

Background Information for Obtaining a Status of WCO Regional Dog Training Centre in the Kyrgyz Republic

An idea of giving a status of the WCO Regional Dog Training Centre (RDTC) in the Kyrgyz Republic was approved by almost all the representatives of the WCO European Region during the annual Conference of the Heads of Customs Administrations, held in April, 2017 in Vienna (Austria). The main specialization of the Regional Dog Training Centre will be the development of canine service.

The teaching staff of instructors-dog-trainers

Currently, there are two certified dog training instructors at the Specialized-Training Customs of the State Customs Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, who get qualification at the WCO Regional Dog Training Centre in Czech Republic. They have mastered the experience of Czech colleagues in training of dog handlers and service dogs in searching for and detecting special odors. Learning by the staff of the European method of training dogs has allowed developing a methodological base necessary for carrying out cynological activity and acquiring the necessary professional skills at the regional level. As part of the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan of the WCO Regional Training Centre in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2019-2022, the WCO RTC in the Kyrgyz Republic plans to prepare for certification two more trainer-instructors at the regional level, with further accreditation at the WCO.

As a result of accumulated experience in the training and use of service dogs, the dog service instructors are currently conducting training for dog specialists and service dogs of other governmental departments and ministries of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as for students of the Kyrgyz Republic through the Ministry of Emergency Situations

Results of dog-training unit of the WCO Regional Training Centre in the Kyrgyz Republic

Today, one of the important indicators of the dog-training units' positive activity is the proper preparation and health condition of service dogs, which provides good results in the fight against drug trafficking, smuggling representatives of the fauna and their derivatives (snow leopard, falcon-balaban, argali and ibex, et.c.) as well as winning prizes at the annual Championships for dog-training structures of the customs services of the CIS member states with guard dogs.

Combatting Drug and Fauna Trafficking

For the period from 2015 to 2017 in the course of the fight against illicit drug trafficking, over 50 facts of drug trafficking were detected by customs dogs of the customs authorities, and 303 kg of various types of drugs have been seized.

In the framework of the fulfillment of the obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Wildlife Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 2016 the cooperation with the American non-governmental organization "Panther" has been carried out in order to curb the smuggling of derivatives of "Red Book" animals.

The work done in this direction has shown the effectiveness of the use of service dogs. Thus, in 2017, on the border with the Republic of Tajikistan, the smuggling of derivatives (horns, skins) of four argali and seven ibex was revealed.

It also should be noted that since 2017, breeding work has been resumed and is quite successfully carried out. For example, in the period from 2017 to 2018, an offspring in the amount of 17 heads was obtained, of which 5 heads of 2017 were selected by the results of culling on working qualities.

The results of the work done show that the professional skills of the staff of dog training and veterinary work have reached a sufficiently high level and can successfully compete with specialists from other countries.

The achieved results provide the basis for the further development of other areas of canine activity and giving the dog service in the Kyrgyz Republic the status of the WCO Regional Dog Training Center, with further perspective of providing services for training dog handlers and service-searching dogs both at national (for law enforcement agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic) and at the regional (for the countries of Central Asia and countries of the European Region) levels.

Opportunities of the Dog-Training Centre

The dog service of the Kyrgyz customs administration has the opportunity to train and train dog handlers with service-searching dogs in the following promising areas of dog training:

- search for money and currency;
- search for products of precious metals;
- training dogs for the protection of public order and guard duty;
- search for derivatives of representatives of the fauna of the Kyrgyz Republic listed in the "Red Book" (Cites);
- search for a person by his smell track;
- search for drugs, explosives, weapons and ammunition.

Giving the status of a Regional Dog Training Center will maximize the opportunities for capacity building of the customs service with the involvement of international experts and specialists in the field of cynology. Also, the WCO Regional Dog-Training Centre will serve as a platform for organizing and conducting regional training events (trainings, workshops, conferences), as well as international competitions in all-round primacy for dog training structures of the customs services of the CIS member states.

It will act as a link between the European and Central Asian regions for use of regional interaction, maintain close ties with regional and foreign customs services, in order to build capacity and institutional development in the field of canine training of highly qualified canine specialists and service-searching dogs.