

Canines to join fight against crime

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THIRTEEN new canine teams have graduated from the Canine Academy and are expected to be deployed at the prisons and at the airports and seaports in TT to aid in crime detection.

The teams of Prisons and Customs and Excise officers and the dogs were put on display at the Volunteer Defence Force Head-quarters, in Chaguaramas, yesterday.

The handlers showed how the dogs would be used for the interception of escapees, crowd control and narcotics detection.

Prisons Commissioner John Rougier said he was very impressed with the new teams.

"The intensive training given to both dogs and their handlers alike gives them the discipline needed to handle the work they have to do," he said.

Rougier said the new teams would serve many purposes in the revamping of the Prisons Service.

He said the dogs will be used to detect illegal activity at the prisons, including crimes committed by his own officers.

The dogs will also be used to quell riots at the various prisons.

According to Rougier, the canine teams will assist in the "running of the prisons."

And the Prisons Commissioner has said agricultural lands around the Golden Grove Prison, in Arouca, were not completely utilised since prisoners set to cultivate the lands often times used the opportunity to escape.

He said with prisoners under guard by the canine teams, it will be safer to have the inmates out working the fields so that the prisons could become more self sufficient or even supply other institutions with foods.

Comptroller of Customs Fitzroy John said the canine units were used during training and were quite useful in the detection of drugs.

John said the canine teams would be expanded within the next fiscal year.

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HARD WORKING DOG: A dog handler with the K9 unit takes his charge through the paces during a training exercise at the graduation ceremony of the Canine...
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