OUR MISSION

Opened on September 11, 2012, the Penn Vet Working Dog Center is the nation’s premier research and educational facility dedicated to harnessing the unique strengths of our canine partners and producing an elite group of scent-detection dogs for public safety and health. Dogs in the program are named in honor of individuals who lost their lives on 9/11 and canine heroes who served following the attacks.

131 DOGS IN OUR PROGRAM SINCE 2012
94% OF DOGS HAVE GRADUATED TO CAREERS
175 LAW ENFORCEMENT K9s AND OFFICERS TRAIN WITH US
47 K9 GRADUATES HAVE CAREERS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT
32 K9 GRADUATES HAVE CAREERS IN SEARCH AND RESCUE
21 K9 GRADUATES HAVE OTHER DETECTION CAREERS
35 GRANTS/SPONSORED RESEARCH PROJECTS
24 PAPERS/BOOK CHAPTERS PUBLISHED
143+ SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS WORLDWIDE

COLLABORATORS

NONPROFITS
- Academic partners
- Canine organizations
- Foundations

GOVERNMENT
- Law enforcement
- Military
- Search and rescue

CORPORATE
- Animal health
- Human health
- Canine sector

Data as of April 1, 2021
EDUCATIONAL IMPACT
Changing lives of dogs and people through unique learning opportunities

Youth
- Canine Handler Academy: Middle schoolers are immersed in the art and science of working dogs
- Select high school science students explore the science of working dogs

College Students
- Interns (>300) and Drexel University Co-op students (>120) apply their engineering, biology, criminology, psychology, and cognitive science studies (to name a few) to working dog research, care, and training

Veterinary Students
- Expand their experience in the comprehensive care of working dogs

Postgraduate
- Postdoctoral Fellows (3) advance canine science through research, publications, professional presentations, and mentoring the next generation
- Canine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Residents provide advanced medical care and conduct research in support of working dog health

Law Enforcement, Search, and Rescue
- Trainers, handlers, canines, and auxiliary professionals receive training in the development, training, medical care, fitness, and implementation of working dogs

Professional Development
- The 7th Penn Vet Working Dog Conference brought together canine researchers, practitioners, and programs to learn the newest science to support working police, detection, search, and service dogs in action

RESEARCH IMPACT

Working Dog Performance Research
Canine Sports Medicine: Researching the optimization of canine health and performance to ensure health, with a focus on hydration, physical fitness, and occupational hazards

Olfaction Research
Exploring factors that can impact canine olfactory performance, including exercise, cleaning agents, and pharmaceuticals

Research to Address the National Working Dog Shortage
Evaluating genetic and behavioral factors that contribute to the success of detection dogs to improve breeding and selection of dogs to support national security and human health

BIOMEDICAL DETECTION RESEARCH

Environmental Health
Spotted Lanternfly invasion

One Health Biofilm

Human Health
Ovarian cancer
COVID-19
Sinonasal inverted papilloma

Animal Health
Chronic wasting disease