

There were still six duty bloodhounds in 1925 which "... have been used frequently... and have been very successful." Further, pups from the cross of an Alsatian police dog with a bloodhound bitch "... have been receiving training... and are turning out very well."<sup>29</sup>

In early 1929, the Alberta Provincial Police had five bloodhounds on duty. But at year's end, the program had fallen apart for reasons not detailed: one dog was sold, one died and two were destroyed.<sup>30</sup> Rufus, the last duty dog, was sold in 1930, which left the force without bloodhounds.<sup>31</sup>

### All-Purpose Police Dog Programs

Over the years, officers in several Canadian forces, large and small, took dogs with them on routine patrols. These dogs were personal pets rather than police-trained dogs, however, and contributed more to a constable's having company than to actual patrol work. Such informal use resembles that which was antecedent to the early English and United States programs.

Two separate, distinct eras are readily identifiable in tracing the all-purpose police service dog history across Canada. The earliest, or Informal Era, lasted about five years, from 1930 to 1935. The Formal Era began in 1935 and continues today in impressive fashion.

### The Informal Era: 1930-1935

The story of Canada's Informal Era is remarkable. It features a widely heralded lawman, Alberta Provincial

Police Sergeant John N. Cawsey of Bassano, and his equally talented canine partner, popularly known as Dale. Dale was formally Dale of Caw-salta (Caws for Cawsey; Alta for Alberta) and, from 1935, identified as RCMP police service dog K-470.<sup>32</sup>

Dale was born in 1929 in Alberta. When just a pup, he was owned by Captain Ernest Harwich of the Alberta Provincial Police who began training him. Before the year ended, Harwich sold Dale to Sergeant Cawsey. Cawsey finished training the dog and used him to assist in police duties.<sup>33</sup>

Some may wonder why the RCMP was not at the forefront of canine use during the 1920's and early 1930's. The principal reason is that, in early 1920, the Canadian government extended the jurisdiction of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police to all of Canada. At that time, the name was changed to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in recognition of the Force's dramatically expanded jurisdiction.<sup>34</sup> Another important reason is that from 1920 to April 1, 1932, the RCMP handled only federal policing. Such a role implied that occasions for using trained handler/dog teams would be rare, hence Canada's renowned national Force would have little or no reason to use dogs in police work.<sup>35</sup>

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32. Nora and William Kelly, *The Royal Canadian Mounted Police: A Century of History 1873-1973*. Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1973, pp. 176-177.

33. *Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Service Dog Section*, n.d. [c. 1968], p. 4.

34. William L. Higgitt, "Serving Canada for 100 Years," *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 42 (September 1973), pp. 5-6. This is also based on information obtained in correspondence with S. W. Horrall, Historian of the RCMP, on May 10, 1982.

35. Information obtained in correspondence with S. W. Horrall, Historian of the RCMP, on May 10, 1982.

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29. Alberta Provincial Police, *Annual Report — 1925*, p. 89.

30. Alberta Provincial Police, *Annual Report — 1929*, p. 59.

31. Alberta Provincial Police, *Annual Report — 1930*, p. 67.