ANIMAL WELFARE LAY VISITING SCHEME

ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11
INTRODUCTION

The death of a police dog whilst training in Essex in 2003 resulted in an understandable loss of public confidence in police dog training methods. In response to this the ACPO Police Dog Sub-Committee embarked upon a review of police dog training and handling, aimed at restoring public confidence by ensuring that police training methods are humane, ethical and transparent.

Central to this issue is a need for transparency in rebuilding public confidence and ensuring that the welfare of animals engaged in police work is maintained and any mistreatment is identified and dealt with promptly.

In 2005 the Nottinghamshire Police Authority introduced the Animal Welfare Lay Visiting Scheme enabling volunteers from the local community to observe and report on the conditions under which police dogs and horses are housed, trained and transported.

Animal Welfare Lay Visitors are independent members of the local community who make unannounced visits to check on the welfare of animals engaged in police work.
ANIMAL WELFARE VISITS

There are 5 Animal Welfare Lay Visitors on the Nottinghamshire Scheme who visit the dogs and horses once a month. They work in co-ordination with the RSPCA and their inspection visits are based on the Five Freedoms:

- Freedom from hunger and thirst.
- Freedom from discomfort.
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease.
- Freedom to express normal behaviour.
- Freedom from fear and distress.

AWS Lay Visitors made 12 visits to both the kennels and stables over the reporting period as well as various training visits and made over 129 individual inspections of police dogs and 55 individual inspections of police horses.

THE DOG UNIT

There are currently 36 General Purpose Dogs, six of which are trained to provide support to Firearm Officers and a further ten Specialist Dogs trained in searching for explosives, drugs and weapons.
In 2006 Nottinghamshire Police Dog Section celebrated the Force’s newly established in-house breeding programme, which was set up to reduce the cost of buying dogs from specialist breeders.

The Chart below shows the types of working dogs within Nottinghamshire Police.

The Chart below shows the number of dogs seen by volunteer visitors between April 2010 and March 2011.
Nottinghamshire Police have 8 horses which are deployed for general purpose patrols or to support Scientific Operations, including the control of crowds at major events.

Nottinghamshire Police Authority introduced the very popular Adopt a Horse Scheme in 2004 inviting primary schools across the county to adopt their own Police Horse.

To date more than 120 schools have taken up the offer and received a copy of Horse Talk, a regular information sheet and newsletter, a photograph and a visit to the Mounted Section to see their adopted horse.

The Chart below shows the names and ages of the Police Horses.
The Chart below shows the number of horses seen by volunteer visitors between April 2010 and March 2011.
CONCERNS RAISED BY AWS LAY VISITORS

During the period April 2010 – March 2011 concerns arising from visits were raised.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>CONCERN</th>
<th>POLICE RESPONSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dogs</td>
<td>Horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2010 –</td>
<td>No concerns.</td>
<td>No concerns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 2010</td>
<td>Tiling falling off kennel walls.</td>
<td>Gate at far end of ménage needs replacing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2010</td>
<td>No concerns.</td>
<td>No concerns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2010</td>
<td>No concerns.</td>
<td>Wasp nest in stables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2010 –</td>
<td>No concerns.</td>
<td>No concerns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2011</td>
<td>Kennel tiles, wall and floor remain a big issue.</td>
<td>No concerns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flooring paint in some kennels peeling off.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2011</td>
<td>Wall tiles still falling off, no maintenance to kennels.</td>
<td>No concerns.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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For more information on the role of Nottinghamshire Police Authority or our Animal Welfare Visiting Scheme, please visit our website:  

www.nottspa.org