

The Animal Welfare Scheme continues to operate an effective scheme, maintaining public confidence and assurance to the residents of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BCH) that police dogs are being well cared for. BCH General Purpose Police Dogs are deployed for searching, tracking, arrest work and crowd control along with supporting firearms officers.

### About Team PD

Both BCH Police Dogs and Luton International Airport (LIA) include general purpose dogs and dogs that specialise in detecting drugs, cash, guns, weapons, explosives, and digital media.



### Dangerous Dogs

Under Section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 the Dog Unit also has the capability to deal with dogs that are likely to be dangerously out of control, mitigating risk to the public and officers.



### Shared Practices

Back in March 2025 the OPCCs played an active role in supporting at the Regional Dog Trials where the feedback from the competitors and judges has been excellent.

In April 2024, the National Police Chiefs' Council set out the nationally agreed minimum standards for all police forces and their Chief Constables who have police dog units, which saw an increase in Animal Welfare Schemes across the Country.

This saw many schemes being set up across the Country, due to the great work happening within our scheme the Dogs Trust referred new schemes and those thinking about setting up to us.

This is credit to the positive working relationship between the Dog Unit, Volunteers and the OPCCs.



### About our Volunteers

Independent Dog Welfare Visitors are volunteer members of the public who observe, comment and report on the condition of the dogs and their means of transportation whilst on duty.

Our visitors are offered Continuing Professional Development which includes support from the Dogs Trust on training methods, animal welfare, transportation, health, and safety.

Our Independent Dog Welfare Visitors continue to provide essential and robust scrutiny of the care, treatment and wellbeing of Police Dogs across BCH including our security Dogs at LIA.



### 2024/2025 Statistics



We currently have **47** Dogs across BCH, LIA have **11** including 1 trainee.



We have **6** animal welfare volunteers, ensuring standards are met.



In 24/25 **17** dog welfare visits were conducted with **108** different checks across BCH and LIA.



We are saying goodbye to 2 of our our Dog handlers and 4 of our Dogs who will be retiring this year.  
**Happy Retirement!**



### A Forward Look

Our visits continue to run smoothly however the scheme would not run so successfully without the continued encouragement and support of the dog unit and its handlers.

Our Volunteers within the scheme will continue to provide scrutiny of the care and treatment of police dogs ensuring that procedures are ethical, humane and transparent in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

