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## **The Use of Police Dogs as Less Lethal Weapons**

*The Use Of The Police Dog As An Instrument Of Lesser Offensive Potential*

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### **Summary**

The central objective of this research focused on the importance of police dogs as less-lethal weapons. To this end, conceptual and legal aspects of less-lethal weapons were observed, and the dog itself was analyzed as a less-lethal weapon. From this perspective, this scientific research is considered important for society, since the role of the military police officer in the community is quite broad, ranging from the concept centered on the preservation of public order. The methodological instruments used were qualitative research, through bibliographic research in articles, books, and journals related to the thematic area addressed. The bibliographic results reveal that in police forces, the dog is an extremely active instrument due to various qualities and functions of employment as an aid in combating crime. Among these, dogs possess faculties that we humans do not possess; dogs are more precise. Due to the categorical results that dogs presented in public security activities, the desire arose for Brazilian security forces to use dogs as a tool to better contribute to overt policing activities.

**Keywords:** Police Dog; Instrument; Lesser Potential; Offensive.

### **Abstract**

The central objective of this research focused on the importance of the police dog as a less-lethal instrument. To this end, conceptual and legal aspects of less-lethal instruments were observed, as well as analyzing the dog as a less-lethal instrument. From this perspective, the importance of this scientific research for society is recognized, since the role of the military police officer for the community is very broad, ranging from the conception centered on the preservation of public order.

Qualitative research was used as a methodological tool, through bibliographic research in articles, books, and journals related to the thematic area addressed. The bibliographic results reveal that, in the police forces, the dog is an extremely effective tool due to its various qualities and functions in fighting crime. Among these, dogs have abilities that humans do not possess; dogs are more necessary. Due to the categorical results that dogs showed in public safety activities, there arose a desire for Brazilian security forces to use dogs as a tool to better contribute to policing activities.

**Keywords:** Police Dog; Instrument; Less Offending Potential.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

According to Beck and Katcher (2003), the domestic dog has differentiated itself over generations. by breeds that perform different tasks, in addition to their primary role as companion animals. Some certain breeds are well-suited for specific work activities within law enforcement, in the civilian sector, and Military police dogs are recognized as a vital part of law enforcement. The police dog is already used as a type of police dog. of force, determined by public administration and in the interest of the community, based on parameters in Brazilian legislation.

According to the authors, over the years, having become domesticated, they were trained to perform... numerous activities, for both military and civilian purposes, such as: guiding people with special needs. special needs; facility security; protection; search and rescue; expertise; location of explosives, narcotics detection, as well as the domestic dog that in many homes ends up becoming



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family member, among other activities. In this sense, the use of dogs by humans, in addition

In addition to being an excellent work tool, it also serves as a faithful companion.

In police work with dogs in highly complex environments, specifically, the dogs are used in the search for missing persons, the capture of individuals, and in riot control operations.

prisons, sports arenas, firearm detection, corpse searches, narcotics detection, and

Specifically, this research focuses on less-lethal weapons.

Considering that the constitutional role of the Military Police in the State of Amazonas is to offer

The feeling of public safety, through visible policing, from this perspective, the question

The scientific question being asked is: what is the importance of using a police dog as a minor tool?

Offensive potential?

To resolve this issue, a guiding hypothesis was proposed that, due to the results...

The categorical results that dogs demonstrated in public safety activities sparked a desire for

that Brazilian security forces would use dogs as a tool to better contribute to...

visible policing activity.

In this context, the overall objective is to highlight the importance of the police dog as a tool.

of lesser offensive potential. For this, the following specific objectives were used: 1. Observe

1. Conceptual and legal aspects of less-lethal weapons; 2. Analyzing the dog as

Less lethal weapons.

From this perspective, the importance of this scientific research for society is recognized, since

that the role of the military police officer for the community is quite broad, ranging from a conception centered on

"preservation of public order," which is a fragment of Article 144 of the 1988 Federal Constitution.

which clarifies that public safety is the duty of the State, a right and responsibility of all, and is

exercised for the preservation of public order and the safety of persons and property.

(BRAZIL, 1988) and combating crime, up to the understanding of a police officer providing service.

public, technical police officer and knowledgeable in the science involved, operating with dogs such

Less lethal weapons.

This work also implies actions in the academic sphere, in the areas of research and

extension, combined with a social commitment to the scientific and humanitarian advancement of the military police.

In other words, intellectual production within the academic sphere is of utmost importance, because...

Scientific productions in their various manifestations and materializations are configured as

Mechanisms for disseminating research results that move beyond the academic realm and take on a more formal form.

within the police institution and in society, it is through intellectual production that the

institutional demarcations and externalized activities that initially take place in contexts

within the walls, in order to seek integrated social development. The realization of this study also

This will provide professional development for the author who, in addition to being a military police officer, also works



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in the Canine Policing Unit.

This article is subdivided into theoretical foundation, where the main authors are discussed.

They discuss the concepts and legalities of less-lethal weapons and the dog.

as a police tool; methodological section, which details the methodological procedures.

used during the research; results and discussion, where the research results are presented;

and the conclusion, with the final considerations of the author of the research, based on the results obtained.

## **2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

In this section, we sought authors who address the topic, thus providing a better understanding.

We will address topical issues as a less-lethal tool, addressing...

Concepts and legality, use of force and proportionality, and the dog as a lesser offensive weapon.

### **2.1 Less Lethal Weapons: Concepts and Legality**

Less-lethal weapons are those specifically designed to, with low probability of causing death or permanent injury, containing, weakening or disabling temporarily incapacitate people. Examples include: pepper spray, tear gas, stun grenades. moral control, smoke agents, electric shock weapons, including the use of police dogs.

According to Law No. 13.060/2014, public security agencies, when acting In their duties, they should primarily use weapons with less lethal potential, which They are known by the acronym IMPO.

Law No. 13.060/2014 expressly states two situations in which it is not legitimate (it is not The use of firearms is permitted.

I - against a fleeing person who is unarmed or who does not pose an immediate risk of death or harm. injury to public security agents or third parties; and

II - against a vehicle that disregards a police roadblock on a public road, except when the act represents Risk of death or injury to law enforcement officers or third parties.

To that end, Betini and Duarte (2013) and Kelmer (2019) report that governments and organizations Law enforcement officials must ensure that all law enforcement officers are selected according to the appropriate procedures, possess the moral qualities and aptitudes psychological and physical requirements for the proper performance of their duties and receive training. Continuous and complete professional development. Their capacity should be subject to periodic reassessment. so that they can continue to perform these functions.

Less-lethal weapons (LLWs) most commonly used by police forces Brazilian examples include: police batons; chemical agent sprayers; chemical munitions, encompassing Outdoor and indoor hand grenades, as well as chemical gas canisters and projectiles; rifle



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12 gauge; non-lethal ammunition launcher; controlled impact ammunition (elastomer/rubber);

Electroshock weapons (ESWPs); police dogs and handcuffs.

According to Carvalho Filho (2019), the legitimacy of the use of IMPO is due to the proportionality of the measure to be used to suppress the conflict and the intended outcome. Thus, if police action for disproportionate results in relation to the intended outcome, the legal consequence for this act will be framed accordingly. There was no abuse of power and consequently no punishment was applied to the police officer.

## **2.2 The Dog as a Less Offensive Potential**

According to Sakata (2015), in 1950 the first dog kennels established in Brazil were run by the Public Force from São Paulo, currently called the Military Police of the State of São Paulo. In 1955, the The Military Police Canine Service of Rio de Janeiro, known as BAC – Battalion of Actions with Dogs.

In 1970, the use of war dogs was officially recognized in military police organizations of the Army. In the 70s and 80s, the Brazilian Navy was the institution that stood out in the framework of dogs. Since 2012, the Brazilian Navy has had its own Special Dog Training Course. Warfare. The Brazilian Air Force has 10 bases with kennels and also offers training courses. War Dog Handlers employing their military service dogs in guard duties and Protection, search and capture, and detection of explosives and narcotics. The Federal Police and the Police The Federal Highway Police are receiving special recognition due to the results of their dogs' work. Numerous seizures of illicit substances and weapons have been successfully carried out, thanks to to canines. The breeds most commonly used by these institutions are German Shepherds and Belgian Shepherds. Malinois, Dutch Shepherd, and Labrador Retrievers.

The Civil Police don't keep many records, however the officers themselves don't measure efforts seeking knowledge to train and operate their dogs with the goal of assisting in judicial police work. Most of the time, the dogs are acquired by the agents themselves or Donated to the institution. Costs for animal feed and healthcare are also managed by them. police officers. It should be noted that there are partner veterinarians who are sensitive to the situation and Aware of the importance of dogs as a means of work, they end up volunteering and working. For the benefit of these animals.

According to Bayley and Skolnick (2006), we can define police as the people authorized by a group to regulate interpersonal relationships within that group through application of physical force, the definition of which has three essential parts: physical force, internal use and collective authorization. The authors refer to the police officers as executive agents of the force and that the The difference between police forces and criminals is a matter of discernment. It is up to the officers to decide. the law shall adopt, within its capabilities, the technical means, tactics, and strategies that cause the



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with the least possible impact on society, thus cultivating a relationship based on honesty and trust.

### 3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Conducting research is important and necessary because it investigates the world in which human beings live. and human beings themselves. However, for him, research only exists with the support of procedures. appropriate methodological approaches that allow for a closer look at the object of study.

According to Gil (1999), there are two general types of reasons for proposing questions of Research: intellectual pursuits, based on the desire to know or understand, for the satisfaction of knowing. or to understand; the practices, based on the desire to know in order to become capable of doing something. better or more efficiently.

Regarding the objective, the newlywed research had an exploratory nature, which, according to the author... The aforementioned is characterized by the lack of scientifically produced information that... that would meet the needs of the proposed research, which, within the scope of canine operations in In a highly complex environment, one tends to achieve greater familiarity with the problem, with with a view to making it explicit, since there is nothing written institutionally on the subject, and little related research at the national level, thus configuring an Action Research project, referring to Combating environmental crimes in the state of Amazonas through the use of dogs that detect illegal activities. environmental.

In the meantime, relevant bibliographic and documentary surveys were carried out, which This converges with Gil (1999) who states that when understanding bibliographic research as the A survey of all published bibliography in the form of books, periodicals (journals), theses, and proceedings. of congresses, where its purpose is to provide the researcher with access to the literature produced about a particular subject.

### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to Carvalho Filho (2017), prevention is the best way to combat the intention of Committing crimes through criminals. Reducing the crime rate in a location is directly related to... directed at the performance of public security professionals, since their uniformed presence or Uniformity, in itself, reflects a decrease in the incentive for the would-be offender. Therefore, it is understood that the mere presence of the police officer causes a psychological effect on the potential offender, and may even to inhibit a transgressive action. Following this line of reasoning, one could say that the dog-police pairing is, Undoubtedly, a cell that will generate greater inhibitory potential against a criminal act. If Dialogue with the police officer is ineffective; the delinquent won't be able to reason with the dog either.

One tool that stands out as one of the most effective and least harmful means is the use of...



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of the police dog. In a patrol situation where the suspect displays violence and resists.

Compliance with the police officer's order proves to be something of vital importance for satisfaction.

The successful nature of the police action. The mere physical presence of the dog is enough to achieve a persuasive effect in the operation.

In this sense, after exhausting all possible dialogue, the dog's attack mostly neutralizes the danger.

and enables the safe immobilization of the suspect. It is therefore clear that achieving satisfaction of

Police action using dogs proves to be beneficial and necessary, a concept that should be more widely accepted.

widespread and used with greater emphasis by police patrols.

According to Hutson et al (1997), in order to perform police work, dogs are trained to

To exert a powerful bite force when ordered to approach a suspected criminal. With the

Predominantly German Shepherd and Doberman dogs, these police companions are trained...

to exert bite force/pressure between 1,500 and 2,000 *psi*, compared to 150 to

200 *psi* exerted by untrained dogs of the same breed. The use of this method in the approach and

The suspect will be held immobilized until the police officer gives the command to release him.

According to Miranda (2011), as a suspect, during the approach of the binomial

police/dog, these are classified as: cooperative suspect, passive resistant suspect, suspect

Active resistance and lethal aggression against a police officer, as stipulated in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Regarding the opinion on the case of the passively resistant suspect, the dog cannot yet be used.

proactively, considering the level of risk involved, unless there is an increase in the level of

Resistance. In the case of lethal aggression, as an alternative recourse, for example, the offender assaulting.

Police officers exchange gunfire and flee into the woods after being warned of dogs entering the area, but the offender continues on.

If an armed individual fails to obey a lawful order and poses a life-threatening risk, a dog may be used to apprehend them.

considering the imminent risk to life to which the police officers present are exposed; as soon as

The offender is located and the dog receives the command "release". If the offender persists in attempting any type of...

If the dog resists, it must cease its action so that the police officer can begin providing assistance. From that point on...

In this location, the dog must obey the "release" command without fail, so that the police officer does not incur any risk.

In excess, considering that the dog is under the command of the police officer, obeying the stimuli.

presented to him during his training and conditioning.

As seen, the dog is a widely used tool by civilian and military police forces in the fight against crime. It is an

extremely complete tool that offers a wide range of capabilities.

The diversity of functions and actions performed by police officers includes: visible patrolling, arresting

offender or suspect, victim rescue, warrant execution, tactical interventions, control of

Civil disturbances. Furthermore, the dog can be considered a less-lethal weapon.

when properly trained and employed in a technical manner, serving as a non-functional piece of equipment

lethal.

It is considered that even the most complex machines are not capable of duplicating the





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Operational efficiency of a team consisting of a man and a dog. The man-dog duo.

Properly trained individuals possess unique capabilities to operate in facility security and properties, in the application of laws and increasing the effectiveness of support in activities carried out by police officers, providing savings in personnel and time, and also offering a psychological impact which prevents potential offenders from committing crimes.

In police forces, the dog is an extremely effective tool due to various...  
Qualities and functions of employment as an aid in combating crime. Among them, dogs. They possess abilities that we humans do not possess; dogs are more precise, a dog This is equivalent to three or more police officers.

According to Rocha (2016), it is through technical and tactical training that the dog will be enabled. to be employed in a specific role, adapting the animal's natural behaviors. through teaching and training methods tailored to their individual characteristics. The Patrol dogs are compliant with humans. Therefore, they can be operated on. different areas and environments, including airports, residences, shops and industrial areas.

Police teams with dogs may be deployed in search and rescue operations in various areas. external operations, in observation posts, in search of explosives and illicit drugs, Rescue of victims, capture of fugitives, suspects, and many other situations in which dogs can be used. Trained dogs are being introduced for search and rescue operations to detect hydrocarbons and explosives. and narcotics. Once again, the dog puts his extreme devotion, his generosity at the service of man, society and security.

The use of police dogs is increasing as police departments realize... that a well-trained team of dogs/handlers actually reduces liability, rather than increase it. Every time a suspect flees or fights with police officers, the chase and struggle can escalate. result in injuries and lawsuits against the department. The use of a canine unit can This often prevents a suspect from resisting and can end the situation before it escalates to the point where it becomes too serious. of someone getting hurt.

## FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Less-lethal weapons are an important part of the security strategy. public safety, allowing agents to act effectively while respecting human rights. years and minimize the use of lethal force. Regulation and proper training are essential for to ensure that these instruments are used responsibly and effectively.

Due to the categorical results that the dogs presented in security activities. The public has sparked a desire for Brazilian security forces to use dogs as... A tool to better contribute to visible policing activities.



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The use of dogs serves to assist the police force in its dangerous activities and which require strength, but with agility and quality in the safety of the corporation and the community. The use of the dog is based on legality, in which the police officer decides how he will use it. A dog is used in action against a suspect, always respecting Brazilian laws. The dog and the police officer must be... trained to deter individuals from committing crimes, based on the psychological impact that the dog and the police officer have on them. They work together. Above any professional function in the community, the dog is not an instrument or tool, which is used and then placed on a shelf, because it is endowed with intelligence, Feelings and science.

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