

Is Breed Important?

Breed is not a reliable predictor of success due to large within-breed individual variability, but may predispose dogs to behavioral tendencies related to original working purpose which may be advantageous for optimizing training, performance, and welfare.

Breeds Traditionally Utilized for Explosives Detection

LABRADOR RETRIEVER

- Historical functions: assisting hunters in finding and retrieving fowl on land and water
- Key working traits: energetic, adaptable, even-tempered, biddable
- Utilized in WWII and Vietnam War for various tasks including bomb detection, tracking, rescue
- Highly suited for odor-based detection tasks in conjunction with human partner



GERMAN SHEPHERD

- Historical functions: containing and guarding sheep, particularly by patrolling borders and boundaries around farm
- Key working traits: intelligent, trainable, loyal, bold
- Utilized during WWI & II for various military tasks (couriering, sentry, navigation, mine detection)
- Working lines tend to be motivated by opportunity to chase and bite moving objects



BELGIAN MALINOIS

- Historical functions: variety of tasks including guarding, herding livestock, and pulling equipment
- Key working traits: agile, intelligent, confident, attentive
- Utilized in WWI for carrying messages and equipment
- Excel in variety of modern working roles due to high motivation to work



GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER

- Historical functions: assisting hunters in locating and retrieving variety of prey
- Key working traits: energetic, agile, perseverative, social
- Highly effective at detection tasks due to exceptional olfactory ability, stamina, and persistence; however, tendencies towards impulsivity may hinder training and performance in certain environments



Other notable breeds gaining popularity for explosives detection: Springer Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, German Wirehaired Pointers

