



MRA CUSTOMS K9 UNIT

Feb 2025

We Protect the Society

Beyond its primary role of tax collection, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) undertakes critical efforts to combat drug trafficking and the illicit movement of cash and monetary instruments across borders. To address these pressing concerns, MRA established a K9 Unit in 2004, initially comprising four highly specialized sniffer dogs. Since its inception, this unit has experienced a growth boasting of 16 expertly trained sniffer dogs, each partnered with a dedicated handler.

Strategically deployed at key transit points including the Port, Airport, courier services, and Parcel Post office, these canine teams serve as frontline defenders, tirelessly scrutinising signs of illicit substances or prohibited items. Recognizing the indispensable role of these detector dogs, the Customs Department of the MRA has integrated them in their enforcement strategy, providing an unparalleled advantage in the detection of contraband.

The extraordinary olfactory capabilities of these dogs enable them to detect a wide array of substances with distinct scents, making them versatile assets in the fight against illegal activities. Just as humans rely on sight to navigate the world, dogs perceive and interpret their surroundings primarily through scent, a sensory prowess that renders them uniquely suited for this vital task. By harnessing the keen senses of these remarkable animals, MRA ensures the most effective means of safeguarding Mauritius's borders and upholding its commitment to security and integrity.

During the past years, the dogs have contributed significantly in the seizure of substantial quantities of illicit drugs at the port, airport and postal services.



Below is a summary of Drug seizures:

ACHIEVEMENTS		
YEAR	CASES	TOTAL STREET VALUE (Rs.)
2014	12	139,137,289
2015	15	140,952,730
2016	18	108,617,874
2017	30	2,676,665,491
2018	51	371,394,874
2019	41	241,200,000
2020	45	166,096,000
2021	37	332,077,000
2022	29	148,308,822
2023	22	82,881,641
2024	30	422,566,252



Help Us Serve You

To ensure optimum performance, it is imperative that drug detector dogs receive comprehensive training and operate in an environment conducive to their work. When observing MRA Customs sniffer dogs and their handlers in action, particularly in operational deployment areas like passenger terminals, it is crucial to refrain from attempting to interact with them. Approaching these teams, especially if you are an unfamiliar presence, can inadvertently divert the dog's attention from their task at hand.

Maintaining focus is paramount for these highly trained animals, and any unexpected interaction could disrupt their concentration and compromise the effectiveness of their search. So, while it may be tempting to offer a friendly pat, it's best to admire these dedicated teams from a reasonable distance, allowing them to carry out their vital duties undisturbed.



Your cooperation in this matter contributes significantly to the overall success of MRA's efforts to combat illicit activities and safeguard public safety.

About our Dogs

Dogs possess one of the most remarkable senses of smell in the animal kingdom. This exceptional olfactory ability not only enables them to detect the presence of prohibited substances but also empowers them to pinpoint hidden or concealed items with unparalleled precision.

Our canine partners undergo rigorous assessment, evaluating a range of characteristics crucial for their role. These include their hunting and retrieval instinct, temperament, approachability, stamina, acuity, and defensive instincts. It's the combination of these innate qualities, coupled with the experience and knowledge of the dog handler, that forms the cornerstone of our detection efforts.

The effectiveness of our detection operations hinges on the symbiotic relationship between the dog and its handler. The dog's acute sense of smell, complemented by the handler's expertise in recognizing hiding places, understanding smuggling methods, and familiarity with various narcotics, significantly enhances our detection capabilities. Close cooperation and mutual trust between the dog and handler are indispensable prerequisites for achieving optimal results in our mission to combat illicit activities.

Areas and places of Operations of Drug detector Dogs

- Courier Services
- Parcel Post Office
- Airport, Port and Freight Stations
 - Port (Container Terminals, Customs Freight Stations)
- Luggage on Carrouseles:
 - SSR International Airport, Yu Lounge
 - Aurelie Perrine Passenger Terminal, Christian Decotter Cruise Terminal
- PATS Warehouse
- Ground 2 Air Warehouse



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