

DOG BRIGADE – A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE IN GUATEMALA



ROLE OF DOGS

*Forensic Science:
The Basics detector
Dogs as Forensic
tools

HISTORIC ROLE:

Protection

Hunting

- TODAY'S ROLE:

Companion

Integral part of life

- NEW ROLES:

Service dogs

Therapy dogs (Physical & Emotional support)



OIRSA decided to introduce dog detectors:

- The first line of defence for keeping the region free of pests and diseases regulated by the governments
- FOC R4T, HLB, BSE, ASF, Foot and mouth disease, and Avian Influenza, just to mention some diseases.



OIRSA decided to introduce dog detectors:

Canine detectors have an important role in fulfilling the mission to safeguard agriculture and natural resources.

Most of the economy of the countries of OIRSA region depends on agriculture.



Non intrusive inspection.

- Canine Olfactory capacity 40 to 60 times more than humans
- Dogs perceive their world through the nose
- 95% accuracy in detecting products regulated by our region.
- More luggage inspected in less time. As many as 300 bags in 15 minutes.
- Better reaction from the passengers when the dog is sniffing.

Intrusive inspection.

- Profile the passenger
- Humans perceive their world through the eyes
- Under 50% of effectiveness
- Spend at least 15 minutes inspecting one piece of luggage
- Causes discomfort and trouble to the people

Backgrounds

The inspections at the airport used to be performed in an intrusive way, which means:

- Delays
- Disagreements with passengers

2018-OIRSA Signed a cooperation agreement with Mexico's government Canine School- for training dogs and handlers (canine teams / *binomios caninos*) to strengthen the quarantine services in the OIRSA Region

In coordination with Mexico, Guatemala started the recruitment staff selection, to start training the first team

Our first canine team, Odrix and Raul, started working at the Guatemala Airport by May 2018

Handler profile

- The candidates should be Veterinarians, agronomist or of related professions.
- The candidate has to be in good shape and mild tempered
- The handler Students learn the fundamentals of canine healthcare
- Canine behaviour



Detector dog features

- Dogs are rescued from streets and shelters, or donated by their owners.
- Age between 1 to 3 years.
- Friendly.
- Playful and treat lover
- Love food, greedy



At the canine school

- There is a previous selection by the trainers of the detector dog candidate.
- The dog is evaluated :
By its temperament and behaviour, and reaction to external issues.
- The dog is evaluated by a licenced veterinarian, and gets his health care and prophylactic plan (vaccines, deworming, flea and tick treatment)
- The dog stays in quarantine (diseases)
- The dog should be castrated before it starts the training at the school.



At the Mexico canine school

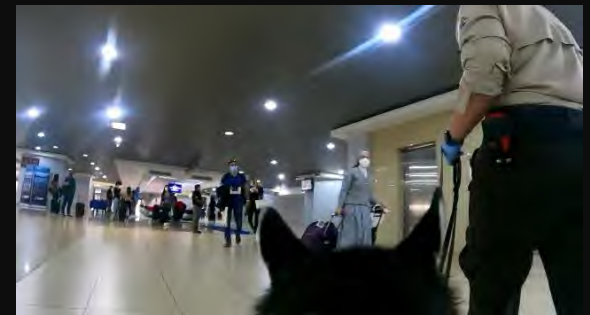
- The canine school has a traditional theoretical class training
- The *handler* acquires skills by handling the canine to develop inspection techniques, through practical exercises in different scenarios for dogs.
- The dogs are trained to be able to work at airports, where the dogs detect forbidden products in luggage and on passengers; also at postal facilities at the cargo airport

At the Mexico canine school



- The dogs are trained in basic obedience and common commands like: Sit, Where?, Show, Get it!!!!
- The training of the dogs last 120 days, for them to acquire the five basic odours with an advanced “hide and seek” game
- The 5 basic aromas are: mango, apple, citrus, beef, pork.
- Canine assignment. The dog and the handler have to get along well in order to create a strong bond between the dog and the handler: MATCH
- Finally the canine team is ready to workiiiiii

- The canine teams were equipped with a carry-on Go Pro camera for backing evidence in case of any incident with the passengers.
- In this video, during the interview the passenger realized that the dog had detected an issue in the luggage and....



This is what the dog
sniffed out.

The seizure consisted
in grains, seeds, roots,
herbs, sweet potatoes.

It was around 5 kg. of
confiscated products.



The detector dog sniffs out the luggage, and goes directly to the target, and as a reaction, Odrix sat down to get the treat of her handler

The odor was imprinted in the brain of the dog as a part of the hide and seek game; then, when he finds the target, he gets a reward that consists in a food treat

In this case, the passenger recognizes he has forbidden agriculture products and byproducts

The inspector proceeds to confiscate the product.

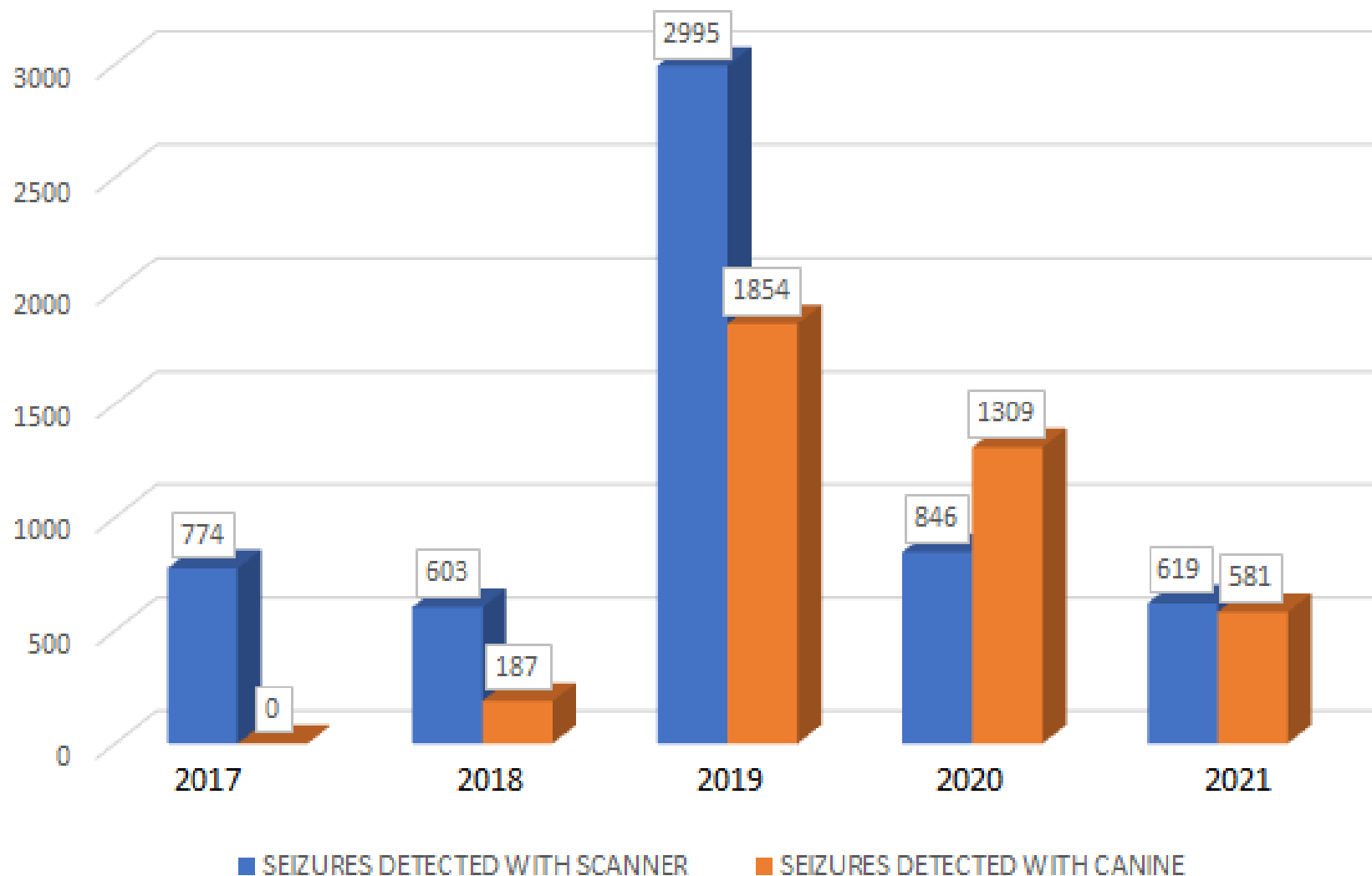


Movil APP, and a Quarantine platform

- The information generated by the seizures, phytosanitary and sanitary measurements of agriculture products and byproducts, during the official inspection at the ports, airport and customs, generates official data in real time.



SEIZURES AT LA AURORA AIRPORT YEARS 2017 TO MARCH 2021



Most common
detections by the
canine
teams. Guatemala







Seizures at the cargo and postal service



Quarantine
treatment of
the seizure
confiscated.

- They are disaggregated,
- Sprayed with a product (like gentian violet),
- The confiscated products go to the autoclave to be sterilized.





- In this video you can watch the autoclave handling of the seizures confiscated at the airport.
- The autoclave equipment works with vapour sterilizing the seizures, it has a
- Capacity of 3.8 m³
- A temperature of 135 degree Celsius, for 45 minutes.



THANK YOU VERY
MUCH!!
¡MUCHAS
GRACIAS !

