

From: Clay, William H - APHIS

To: Bucknall, Janet L - APHIS; Mendoza, Martin - APHIS

Cc: Garrett, Joanne P - APHIS

Subject: RE: Final Draft: Use of Trained Dogs in WS Activities

Date: Tuesday, February 05, 2013

Janet,

Here's my thoughts. Dogs should only accompany employees when they serve an official function. Having them ride along for companionship is not appropriate. I am sure that any employee could make the argument that taking their dogs along would be for them to serve in a support function. I can't believe that anybody would say the only reason they are coming along is to keep them company, but maybe some would. If so, we should not allow it.

Jamie Olson's dogs had electronic collars on them but Pepper still bit the coyote. The owner can shock them after the fact, but an electronic collar does not prevent a dog from initially biting an animal. I don't buy the excuse that muzzles interfere with the dogs ability to breathe during the warmer months and anybody saying this is not familiar with the different kinds of muzzles. There are several kinds of muzzles available and the wire basket muzzle allows the dog to breathe (and pant) properly and even drink water while the muzzle is on. Just google "wire basket muzzles" for examples. They cost about \$35. If we want to truly prevent a dog from biting/mauling a restrained animal, the only way to do it is with a muzzle or a leash.

Bill