



We continually update our skills and knowledge so that we stay current with the best practices that can help you and your dog.

# cheerfuldogs chronicles

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Issue 91

## Dogs In Action: Guardians of the Gateway

When you think of security at an airport, you might conjure images of uniformed officers, stringent screenings, and those exasperating queues. Yet there's another diligent force working behind the scenes – detection dogs. These remarkable dogs, often German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, Labrador Retrievers, Beagles, and Springer Spaniels, play a pivotal role in ensuring the safety of air travel.



Trained as expert olfactory detectives, these dogs have a nose for trouble – specifically, the scents of prohibited items, explosives, and illicit substances. Detection dogs undergo rigorous and ongoing training to stay sharp and adapt to evolving threats. Their keen sense of smell, vastly superior to humans, allows them to detect minute traces of odours, even in the bustling environment of an airport.

Unlike static screening methods, detection dogs provide a dynamic and efficient approach. They can navigate through crowds at various airport checkpoints,



### Dog quotes

“Expect your dog to act like a dog. He’s not being bad. He’s just being a dog.”

- Jean Donaldson

cont.

## ... guardians

scanning passengers and luggage for potential threats. In a fast-paced airport environment, their ability to cover vast areas in a short time is a game-changer.

Imagine the countless scenarios where detection dogs have thwarted potential dangers: a subtle whiff of explosives hidden in luggage, the scent of narcotics lingering on a passenger, or the trace odour of illicit substances on cargo. So, there's a big thank you to these impressive canine professionals keeping the skies safe!



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## Dog In the Spotlight: Bassett Hound

This sweet-looking, floppy eared, low-to-the-ground hound boasts scenting abilities bested only by the Bloodhound. Known as patient and affectionate, the Basset hides impressive talents behind a somewhat plodding pace and less-than-athletic exterior. Don't be fooled, when well trained, the Basset can distinguish in Rally-O, tracking, and field trialing. Exercise is essential to keep her fit and slim, and training throughout her life will keep her happy and polite. The popularity of the Basset in popular culture makes her ubiquitous. You'll find Bassets in cartoons (Droopy), brand logos (Hush Puppies), music shows (Elvis singing Hound Dog to a Basset on The Steve Allen Show in 1956), TV series (Columbo, EastEnders), and movies (Smokey and the Bandit, The Lost Treasure of Sawtooth Island, Nanny McPhee, The Smurfs).



## Did You Know: These Canine Pregnancy Facts?

How do dogs experience pregnancy? Here are some facts about expecting dogs and their puppies:

- **Gestation Period:** On average, a dog's pregnancy lasts around 63 days.
- **Puppy Puzzlement:** A female dog can have a litter with multiple fathers. This phenomenon can result in a diverse mix of puppies within the same litter.
- **Canine Morning Sickness:** Just like humans, pregnant dogs can experience morning sickness, including changes in appetite and vomiting.
- **Nesting Instinct:** Pregnant dogs often exhibit nesting behaviour, instinctively preparing a comfortable and secure space for their pups.
- **Early Communication:** Puppies can hear their mother's sounds while in the womb, forming early bonds that continue after they're born.



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