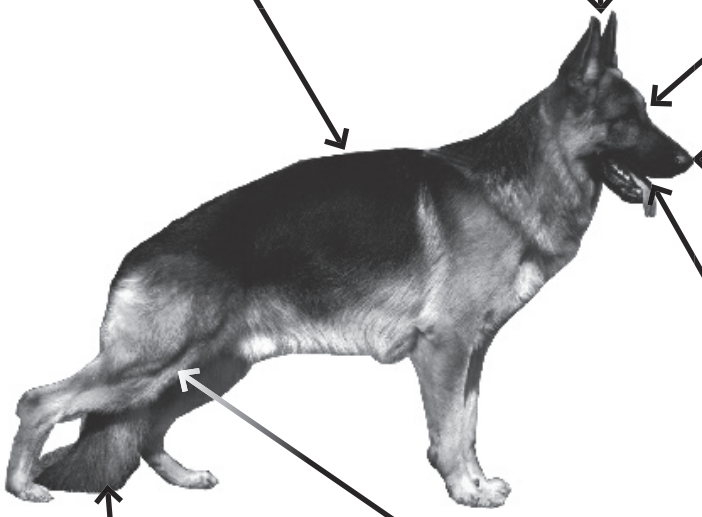
Beneficial Physical Attributes of a Dog for Law Enforcement



FUR

The fur of a dog provides it with protection from thorns, sticks, and other sharp objects while it is working. It also helps to heat and cool the body.

EARS

The dog's ears are much more sensitive to sounds than are human ears. Some experts believe that a dog can hear the heart beat of a person that may be attempting to hide from the police. Thus, the dog uses its ears to assist in locating individuals that are attempting to evade capture.

EYES

The eyesight of a dog, while unable to distinguish color, rivals that of a human. However, dogs see better at night and have a great ability to distinguish movement – even at great distances. This assists in locating someone that is hiding from the police.

NOSE

The sense of smell is the most highly developed of all the dog's senses. In fact, it is the dog's primary sense – not its vision, which is the primary sense in humans. The German Shepherd Dog has 220 million olfactory cells (used for smelling) compared to 5 million in humans. Some studies suggest that a German Shepherd Dog's sense of smell is 100 million times greater than that of man's. This allows the dog to track a fugitive or lost/missing person, to locate discarded evidence, detect the presence of illicit drugs or explosives, and to locate someone that may be hiding from the police.

TAIL

The dog's tail acts as a counter balance for the dog when it is running at high speeds. This helps it to make quick, sharp turns while running without losing its balance.

LEGS

The muscular legs of a dog propel it quickly to very high speeds. The world record fastest human being ran approximately 23 miles per hour. The average speed of a German Shepherd Dog is 32 miles per hour. This makes the dog excellent at catching fleeing criminals.

MOUTH

A police dog is trained to use its mouth to capture and hold a criminal that is resisting. A typical German Shepherd Dog exerts 750 pounds of pressure per square inch when biting. However, the dog can be trained to perform delicate activities with its mouth such as retrieving evidence.