

HOOVER-SENIOR LAB-OFF-SITE LEARNING PACKET DAY 1

Instructor: Meredith Hoover

Date _____

Program/Class: Animal Science Class- Seniors -OFF-SITE LEARNING PACKET DAY 1 Period 5-8

State Indicator/Competency:

- 1.3.1 Identify, classify, evaluate and select animal species and/or breeds.
- 1.3.8 Identify, evaluate and perform general animal care and welfare procedures based on the animal's use, species and life stage (e.g., weaning, dehorning, castrating, trimming hooves, milking, weighing, grooming, dental cleaning, dental floating, nail trimming).
- 1.6.1 Describe the adaptations and special senses (e.g., sight, hearing, smell, touch) of animals and how they contribute to animal behavior.
- 1.6.2 Describe and identify innate animal behavioral traits (e.g., protection, ingestion, homing, sleeping, grooming, elimination, sexual, care-giving, combative, evasive, breed differences).
- 1.6.3 Manipulate an animal's behavioral and natural tendencies through appropriate management practices.

Instructional Objective(s):

Students will be able to answer the worksheet questions about Belgian Malinois with 100% accuracy

Method of Instruction:

Direct and Discovery

Activities:

Students will read the following articles

Students will complete the blizzard bag Worksheet and turn in the worksheet.

Article One:

It is driven to hunt and capture prey. It looks like a leaner, more agile German Shepherd. It has a 270-degree field of vision and the force of its bite equals 1,400 pounds per square inch. It can run 30 miles per hour. It can withstand the heat of the desert and an August day in Washington, D.C. It can smell drugs, bombs and unmarked graves. It's deadly enough to help take out Osama bin Laden, but gentle enough to push a toddler in a toy car.

Meet the Belgian Malinois, the weapon the White House didn't use last Friday when Omar J. Gonzales scaled the fence and ran 70 yards to reach the mansion's unlocked door, where he was finally taken down by an officer inside.

The man appeared to be unarmed — though a search later turned up a knife in his pocket and ammunition in his car — which may explain why he wasn't taken out by sharpshooters on the roof, who are trained not to shoot unarmed intruders.

By why didn't White House guards release a specially-trained Malinois? The Secret Service exclusively uses the elite breed on its canine force. After an intruder jumps the fence and triggers the alarm, canine teams are trained to be released within four seconds "to act as a missile, launching in the air to knock the subject down, and then biting an arm or leg if need be to subdue the person until the handler arrives," The Washington Post reported.

Chasing people down is one thing these dogs, which are also used by the U.S. military, do best. "The best way the dogs are used is that they can chase down anyone," a military dog handler said of a dog deployed with the Marines in Iraq in 2005. "A Marine might not be able to catch someone, but the dogs will."

A Belgian Malinois was on hand when a Pokemon fan jumped the White House fence earlier this month.

In June, dogs, including the Malinois and other breeds, started patrolling outside the White House gates — the first time canine agents were deployed by the Secret Service among the general public.

The Secret Service has had a canine team since 1976, when it was created to stop suicide bombers. The dogs train for 20 weeks before they start working and then do eight hours a week of retraining for the rest of their professional lives.

These dogs are no strangers to the front lines.

The U.S. Navy SEALs used a Belgian Malinois named Cairo in Operation Neptune Spear to capture and kill bin Laden. The dog helped secure the perimeter of bin Laden's compound, sniffing for bombs. Like the rest of the elite force, Cairo was outfitted with a Kevlar vest with

harnesses for rappelling and parachuting, a drainage system for waterborne assaults and night-vision goggles.

The mission was a far cry from the early days of military dogs. During World War II, the military asked patriotic citizens to offer up their pets for the “Dogs for Defense” program, an effort Susan Orlean documented in her book “Rin Tin Tin, the Life and the Legend.” A detachment of 125,000 dogs, ranging from Dobermans to poodles, was sent overseas. Some were used as suicide bombers. Some were left behind, others euthanized. Some survived, but were forever changed by the experience.

These days, military working dogs are elite warriors. This training video shows the Belgian Malinois in action, taking down simulated enemy combatants:

Former Navy SEAL Mike Ritland, who now trains dogs for U.S. Special Forces, wrote about training Malinois in his book “Trident K9 Warriors.” The 200-step training program the military uses costs \$50,000 per dog. But the investment arguably pays off. According to Ritland, the dogs have an 80 percent success rate detecting explosives, much better than humans or machines. They can also be trained to find narcotics.

Not all Malinois make the cut. According to Ritland, only 1 percent make it into the U.S. Special Forces. “The dogs we deploy have to be unflappable in all circumstances,” he wrote. “They have to perform their activities willingly and with a single-minded purposefulness that few, if any, humans possess.”

The training begins three days after birth. It starts with “biosensor stressing”: stimulating the puppy’s toes with Q-tips, breathing in its face, exposing it to a variety of people and stressful sounds: gunfire, thunder, sirens, motorcycles.

The puppies are taken from their mothers as early as possible, so that the dog will form its primary bond with a human.

If the dogs can tolerate the stressful sounds at increased volume after four weeks, they move on to phase two: learning how to swim. The dogs are taken out in water to where they can no longer see land. This is where some start to panic. “Many of us ended up getting parts of our bodies raked by the thumbs and dewclaws of a panicked swimming dog,” Ritland wrote.

Similar tactics are used to get the dog accustomed to helicopters. “I had to take Castor and grab the handle of his vest, lift him up, and then dangle him out over the lip of the helicopter. He thought I was throwing him out of the bird,” a handler named Aaron said in Ritland’s book. “He freaked out — paws thrashing, his torso twisting. Once I let go of him, and of course he’s tethered to me, he dropped a couple of inches more and then just hung there. He was immediately totally calm, and I imagined he was thinking, ‘Oh, OK, cool. This is fine. Dad’s got me.’ ”

The dogs grow to be loyal and obedient. In service of country and president, they face dangers much like soldiers on the front lines.

In January 2013, a Malinois in the Secret Service died during a security sweep after it fell to its death from the roof of a six-story parking deck near a New Orleans hotel where Vice President Joe Biden was staying. And last year, a Malinois belonging to the U.S.-led International Assistance Security Forces went missing after a December 2013 operation in Afghanistan. The Pentagon confirmed its disappearance after a video of heavily armed Taliban fighters holding the dog on a chain surfaced in February.

“I don’t remember seeing a dog used as a hostage,” Rita Katz — founder of SITE Intelligence Group, which tracks insurgent propaganda — told The Washington Post. She said dogs had been featured in propaganda in Iraq when insurgents floated the idea of using them as unsuspecting suicide bombers.

The Malinois may be the first canine soldier taken hostage, but it’s not the first dog to fall into enemy hands. A British ship’s mascot, a purebred English pointer named Judy, became the only dog officially recognized as a prisoner of war in World War II after she was captured by the Japanese when her boat was torpedoed. For three years, she shared maggoty boiled rice with British soldiers in Japanese prison camps, some of whom later credited her with saving their lives.

Judy is one of many dogs lauded by their human partners as war heroes. And like war heroes, dogs can return from combat with mental scars. Walter Burghardt, chief of behavioral medicine and military working dog studies at the Holland Military Working Dog Hospital at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, told NPR in 2013 that about 50 military working dogs have returned from combat with symptoms of PTSD — and the number is growing.

Though dogs fight like soldiers and suffer like soldiers, they are not always cared for like soldiers. “Congress passed a law last year saying the military *may* bring back its working dogs to the U.S. to be reunited with their handlers, but it does not say they *must* be brought back,” NPR reported.

Article Two:

I know what you are thinking. Since a Belgian Malinois was used by Navy Seal Team Six on the raid of the Bin Laden compound, it would make a perfect family pet. Just park it in the living room next to your Apache Helicopter!

The work of the Belgian Malinois in Bin Laden’s assassination placed a spotlight on the breed likely to spike the breed’s popularity. Think of it as the 101 Dalmatians effect. Think of Creulla De Ville in *Fauve Charbonné* (the top-secret Malinois coat color).

The fact is **Malinois do not make good pets**, as they are strictly working and sporting dogs. If you are NOT already involved with dog sport, you should not get a Malinois. (I said that ten years ago, [click to watch](#), and I'll say it again- Malinois do not make good pets)

Who should get a Malinois?:

1. Do you dream day and night of improving your performance as a dog trainer?
2. Do you have reflexes like a Chimpanzee? Can you take a punch without feeling the need to retaliate?
3. Are you calm in the face of embarrassment, danger, and even chaos? Can you remain calm around a very hyper dog?
4. Do you want a dog that can't and won't be a couch potato? A DOG JUST FOR TRAINING?
5. Do you have at least 2-hours per day to devote to training and exercise?
6. Do you have access to a Ringsport or Schutzhund club where you can find a mentor?
7. Are you versed in positive and negative training modalities?
8. Are you willing to put canine performance before your own physical and psychological comfort?

If you answer these questions with a round clear YES, you have what it takes to become a Malinois Handler.

Hard Dogs, Soft Arts: If you think a Malinois is perfect for Agility, Rally, Obedience, or Herding, think again. Be smart and get a Border Collie. Border Collies are ideal dogs for sports not requiring bite work. Malinois are designed for Hard Arts like: French Ring, Belgian Ring, Mondioring, Schutzhund and KNPV. Sure, they also excel in non-bitework competitions. But drive-building, grip-development, and stimulus-control techniques **make the Malinois Temperament complete.**

Malinois temperament: When we speak about Malinois temperament, we mean a temperament for work. The Malinois is highly trainable, totally driven. and immensely responsive to outside factors, unlike a breed with a phlegmatic temperament such as the Labrador or Pit Bull, for example.

If you are not a relaxed, happy person who loves physical activity, and has a willingness to take a challenge head on, life will not go well for your Malinois puppy. No doubt it will devolve into a simpering-anti-social-fear-biting-paranoid-walking-liability and *not* the k9 super hero it was meant to be!

Tempered Steel: When a blacksmith makes a sword he heats raw ore until it's red hot, and then shapes it into form. The sword remains soft and pliable, useless for its purpose, until the Smith tempers the blade by successive heatings and coolings. Thus causing a molecular alignment that hardens the edge. By this process, too, the Malinois trainer tempers a Malinois in the forge of Ring. Every Malinois starts off soft. Eventually, as he matures, if the dog is not

tempered through work, he will either end up out of control or fearful. The trainer taps into the pup's drives, heating the steel, and gradually exposing the pup to stressors. Eventually, as he matures, the trainer brings the pup from the euphoric prey drive state to a state of control and focus, metaphorically tempering the steel. This plunging from hot to cold, lends the Malinois its solid temperament.

After years of daily training, your Malinois can show the same temperament as a Lab or German Shepherd, yet have the sharpness to work. This is how a dog with the bidability of a Border Collie becomes able to perform in stressful environments such as found in Middle East war zones. It is the trainer's job to insure good temperament. This happens through work, mostly bite work and character development that are part of the Ringsport foundation. No surprise to students of the breed—since Malinois and Ringsport evolved together.

If you are interested in dog sports, start with your own dog, and work up to a Malinois. Even in my household where Malinois are part of our lifestyle, we have them for training and not as pets. Our other dogs are pets.

So, if the dog recruited for the raid on the Bin Laden complex sparked your imagination, before you go out and get one, be aware of the commitment it takes to live with and train a Belgian Malinois.

Article Two

Although his fawn-colored coat and black mask mean he's often mistaken for a small German Shepherd, the Belgian Malinois (pronounced mal-in-wah) is a distinct breed. His native country, Belgium, is home to four herding breeds that vary by color and coat type. Named for the town of Malines where he originated, the Malinois is the short-haired variety. He is a medium-size dog with a protective personality and, among other things, has proven adept at police work.

The Malinois has high energy levels and needs much more activity than a simple walk around the block. Choose this breed only if you are a high-energy person who enjoys active daily exercises such as running, bicycling, and hiking. He's well suited to just about any dog sport or activity you can teach, including agility, flyball, herding, obedience, rally, search and rescue, and tracking.

Begin socialization and training early to make the most of the Malinois' intelligence, rapid learning ability, and drive. He is sensitive to harsh corrections. Be firm, fair, and consistent, using positive reinforcement techniques such as praise, play and food rewards.

Malinois temperament ranges from aloof to outgoing, but he should never be fearful, shy, or aggressive. He is an excellent watchdog and has the size and ability to be protective when necessary.

The ideal Malinois has parents with good temperaments and has been socialized from an early age to be accepting of people when introduced. Those elements -- combined with companion dog training -- make for a discriminating dog that can make appropriate decisions when it comes to protection.

When the Malinois is raised with children, he can be very accepting. But don't forget that he is a herding breed and may have the tendency to chase or nip at children. This should never be permitted! He is best suited to a family with older children who understand how to treat him with respect.

The Malinois may or may not get along with cats. He has a strong prey drive and may chase cats or other small furry animals. That said, some Malinois do get along well with indoor cats if they have been raised together.

The Malinois can be aggressive with dogs or other animals he doesn't know. If your home has a yard, it should be securely fenced to prevent the dog from leaving the premises as well as to keep other dogs from coming onto the property. That doesn't mean an underground electronic fence! If the Belgian Malinois wants to leave the yard, a shock isn't going to stop him, and this type of fence doesn't prevent other dogs from coming onto your property, either.

Brush the Belgian Malinois' coat weekly to remove dead hair. He does shed and will need more frequent brushing during that time to control the amount of loose hair floating around. Trim his nails as needed, and keep his ears clean and dry to prevent infections. Strong dental hygiene is also important.

This is an indoor/outdoor dog. While the Belgian Malinois should certainly have access to a securely fenced yard, he should be with his family when they are home. He is best suited to an experienced dog owner.

HOOVER-SENIOR LAB-OFF-SITE LEARNING PACKET DAY 1

Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

ANIMAL: _____

1. What was the animal originally bred for?

1. What are some key physical traits of this animal?

2. What are some health concerns with this animal?

3. What are the grooming requirements needs of the animal?

4. What kind of family would this animal be best suited for?

HOOVER-SENIOR LAB-OFF-SITE LEARNING PACKET DAY 1

Closure:

Worksheet completed

Assessment:

Worksheet