

Analysis of the work of rescue dogs based on examination results

Summary

Rescue dogs find people buried under rubble or avalanches or lost in open areas. Their role in saving human life is invaluable. In order for a dog to work as a search and rescue dog, its skills must be periodically reviewed. The aim of the study was to analyse the results achieved by rescue dogs in exams, broken down by breed. The material consisted of data from examination protocols from the year 2014, obtained from the Search and Rescue Group Training Division (WSSGR) in Nowy Sącz. It was found that the most highly represented breeds among dogs undergoing examinations in 2014 were the Labrador Retriever (43%), German Shepherd (16%) and Border Collie (13%). More dogs underwent air-scenting exams (63%) than disaster exams (37%), which is due to the specificity and difficulties of training dogs to work on rubble. Air-scenting exams were also characterized by a higher success rate (positive results for 67% of exams).

KEY WORDS: search and rescue dog, air-scenting exam, disaster exam