

What Does A Police Dog Do?



Ellen F. Feld
Photographed by John Cebula

*Dedicated to all the K-9s,
who work hard every day, with a wag in their tail, to keep their communities safe.*

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Meet Bijou (pronounced Bee-zhoo)!
She is a police dog.





Police dogs do many different things from
fire investigations...







to searching for people.







Sometimes police dogs wear special outfits to protect them or let people know they are working.







Some police dogs help their human partners find out if a fire was started on purpose (that's called arson). They are trained to smell just one drop of accelerant, which is a substance that makes a fire burn faster. The dogs need to be able to identify many different liquids that are used as accelerants.







Arson dogs have to take a test every year to make sure they are still able to identify all the different accelerants. The dogs and their handlers meet to take the test.







For the test, four tin cans are nailed to a wooden wheel. One drop of accelerant is placed into one can and then all the cans are filled with burnt papers, clothes or other things that might be found at a fire.



