

DOGS IN THE ARMY

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The first evidence of the use of fighting dogs belong to the Middle East. Dogs are present on many images of pharaohs. The combat use of dogs in Assyria, Greece and Ancient Rome is also known. Dogs were used both directly in combat and for carrying out guard duty. Each civilization has found its application for dogs according to their lifestyle and their needs. The animals were versatile because they were trainable and loyal. Dogs are considered the first animals to be used by humans for combat purposes.

As mentioned earlier, dogs have long shared the hardships of military service. However, in the First and Second World Wars, as well as in modern conflicts, their participation has reached a new level. Perhaps this was due to a change in the conduct of hostilities. A sharp increase in the strength, intensity, accuracy and range of gun and rifle fire led to the transition to positional, trench warfare. It is precisely in such conditions that the need for dogs with their keen nose, endurance and ability to learn has increased. The Germans were the first to use dogs in such conditions. Their experiments were crowned with success and the issue began to be considered at the state level. Throughout Germany, units were created with the appropriate army training of dogs. With the outbreak of the First World War, they were mobilized to the front. Other European countries also showed great interest in the German experience of using dogs, although their success was quite modest.

Years have passed, but the army still needs the help of a true friend of man. Modern technologies are in many ways capable of facilitating military

service, but they cannot completely replace four-legged fighters. For example, an expensive bulky detector can detect explosives planted in a car, but only trained sniffer dogs can identify the intruder and detain him, find a weapons cache or search a smuggling truck. To do this, nature endowed them with the finest tools: a scent that is hundreds of times more sensitive than a human and a hearing that is 7 times sharper than ours. The current use of dogs is no exception. Cynological service has become widespread in our country. Dogs serve in various units and formations of the Ministry of Defense, border troops. Dogs serve in the army today. Of course, they do not throw explosives at tanks, and do not deliver medicines to the wounded, but even now the modern army cannot do without a sharp eye and a subtle scent of four-legged assistants. The extraordinary instinct of a dog cannot be replaced even by the most advanced electronic equipment. It is no secret that the border service, even with modern equipment, is impossible today without the use of service dogs. Military dogs must be assiduous, intelligent and hardy. The most suitable for training are German Shepherds, Rottweilers, Dobermans and Collies. At the same time, specialists avoid accepting light-colored dogs, because they are much easier to notice. Animal education begins at the age of two months. First, all puppies go through a general training course, and by 10 months they begin their adult life, and special training begins. As a rule, by this time, each dog has its own talents, in accordance with which they begin to learn and develop their best qualities. All military service dogs are divided into search, drill, guard and breeding. Accordingly, training takes place according to different programs and principles. Service dogs are not aggressive, they love affection and care, but their job is to bite the criminal, attack, look for danger, so you should not joke with them.

As a rule, military service dogs serve 7-8 years, after which they are sent to a well-deserved rest. All these animals fulfilled their duty to the country, therefore they deserved a quiet life, care and respect.