

most important groups. Everyone can estimate the effectiveness of these measures and specialists will continue their work on the right form of “grey” import.

Customs authorities could also improve their work if necessary. It can be additional checkpoints for this kind of production, improvement of the quality of customs control, a special system of permissions for companies that want to work in the field of parallel import. But the most important thing is to do everything gradually and not be in a hurry when making such important decisions.

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## **CANINE SERVICE OF CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS КИНОЛОГИЧЕСКАЯ СЛУЖБА ТАМОЖЕННЫХ ОРГАНОВ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ**

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The role of the canine service of the customs authorities is very important, as specially trained dogs help to carry out effective customs control, prevent and stop the smuggling of goods illegally moved across the customs border. Dogs help in customs control operations, in investigative actions and operational search activities.

One of the main directions of the economic policy of Belarus is the protection of the economic interests and security of the state. The search and detection of narcotic substances is one of the main tasks of the customs authorities of Belarus. Specially trained dogs are actively used to detect drugs and explosives, along with expensive instrument methods.

Dogs have long been attracted to guard the economic interests of the state. In 1988, the canine service of the customs authorities of the USSR was recreated. It consisted of two groups of dog handlers and service dogs. After the collapse of the USSR, the Republic of Belarus was one of the last countries to create its own dog training service.

The date of establishment of the canine service in the customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus is considered to be 2000. It was created in order to improve the effectiveness of the customs service in preventing the illegal movement of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through the customs territory of the Republic of Belarus. During the year, active work on the formation of a canine unit was carried out. In May 2001, in Minsk Central Customs Office they established a canine service department. The first employees who started training service dogs were hired. Soon, canine departments appeared in other customs offices of the Republic of Belarus. Comprehensive training and retraining programs for service dogs and training of dog handlers are also being developed nowadays.

The main task of the canine service of the customs bodies of the Republic of Belarus is to organize the use of specially trained dogs to detect the smuggling of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, to combat the illegal movement of weapons, ammunition, explosives and devices. Employees of the dog service departments perform their tasks efficiently and thus help to protect the economic interests of the country.

The process of high-quality training of service dogs is not simple, and the most important fact is that it requires a long time. After all, a dog is taken into service as a puppy. Puppies pass a kind of test to determine their suitability for service in the customs authorities. At the same time, the main conditions of fitness are a pronounced hunting instinct and a desire to play. Curious and active dogs are best suited for the service – they are easier to get interested in search activities. Also important is the health of the dog, because it will have to endure high mental and physical stress. Dog handlers are engaged in breeding, raising and training of service dogs. In the daily schedule of dogs' training, there is work and rest. As

the dog grows, its skills develop. Customs officers perceive the dog not only as a partner, but also as a friend.

Certain breeds of dogs work in canine units. These breeds have good search qualities, great performance and endurance and are unpretentious to work in any weather conditions. Based on these qualities, preference is given to Labradors, German and Belgian shepherds, cocker spaniels that do not have aggression towards people. Border dogs also have an incredibly sharp sense of smell, which allows them to distinguish more than two thousand odors. Every year service dogs participate in various sport dog - training events.

Smugglers go to all sorts of tricks to transport prohibited goods across the border. There have been cases, where dogs have found illegal substances in sweets, children's toys, car parts, the walls of parcel boxes, and even inside a person. For example, in 2019, the canine service of the Republic of Belarus seized 64 kg of narcotic drugs. In 2020, dog handlers independently and in cooperation with other structural divisions of the customs revealed 60 facts of illegal movement of narcotic drugs across the customs border.

The level of training of the service dogs allows you to detect even a small amount of narcotic substances that are illegally moved with concealment from customs control. For example, in February 2020, at the Warsaw Bridge checkpoint, the service dog of the Brest Customs indicated by its behavior that a passenger of a regular bus was carrying narcotic drugs in his personal belongings. In the same year, the service dog of the Grodno regional customs helped to find more than 6 kg of heroin, which was hidden in the caches of a car.

Dogs are also on duty at the airport. From their early age, they are taught to work at the airport, learn basic commands and life in society, and get used to the harsh sounds of airplanes. They work in the terminal building, help with the screening of passengers and airport employees, check planes before departure, examine cargo, hand luggage and postal parcels.

The canine service of the customs service of the Republic of Belarus is actively developing and has great prospects. To a large extent, these prospects are associated with active international cooperation. Many customs offenses are solved thanks to the interaction of the customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus with the customs authorities of foreign countries. Belarusian cynologists cooperate with the canine services of Russia and Kazakhstan. They also interact with dog handlers from Poland, the Czech Republic, and Sweden. For example, they created a project to strengthen the capabilities of the canine service of the customs departments of Belarus and Poland, funded by the Eurasian Union. This project helped to reduce the time of customs operations, increase the effectiveness of detecting drugs and psychotropic substances, and ensure security at the border. Within the framework of this project, the dog handlers of Belarus received a special transport, intended for the transportation of dog handlers and service dogs.

A number of events are also planned to train dog handlers and exchange experience.

Service dogs are an integral part of the customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus. Despite modern means of detecting explosives, drugs and other substances, dogs remain the most reliable defender of people. Experts are confident that in the near future, technology will not replace the search dog.

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### **CUSTOMS BROKER AND “GREY” SCHEMES ТАМОЖЕННЫЙ БРОКЕР И “СЕРЫЕ” СХЕМЫ**

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A customs broker of the Republic of Belarus is a participant in foreign economic activity that provides intermediary services for declaring goods, paying customs duties, providing the customs authority with the necessary documentation. A customs brokerage firm is responsible for knowing all of these rules and regulations and ensuring that they are followed, in order to streamline the process of shipping of goods for the individual or organization. In fact, customs brokers deal with customs officials so that their clients can spend more