

## Police Dog Welfare Scheme Annual Report 2008-09

### Recommendation(s):

- (i) That the Authority notes the content of the report.

### Introduction / Summary

1. This report summarises the output from the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Police Dog Welfare Scheme for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

### Background Information

2. The purpose of the Police Dog Welfare Scheme is to enable an independent observation, comment and report on the conditions under which police dogs are housed, trained and transported with a view to securing greater public understanding and confidence in these matters. This arrangement also provides an independent check on the way police dog handlers carry out their responsibilities with regard to the welfare of animals in their care.
3. Devon and Cornwall Police Authority has administered a Police Dog Welfare Scheme since 1 March 2003.

### Number of Police Dogs seen during the period

4. Animal Welfare Independent Visitors may request any police dog handler who is on duty in the area that they are visiting to attend the police station. If the dog handler is unable to attend, for example if he/she is engaged on a specific incident, a full explanation is given to the Animal Welfare Independent Visitor and the explanation is recorded by the visitor in their report.
5. In addition, two Animal Welfare Independent Visitors regularly attend Police Headquarters Middlemoor during planned police dog training sessions to check on the welfare of the police dogs that are in training and make a report.
6. The following table shows the number of police dogs seen by Animal Welfare Independent Visitor(s) during the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

Police Station	Number of dogs seen
Barnstaple	0
Camborne	0
Exeter (Heavitree Road)	3
Exeter (Middlemoor)	27
Newquay	0

Plymouth	1
Torquay	10
Launceston	1

### Main issues arising from police dog inspections

- At the conclusion of each visit and before leaving the police premises, Animal Welfare Independent Visitor(s) are required to complete a report form to provide details of the visit. A completed report form includes the name of the dog seen, the name of its handler and any matters raised.

There have only been 2 issues raised throughout the period that this report covers:

- Middlemoor on 23 February 2009, The mesh doors inside the training van were rusty and worn. The rough surfaces causing injuries to the dogs faces. Mesh needs replacing with more suitable material – possibly metal bars. The Dog Unit Manager has said that when the vans go in for a service, the cage doors will be changed.
- Whilst on a visit to the dog section, it was noticed that once of the cages, in a van was very unclean. It smelt quite badly and could do with a scrub and cleanse. The ICVs requested that the officer should clean his car as soon as possible and this was carried out immediately.

General comments noted on the report forms include:

- Dogs healthy, happy and alert.
- Dog appeared to be in good health and very friendly and active.
- Dog was in excellent condition, bright eyed, alert and keen to work. His handler enthused about his dogs, both active and retired. A pleasure to see such a great combination.
- Dog in good condition, very friendly and obviously well.

Contact: for further information:

Rebecca Quance-Woodland, Scheme Administrator  
Tel: 01392 268311

Email: [Rebecca.quance-woodland@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Rebecca.quance-woodland@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)