

STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENT

Provision of Kennelling Services in Support of DEMS Training Regiment, Bicester

Introduction

Purpose

To establish a contract for the provision of Kennelling Services in Support of DEMS Training Regiment, Bicester.

Background

There is a requirement to permanently accommodate two search dogs at DEMS Bicester in two separate kennels in order to carry out Search training at Bicester.

There are military kennelling facilities at Bicester Garrison but there is no spare capacity to house the two dogs there and manage their welfare. The dogs may change from time to time, but the two dogs currently are: -

- Belgian Shepherd – High Assurance Search Dog (HASD)
- Labrador – Arms Explosive Search Dog (AES)

The integration of Military Working Dogs (MWD) is a vital part of the courses delivered by DEMS Training Regt. Integration of MWDs during training ensures that all students are aware of a capability that adds tremendous value and are well versed in how to use it when deploying on operations.

Objectives

To permanently accommodate two search dogs in the Bicester area in two separate kennels in order to support the delivery of search training at DEMS Bicester.

Scope

The 2 x dogs require accommodating, feeding and exercise on a daily basis, as well as someone on call 24/7 to deal with any issues and call for vet assistance.

Requirements**Accommodation**

- The dogs must be fed at 0800hrs and 1500hrs daily.
- Feeding as per the feeding scale:

The MWDs here are fed as per Daily Ration Account (JSP 456 Chapter 16)

Dog Type**Amount fed daily**

Small dogs < 20 kg

250g – 450g

Medium dogs 20kg – 30kg

400g – 600g

Large dogs > 30kg

550g – 850g

- Only provided Authority feeding bowls to be used.

Feed

All MWDs are fed a diet from the core range, as listed on MJDI, unless a Veterinary Officer's Certificate has been issued to authorise the feeding of a specialist diet. All specialist diets are fed as directed by the prescribing Veterinary Surgeon.

Cleaning Requirements

- Kennels to be fully cleaned daily compliant to JSP315 after the dog handler has collected the dogs at 0800hrs. On days when dogs remain in the kennels then all cleaning must be carried out in the mornings.

Bedding

- Kennels must have raised beds as stipulated in JSP315.
- Walking/Exercise
- When the Authority has the dogs, they will walk the dogs during the day. On the Authority dogs return an evening run must be completed by the Contractor. On non-working days, which will generally be weekends, Public Holidays and the MOD Dog Handlers leave the Contractor must ensure that the Authority dogs receive three periods of exercise of a minimum of fifteen minutes per day. The dogs can go into compounds together but are not to mix with other dogs. All dog runs/compounds are to be cleared of dog toys before the Authority dogs enter.

Exercise

- Unless directed otherwise by a Veterinary Surgeon, all MWDs receive at least 60 minutes of qualifying exercise, divided between at least two periods, per 24 hours. Qualifying exercise is defined as, leashed walking or running, unleashed activity in the presence of a Handler, continuation training or operational patrolling or searching.

Animal Husbandry

- Although Authority dogs are Military Working Dogs they need to be treated with the same level of care as non-Authority boarding dogs. The Contractor must check the Authority dogs daily for any illness or injury and report this to the handler. If it is an emergency, then follow the procedure under Veterinary Cover below.
- The Contractor is to ensure that the Authority Dogs do not receive any titbits, or have access to any dog toys
- On non-working days which will generally be weekends, Public Holidays and periods of the MoD Dog Handlers leave, the Contractor shall provide routine grooming and care to be performed for the Authority Dogs and this is expected to be of the same standards as for the civilian dog boarders.

Authority Access to the Contractors Kennels and Authority Dogs

- The Authority Dogs are collected at approximately 0800hrs and returned at approximately 1700hrs by the MoD Dog Handler. In the event the MoD Dog Handler is delayed then they contact the Contractor wherever possible to advise on any delay and provide a new estimated time of arrival. On rare occasions, due to the nature of the work, silent hours access will be required. This is arranged in advance between the MoD Dog Handler and the Contractor. The Authority will provide as much notice as possible endeavouring to ensure the minimum disruption to the Contractor.
- It is a requirement that Defence Animal Training Regiment (DATR) carry out inspections during the year for a maximum of four visits. Two visits are ad hoc inspections and the other two are planned.

Outputs/deliverables/milestones

Veterinary Cover and Location

- Routine Medical Treatment is administered by DATR Veterinary Officers or their authorised deputies. The Contractor has no obligations in this respect.
- In the case of Emergency Treatment where the Authority handler is not present, the Contractor and Authority have developed and agreed an Emergency Action Plan before the Contract was awarded. Local vets have been vetted by Veterinary Services Training & Advisory Team (VSTAT).
- In an emergency the Contractor follows the agreed Action Plan.
- The Contractor informs the DATR Liaison Officer at the earliest opportunity following an emergency. The plan is for the Contractor to engage the veterinary services immediately and Authority will phone DATR Veterinary Centre for an Authorisation Code for payment to the local vets on their return.

Security

- The Contractor allows access to the MWDs only to personnel whose names appear on the Authorised Access List (AAL) provided by the MoD Liaison Officer. Proof of ID is always requested.
- Personnel who do not appear on the AAL may visit occasionally on behalf of the DAC for welfare purposes. The MoD gives as much notice as possible regarding these visits.

MoD Transportation

- The MoD Dog Handler has a dog van which remains with the MoD Dog Handler to be used in Bicester.

The Contractor must comply with the 5 Freedoms:

- Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition;
- Freedom from discomfort;
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease;
- Freedom to express normal behaviour; and
- Freedom from fear and distress.

Kennel Licences / Joint Services Publications

- The Contractor must provide valid copies of Boarding Licences and Public Liability Insurance.
- The Contractor shall ensure that the kennels must be compliant with:
 - Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963; and
 - Joint Services Publication 315 Dog Accommodation.

DATR Inspections

- Veterinary Services Training & Advisory Team (VSTAT) inspects Kennels prior to Contract Award to ensure Kennels meet the satisfactory requirement, this forms part of the assessment criteria.

Essential Kennelling Requirement

- The kennels must be located locally to avoid unnecessary long journeys, which causes stress and fatigue to the dogs.
- Kennel staff and management must fully understand that these are MWDs and must be treated different from other dogs on the premises.
- 24-hour access by the Authority is required.
- JSP315 compliant.

Acceptance

The kennels needs to comply with the Animal Boarding Establishment Act 1963 and Joint Services Publication 315 Dog Accommodation and have passed a Veterinary Services Training & Advisory Team inspection.

Government Furnished Supplies

- Only provided Authority feeding bowls to be used.
- Only Authority provided feed (Eukanuba Performance Dog Food) to be used.

Contract management arrangements

A mandatory Defence Animal Training Regiment (DATR) inspection, utilising the Veterinary Services Training & Advisory Team (VSTAT), will inspect the Kennels prior to Contract Award to ensure Kennels meet the satisfactory requirement, this forms part of the assessment criteria.

On an as and when basis, the Authority reserves the right to inspect the kennelling arrangements being provided during the contract period without notice.