

# 1 Belgian Malinois used in the fight against rhino poaching

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*Handler Bongani and Belgian Malinois Assegai*

A certain breed of dog has come in to assist in the fight against rhino poaching in the area. **K9**

**Conservation** founder **Conrad Geza de Rosner** uses **Belgian Malinois** exclusively in the surrounding **game reserves** for tracking human suspects.

He says they are also used to detect firearms and bullet casings and to perform a restraining function when detaining suspects requiring force.

According to Conrad, the Belgian Malinois dogs are trained to ignore all animal scents and track only human suspects.

“These dogs have an extremely high prey drive and are very successful in both rural and urban environments.”

Conrad says the dogs are trained in protection work and are capable of suspect apprehension should the need arise.

“Note that these dogs are specially trained to bite or apprehend a suspect only upon command and to detain a suspect quickly and with minimal force,” said Conrad.

He says his personal experience with the dogs, is they have a high drive. They are very obedient and highly trainable. They handle the heat very well in the bushveld climate.

“They are also very sociable with other dogs and bond easily to their handlers.

The breed has been used as a working dog for personal protection, detection, police work, search and rescue, and sport work like in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and other European countries, as well as in the United States, Canada, Australia and Hong Kong.



#### Bite work training

The **United States Secret Service** and **Royal Australian Air Force** use the breed. **In the US Armed Forces**, Malinois are preferred breeds for use as working dogs.

The dog is also used extensively by **Unit Oketz of the Israel Defence Forces**. Oketz favors the slighter build of the Malinois over that of the German Shepherd and Rottweiler, which were employed formerly.

Malinois are the perfect size to be picked up by their handlers, while still being able to attack their enemies, and their shorter coats and fair and neutral colors make them less prone to heatstroke.

A Malinois named **Posy** is the only canine in the Israel Defense Forces ever to receive the **Medal of Distinguished Service**. According to a member of the Unit Oketz, Posy left her handler and burrowed beneath a collapsed six story building and located two **Mossad agents** that had been trapped beneath the rubble for several days. Though she suffered a badly broken front leg while searching for the bodies, Posy remained with the two agents for over twelve hours while earth moving machines cleared the debris.

The special elite **US Navy SEALs** used a Belgian Malinois war dog named **Cairo** in **Operation Neptune Spear**, in which **Osama bin Laden** was killed

