operations is linked to their preparation systematic, which must be adapted to the context of public security actions. Costa (2016) argues that dog training needs to consider the balance between technical conditioning and animal welfare, in order to guarantee efficiency without physical or behavioral harm. Santos et al. (2025) highlight that police officers Those responsible for the dogs also receive specific training, enabling them to interpret the behavioral signs of animals and guide them safely and effectively during operations. This integration between handler and dog results in more targeted interventions, contributing to the rapid and accurate location of items of criminal interest.

The presence of a police dog in investigations has a direct impact on reducing time necessary to carry out searches, in addition to reducing the exposure of agents to situations risk. Ferreira and Marques (2022) explain that, when identifying the presence of narcotics based on olfactory signals, the dog allows the team to focus its action on the points indicated, optimizing operational resources. Rodrigues, Silva and Minazaki (2023) add that the efficiency of the dog as a support instrument is directly related to its

ability to act as a sensory extension of the team, identifying elements that could escape human gaze, especially in hidden or camouflaged places.

Among the examples of positive actions regarding the use of police dogs, the following stand out: if the occurrence registered on July 1, 2025, in the city of Arapongas, according to Bulletin No. 826826/2025, prepared by the Military Police of Paraná. At the time, after a request from support to the Arapongas Municipal Guard Dog Operations Team, the animal indicated the existence of hidden illicit substances inside a light socket, where they were approximately 170 (one hundred and seventy) fractionated portions of crack were found, as well as 25 (twenty-five) portions of cocaine.

Such an example clearly demonstrates that the use of dogs is not only proved essential for locating the drug, but also reinforces that, without its action, such substances would hardly have been discovered solely by human action.

The effectiveness of canine employment can also be observed in a variety of environments where dogs are used, which includes homes, vehicles, rural areas and urban areas densely populated. Santana (2020) notes that this versatility allows for expanding the scope of operations, without compromising the accuracy in identifying illicit substances. For Santos (2021), this operational adaptability is essential in search warrants that involve different types of concealment, from compartments in furniture to structures underground, which highlights the strategic importance of the animal in complex actions of repression of crime.

Among the various examples of efficiency in the use of police dogs, the following stands out: one in which the animal is used in large-scale environments, which would require a lot of time and human effort for inspection, including the need for removal of obstacles in order to check for the presence of narcotics.

On June 28, 2025, the 7th CIPM Canine Operations team was requested to provide support in the city of Arapongas, through Police Report No. 813564/2025. At the time, the police came across a large forested area, considered a potential place for drug storage. Considering that the drug disperses its odor in the environment, forming so-called “odor pockets”, the police dog Hafena, when employed in the operation, quickly identified the presence of the smell. Following the principle of the starting point of volatility, the animal was able to locate with accurately the source of the odor, that is, the drug. If the dog had not been used, such



process would require several hours of manual searches, or might not even result in the location of the illicit material, since it was hidden inside the forest.

The use of dogs must be accompanied by institutional protocols that ensure the standardization of conduct and control of actions during investigations. Notomi et al. (2020) point out that effective performance requires compliance with defined criteria of physical preparation, positive stimuli and conditioned response. Dantas, Müller and Araújo (2022) reinforce that training routines must be periodic and appropriate to the type of operation, so that the effectiveness of the light is not compromised by failures in conditioning or wear and tear of the animal. These factors contribute to maintaining high performance in the field, being necessary to guarantee the quality of police activity.

The work of police dogs also requires attention to the relationship established with their drivers, whose operational tuning can influence the results obtained in searches. Costa (2016) highlights that communication between dog and police officer occurs through non-verbal signals, learned throughout the joint training, which requires constant dedication to maintain this functional relationship. Ferreira and Marques (2022) point out that the success of the operation depends on the handler's ability to recognize the warning signals given by the dog, interpreting them accurately and acting on them. This collaboration results in more coordinated and efficient operations, especially when time and accuracy are at a premium. critical factors.

The operational effectiveness of dogs increases when there is an institutional structure focused on to their physical maintenance and the management of their work routine. Santos et al. (2025) indicate that animals must receive veterinary support, adequate food and periods regular rest periods to maintain high performance. In this regard, it is worth noting that Lauria, Valverde and Norões (2024) warn that the absence of specific regulations for the protection of dogs after the end of their working life highlights an institutional void that can compromise the sustainability of the canine operating model in corporations. This aspect needs to be considered as part of strategies for valuing and caring for resources biologicals used in public safety.

The actions of dogs during the execution of search warrants have an impact not only the efficiency of the diligence, but also the legitimacy of the operation before society. As highlighted by Rodrigues, Silva and Minazaki (2023), the use of trained dogs contributes to increased public confidence as the search process becomes more technical and less susceptible to arbitrariness. Santos (2021) adds that the perception



of professionalism associated with canine performance reduces potential conflicts and questions regarding the validity of police actions, favoring the institutional image of corporations and strengthening the relationship with the community.

In practice, this perception can be observed during the fulfillment of warrants in which searches are conducted with the help of dogs. In these situations, the animal performs scanning in a less intrusive way, without the need to handle clothes, objects or personal belongings to identify illicit activities. Canine scent constitutes the main tool for detecting moving animals, while for humans they are required multiple verification procedures until it is confirmed that a given item corresponds to a narcotic, firearm, explosive or other illicit substance.

Measuring the effectiveness of dogs must also consider institutional records. of the operations performed, which allow evaluating the hit rate, average search time and reliability of performance. Ferreira and Marques (2022) defend the importance of systematic documentation of the results of investigations involving canine employment, as a way of guide continuous improvements in training programs. Santos (2021) concludes that this assessment is essential to support the permanence of dogs as a tactical resource in actions search and seizure, in addition to serving as a basis for justifying investments and improvements in police structures that use this operational model.

4 TRAINING, WELL-BEING AND INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR DOGS

The process of training police dogs requires a systematic methodology, with application of techniques based on positive conditioning, respecting the rhythm of animal's learning and the operational objectives to which it will be subjected. Costa (2016) highlights that training should prioritize non-coercive stimuli, ensuring internalization of commands and trust between dog and handler. Ferreira and Marques (2022) state that this relationship is built throughout the training, being fundamental for the efficient performance in the field. Continuous training is necessary to maintain the state dog readiness and avoid behavioral deviations during police action, which demands an adequate institutional structure for monitoring and periodic reassessment of results.

Dog preparation must include physical, cognitive and emotional aspects, aiming not only at technical performance, but also at preserving the integrity of the animal. Notomi et al. (2020) point out that dogs subjected to exhaustive routines or inadequate training tend to develop behavioral disorders and reduced functional performance. Santos et al. (2025) highlight the importance of programs institutions that establish clear guidelines for conditioning, ensuring that dogs are not treated as disposable instruments, but as biological agents with specific needs. This approach contributes to the longevity of the service dog active and to maintain the operational levels expected by corporations.

The preparation of police dogs can suffer different external impacts, depending on the environment in which they are trained. An example is the Military Police of Paraná: due to the large territorial extent of the State, varied climatic conditions are observed. In the capital, where the Independent Canine Operations Company is based, the milder climate favors longer and more intense training. In warmer regions, such as the municipality of Arapongas — headquarters of the 7th Independent Company —, the high temperatures require that the training is carried out at specific times, with less sunlight, and with time reduced animal effort.

During the training process, it is common for the dog, upon reaching its limit, to physical conditioning, show signs of exhaustion. In these cases, it may even interrupt the execution of the activity or develop evasion behaviors, as a way to deceive the driver, in an attempt to abstain from the task imposed on him.

Planning your dog's daily activities should include rest breaks, age-appropriate physical exercise and predictable routines, reducing stress levels. Costa (2016) observes that the lack of regularity in the routine can lead to irregular behaviors aggressive, apathy or refusal of commands. Rodrigues, Silva and Minazaki (2023) reinforce that the predictability of stimuli ensures greater emotional stability and avoids reactions unexpected events during operations. The responsible institution must ensure the physical structure of the kennel, due to the hygiene conditions and the availability of qualified professionals for the monitoring of animal welfare.

Such facts contribute not only to the moment of training or operation but also for the entire life of the animal, since the well-being of police dogs needs to be ensured throughout its useful life, including balanced nutrition, veterinary care preventive and stress control. Rodrigues, Silva and Minazaki (2023) argue that such

measures are essential to ensure that the dog maintains its response potential during the investigations. Lauria, Valverde and Norões (2024) report that, despite the contribution of dogs to institutions, there is still a normative omission regarding the guarantee of rights basics after demobilization. Recognition of the importance of the dog as a collaborator of the police forces therefore requires the implementation of public and institutional policies aimed at your protection before, during and after operational activities.

The ethical requirements associated with the use of police dogs involve responsibility of the State to guarantee adequate working and resting conditions for animals that serve the public safety. Dantas, Müller and Araújo (2022) observe that the usage protocols should include limits on exposure to intense stimuli, as well as the prediction of periods regular periods of rest and decompression. Costa (2016) emphasizes that physical overload and emotional compromises not only functional performance, but also the general health of the animal. Thus, ethics in the handling of police dogs is manifested in the articulation between operational efficiency and respect for the biological needs of the canine agent.

Maintaining the physical health of dogs requires institutional planning, including periodic vaccination, parasite control, specific nutrition and regular checkups. Notomi et al. (2020) explain that these measures contribute to reducing absences due to for clinical reasons, ensuring the dog's availability in emergencies. Ferreira and Marques (2022) add that veterinary monitoring must be continuous, with records that allow for the assessment of fitness for service and the early identification of signs of exhaustion or illness. These requirements reflect the need for strategic management of the canine force as a logistical resource for public security.

The bond between the dog and its handler is a decisive element in the success of the activities operational and depends directly on the treatment given to the animal in the environment training and performance. Santos et al. (2025) point out that mutual trust favors non-verbal communication, optimizing the dog's behavioral response to commands and adverse situations. Santos (2021) emphasizes that this interaction, when based on respect and predictability, results in a lower incidence of failures during operations. The appreciation of this link must be considered in institutional training policies and monitoring of binomials, recognizing the uniqueness of each established relationship.

The service time of the police dog must be limited according to age criteria, physical wear and behavioral response, respecting the animal's biological cycle. Santana (2020) proposes that demobilization occurs before the manifestation of signs of suffering,

with the dogs being sent to adoptive homes or kept under the responsibility of the corporation. Lauria, Valverde and Norões (2024) criticize the lack of regulation regarding the destination of retired dogs, which results in lack of assistance after years of service. The institutionalization of standards that guarantee a dignified retirement for dogs contributes to the humanization of police practice and for the social recognition of their work. The Police Military of Paraná, through the Ordinance of the General Command No. 751, establishes that the livestock will be discharged after six years of effective service rendered to the Corporation or upon reaching eight years of age.

The technical performance of police dogs can be compromised by factors such as pain, fatigue or malnutrition, which justifies the need for specific protocols for assessment of their health condition before the proceedings. Notomi et al. (2020) report that the Using health checklists before field work reduces operational risks and preserves integrity of the binomial. Ferreira and Marques (2022) argue that the effectiveness of canine action does not depend only on training, but on the continuous maintenance of physical condition and animal's behavior, which requires institutional planning and regular investment in infrastructure and technical support.

The lack of regulation on the rights of dogs after their working life reveals structural gap in public security policies. Lauria, Valverde, and Norões (2024) argue that dogs, although considered operational resources, also are sentient beings, whose legal protection must be compatible with their function. Santos (2021) states that recognition of the symbolic and functional value of police dogs must be translated into concrete institutional actions, such as adoption programs, monitoring post-demobilization and benefits similar to those provided for human employees. The effectiveness and ethics in the use of dogs therefore depend on the recognition of their needs and state responsibility in all phases of its operations.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This research allowed us to conclude that the use of dogs in fulfilling search and seizure warrants constitute a consolidated practice in security actions public, with legal support and proven effectiveness. The use of these animals as auxiliary agents enhances operational results, especially in locating narcotics, weapons and other hidden materials that could go unnoticed by

conventional methods. The dogs' actions are part of a technical-intervention model operational, in which procedures are guided by institutional standards and by legal parameters that ensure the validity of the evidence obtained. Thus, the use of dogs in operations of this nature, it represents an important resource for strengthening the criminal prosecution and the protection of society against crime.

During this study, it was possible to verify that the success of canine performance is directly linked to the quality of training and continuous preparation of both dogs and of its drivers. Specialized training, based on appropriate stimuli and practices ethically conducted, guarantees the effectiveness of actions and avoids behavioral deviations that could compromise the procedure. Furthermore, the coordinated action between the dog and the police officer contributes to faster, safer operations with a lower margin of error, allowing greater precision in interventions. These characteristics reinforce the importance of maintenance institutional training programs and permanent technical monitoring of these operational binomials.

Another fundamental aspect observed concerns the physical structure and care with the health and well-being of dogs throughout their functional life. Maintaining the integrity physical and emotional aspects of these animals is essential to ensure their continued performance, being necessary to provide balanced nutrition, veterinary monitoring, periods rest and psychological support compatible with the demands of the activities. In addition, it is essential that there are public and institutional policies that guarantee the retirement of dogs after the end of their working life, including measures to ensure housing, care and adequate legal protection. Failure to do so compromises not only the effectiveness of the work, but also the ethical legitimacy of using these animals.

It was also observed that the use of dogs contributes to strengthening public confidence in police actions, as it gives greater technicality to operations. The use of trained animals, within legal limits and with qualified supervision, dispels the idea of arbitrariness in searches and provides greater predictability and control over procedures. The transparency in actions, combined with the dogs' performance, reinforces the credibility of corporations together with society and contributes to the production of evidence that meets the criteria required by criminal proceedings. Thus, the use of these animals must be understood as a resource that combines investigative effectiveness, operational safety and respect for principles constitutional.

Given all the elements analyzed, it is concluded that the dogs' performance in enforcement of search and seizure warrants must be maintained, expanded and improved, provided it is accompanied by institutional and ethical guarantees that preserve the dignity of these animals. The effectiveness of canine action, combined with the technical rigor of the protocols action and observance of legal norms, justifies the incorporation of these agents in different fronts of public safety. However, it is essential that canine action be accompanied by training strategies, investment in infrastructure and regulation that considers not only operational efficiency, but also rights and needs specific to dogs, as subjects who actively participate in actions of collective interest.

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