

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

WS Directive

2.445 01/22/04

USE OF DOGS IN WS ACTIVITIES

1. PURPOSE

To provide standards for the use of dogs in conducting WS activities.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces ADC Directive 2.445 dated 3/26/93.

3. POLICY

To assist in resolving some wildlife damage management problems, State Directors may authorize the use of trained dogs in their respective State(s). In the context of this Directive, a trained dog is defined as one proficient in the skills necessary to perform a specific wildlife damage management task and that responds to its handler's commands.

WS personnel training dogs or using dogs trained for hunting, wildlife harassment, trailing, cargo inspection, or as retrievers or decoy dogs in WS activities must be in compliance with State and local laws. Additionally, the following criteria must be followed:

- a. Dog(s) must be controllable at all times.
- b. Dog(s) that pose a threat to people or domestic animals are not to be used.
- c. All dogs must be maintained in a healthy environment and be properly licensed and vaccinated.

State Directors may provide other requirements for the use, care, and transportation of dogs used on official assignments under their supervision.

Deputy Administrator

Distribution:

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