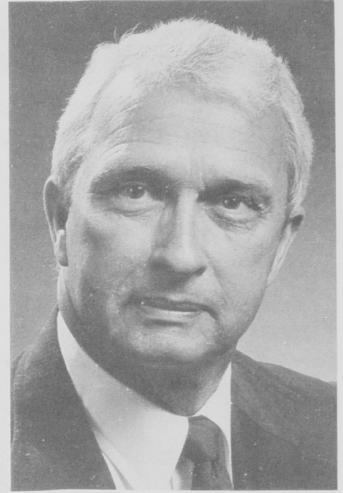


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The exact origin of the dog, a remarkable animal that has served humankind in a number of capacities for centuries, is unknown. Moreover, just when humans first tamed the wild dog is not certain. It is known that over a long period of time people have taken advantage of the intelligence and loyalty of these marvelous creatures.

Police across the world have not overlooked the dog as an important partner in the war on crime and disorder. In fact, Canadian police dog history dates to 1935, notwithstanding the fact that the legend of Mountie and dog goes back much earlier. It was understandable that the rugged men of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police would have dogs along as companions on their lonely rounds. In fact, legends which stem from this sort of thing eventually became reality. But there is substantial prologue, set out below.

I. HOW IT ALL GOT GOING

Dogs have served humans well. Work dogs are widely used in European cities, sled dogs are central to stories and legends of the far north, including Alaska and Canada's Northwest Territories and rescue and survival in the Swiss Alps. Watchdogs have

been used for centuries as guards for homes and businesses, a growing phenomenon in Canada and the United States since the 1960's.

Peacetime Uses

Humans first used dogs to help catch food and protect their caves. Dogs also proved useful in guarding flocks. Humans, discovering that dogs could provide diversion, pitted dogs against one another in racing events and against each other or against other animals in tests of endurance and ferocity, even to the death. But the most enduring characteristics of dogs are the companionship and loyalty so faithfully given to people for thousands of years.

Humans have long taken advantage of the keen scenting powers of dogs to search for lost or fugitive persons. English soldiers used tracking hounds in the 1600's to follow the trail of highwaymen who fled justice in unsettled rural parts of the country. In the United States, tracking hounds were used to follow runaway slaves before the Civil War, an activity vividly described in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

German soldiers who returned sightless from World War I were the first such handicapped persons to be provided with dogs as guides. Soon, other countries trained dogs to guide