

among Canadian police forces to implement canine units after the RCMP and Vancouver programs were formally established. This is in sharp contrast to what happened in the United States where numerous canine units were established in the years immediately after Baltimore, Md., got its program going in 1956.⁵⁵ The data in Table One suggest there was evident deliberation, if not some reluctance, among Canada's chief constables about whether to use dogs for police work. The caution with which forces other than the RCMP and Vancouver Police apparently approached the issue also suggests that chief constables may have seen canine units as merely a fad. That other departments timidly approached the issue may be discerned by reviewing Table Two, which sets out by year when forces implemented canine programs.

Table Two shows that there were only three years in which more than three programs were implemented: 1962 and 1972 when there were four, and in 1976 when there were five. The table also shows that program starts were, for the most part, consistent year-by-year: only in three years since 1959 were there no starts. These were 1964, 1969 and 1977. Another feature of Table Two is geographical in nature: while most of the earliest programs were in western and west central Canada, forces in the east were not tardy in doing the same thing. Perhaps the exploits of Sergeant Cawsey and Dale were as widely heralded in the east as they were in the western reaches where this team served.

Number of Teams

In the early 1980's, there were about 210 police service dogs and handlers in the 34 forces which had active

programs.⁵⁶ The RCMP had the greatest number of teams — 70. Forces with the next greatest number of teams include:

Department	No. of Teams
Vancouver, B.C.	15
Ontario Provincial Police	15
Calgary, Alta.	12
Canadian Customs and Revenue Service	12
Edmonton, Alta.	9
London, Ont.	6
Police Canine Club of Toronto	6
Winnipeg, Man.	5

Almost all of the 210 police dogs are German shepherds. This breed has been found to be strong, versatile and courageous and able to work under extremely hot or cold weather conditions. This was proven so not just in Canada, but worldwide. Moreover, the German shepherd dog is generally of a robust, but pleasing appearance and hence very photogenic. This helps in public relations campaigns and to inspire public confidence in the programs.

The RCMP has had by far the greatest experience with all-purpose police service dogs in Canada. Over the years, the Force has experimented with several breeds, including various crossbreeds. Inspector L. L. Pearson of the RCMP training kennels at Innisfail, Alta., writes: "The end result is that the German shepherd was found to be the most suitable for our needs. Their hardiness, durability, loyalty, working capabilities and psychological effect prove to be the qualities desired by our Force."⁵⁷

55. Samuel G. Chapman, *Police Dogs in America*, op. cit., pp. 15, 18-25.

56. The number of police service dogs has been determined from letters, reports or field visitations to each of the 34 sites.

57. Information obtained in correspondence with Inspector L. L. Pearson, Officer in Charge of the RCMP Innisfail Kennels, on July 11, 1978.