



CENTRAL SEARCH DOGS

Wellington girl searches the “Hikitia”



Nxy & Wayne boarding the “Hikitia”

With its unusual scents (oil, grease, fuel), active machinery (boilers, winches and crane), restricted access (gangplanks and narrow steep stairs) and of course the constant motion of a sea going vessel, this represents a unique search environment and an opportunity for the dog to proof her learnt detection skills.



Searching over piles of piles

Let the search begin

K9 Nyx works for ScentTECH Drug Detection Services and she had the opportunity to train on the “Hikitia” - the only working, floating, steam, heavy lift crane still operating in the world.



Searching the stern winch housing

Proofing is a continuous process which develops with the variety and extent of the search environments. Effectively, this step is limited only by the imagination of the handler.

Proofing the Detection Dog

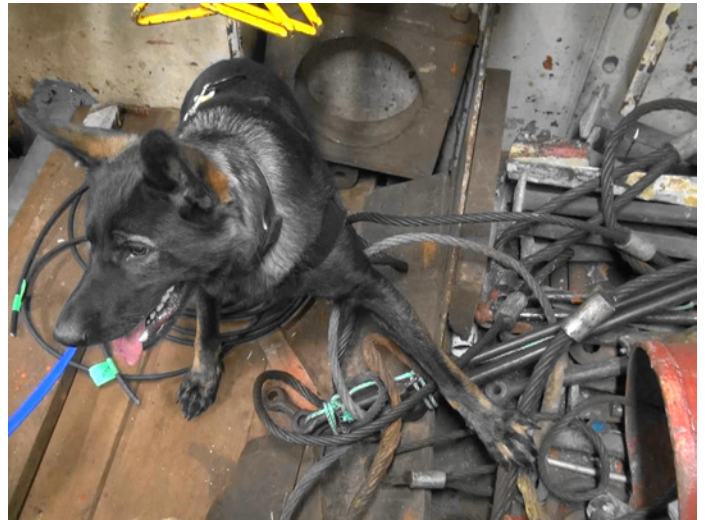


Investigating the anchor winch

3. Shape the alert – this should be a behaviour that will be acceptable in the environment you will be eventually working in (bark, sit, down or scratch)
4. Basic searches – working on pinpointing and commitment to the scent source

Training any kind of detection dog involves a structured approach

1. Selection of a reward (treats, toy etc) and load a marker (clicker, or verbalization) to associate with the reward.
2. Scent imprinting – mark and reward your dog when it shows even remote interest in the scent (a glance, a sniff, any movement towards it).



Found it right here in this bucket

5. Proofing – the final step in your scent training program involves proofing your dog to distractions and environmental variables
6. Validation - Before working professionally, the dog team (K9 and Handler) should undertake and pass an independently conducted validation. This will ensure the teams competency in the real world.



Job done time to go home

Thanks to the Maritime Heritage Trust of Wellington for allowing access to this vessel.

Training in Nose Work / Detection Air scent and tracking.

Come and join us at our next training day March 19th 2017. Venue TBA. See face book page.

For general or training information phone Wayne Severn, President, ph: 021 808 962

You can find us on: email searchdog@clear.net.nz

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