



Police dog work may be divided into two basic categories: specialist and all-purpose. Specialist work requires that a dog possess especially well-developed and trained scenting powers. A dog engaged in all-purpose police work must be amply endowed with multiple abilities, including very good olfactory senses, since much of the all-purpose role involves nose work.

Specialist dogs are commonly employed in police work to search for criminal escapees, missing persons and lost children. They also have been important in seeking narcotics caches as well as in detecting explosives and illicit liquor manufacturing sites. Specialist dogs are also used to search for injured persons and for bodies as well as for stolen property that may have been hidden or discarded. Even when specialist dogs are unsuccessful in locating a suspect or detecting contraband they are often able to free officers to pursue other investigative avenues, hence contributing to cases. While the bloodhound is the stereotype tracker, the Doberman pinscher, German shepherd, Rottweiler, Labrador, and even the bulldog and other breeds are

capable of performing a host of highly specialized sensing duties.

All-purpose police dogs must be strong, hardy animals with high intelligence, great persistence, keen sight, and a sense of smell that approaches that of a tracking dog because, besides performing broad, general-duty police patrol work, they are often used for tracking. German shepherd dogs seem as well adapted as any breed to all-purpose or general dog-handler patrol work.²

Generalist, or all-purpose patrol dogs, are sometimes erroneously called 'guard' dogs. Patrol dogs are by no means guard dogs even though patrol dogs are attack-trained. The difference between 'guard' and 'patrol' dogs is considerable: a guard dog is trained to attack persons who enter his 'territory.' A police patrol dog on the other hand, is trained to attack only under three circumstances: when his handler is attacked; when the dog himself is

2. What are called 'all purpose' dogs today were, at one time, called 'executive' and 'night patrol' dogs. See: Edwin H. Richardson, "Police Dogs," *The Police Review and Parade Gossip*, August 21, 1914, pp. 410-412.