

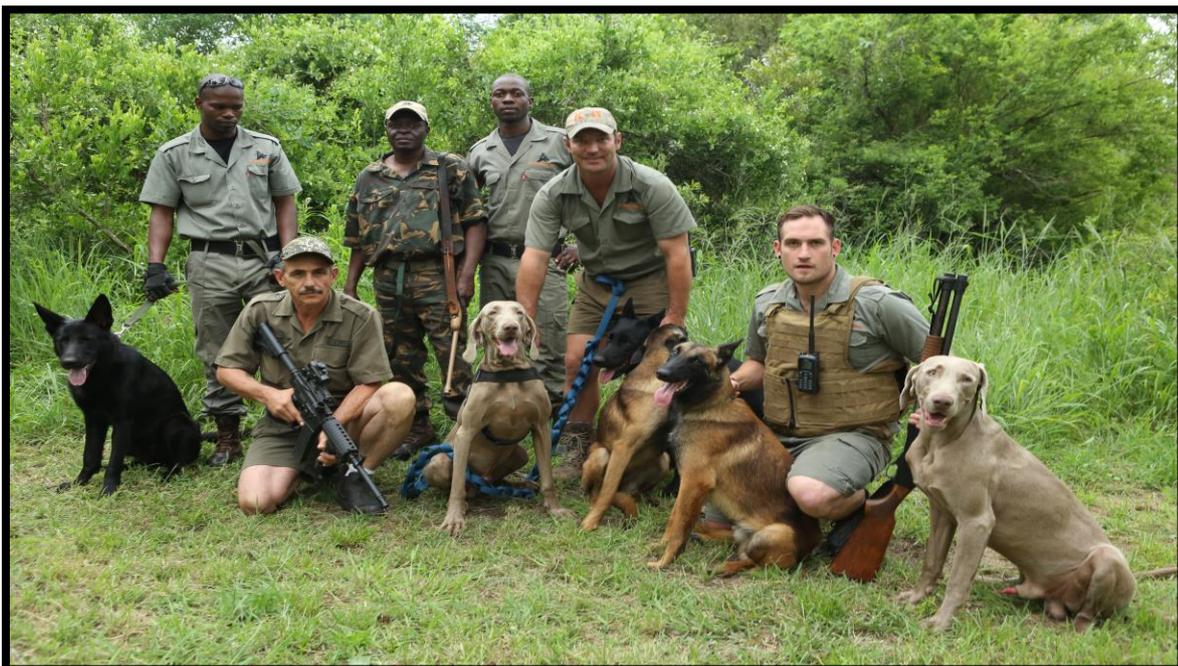
ANTIPOACHING OPERATIONS BOOST THEIR ABILITIES THROUGH THE USE OF CANINE CONSERVATION UNITS

Anti-poaching teams across South Africa are getting support from dogs in the fight against Rhino poaching. As the threat to Rhino continues around the country, the use of different breeds of dogs has provided much needed assistance. These dogs are highly trained and form extremely close bonds with their handlers, each learning how the other operates. Their keen senses and their ability in the bush has improved the chances of anti-poaching teams locating, arresting and even convicting poachers. They are also being used in terminals throughout the country to locate horns and other wildlife products in transit.

One such reserve where dogs are used to assist the anti poaching efforts, is Singita Sabi Sands. This reserve relies heavily on the rich wildlife, particularly the presence of the Big 5. Without Rhino, Singita could quite easily lose its competitive edge as well as a vital animal in this natural ecosystem. In order to combat this, they have brought in the skills of a canine conservation unit consisting of _____. This unit works closely with both the guides and the field ranger team to patrol the reserve.

Please delete above and replace with the below as an example:

Canine Conservation is an anti-poaching service provider with canine capability based on the border of the Kruger National Park, as well as having several other canine units on Big 5 Game Reserves in the region. Without Rhino, private game reserves could quite easily lose their competitive edge as well as a vital animal in this natural ecosystem. Canine Conservation operates in small highly skilled tactical units and knows first hand the benefits of using dogs in anti-poaching operations.



'One of the strengths that Canine Conservation has, is that we utilise a number of different breeds for different purposes, adapting their approach to the situation and linking it to the strength of a particular breed' says Conraad de Rosner Director of Canine Conservation. For example, Weimaraner's are adept at picking up scents of residue, such as blood spatter or hair samples and will range far ahead of the handlers, trying to locate such scents and identifying any threats in the area. This is extremely useful when trying to locate an injured animal in large tracts of bushveld. German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois, on the other hand, are trained to track human scents and will focus more on location and apprehension of poachers. Bloodhounds also have extremely well developed olfactory senses and will stay on human tracks for hours until they locate the subject. By working to each breeds strengths, the chances of success are high.



Training Session: 2 Male Belgian Malinois -Dual Apprehension

"It is proven that once working dogs are deployed onto a protected area, the news quickly spreads amongst the poachers and criminal syndicates alike resulting in the level and frequency of poaching incidents (and often other crime) dramatically being reduced." Conraad de Rosner

"Our handlers and dogs are carefully selected and paired to maximize efficiency and effectiveness, whilst non-stop on the job training ensures that our dogs and handlers are continually rated top class." Conraad de Rosner

One of the elements which conservationists are struggling to overcome is around convictions of poachers arrested. The percentage of convictions against arrests is extremely low and there are numerous cases where arrested poachers are not convicted due to a lack of evidence. This often occurs when firearms are stashed in the bush or cartridges from poaching incidents are not located in the veld. By using dogs to retrieve these items, the evidence built up around certain cases can be made much stronger and can lead to a higher conviction rate.

It is vital that we use all the tools available to us in the fight against poaching. The opportunity to bring in canine units to assist in conservation is vital and should be added to other operations within wildlife operations. By bringing all these strengths together, we will continue to close gaps which makes poaching a lot harder and therefore less profitable.