

ABSTRACT

Forensic olfactorics and its future

Forensic olfactorics is one of the methods of criminal odouology. Olfactorics uses the sense of smell of a specially trained dog to examine and identify odours. The most important type of dog scent work is the individual identification method. This method arose from the development of service cynology and has undergone considerable development over the years. There are extensive scientific studies dealing with the function of the dog's sense of smell, which show that there is as of yet no other device so developed that is capable of identifying and comparing human scent. The thesis also discusses the training of service dogs for scent work as well as the process of olfactory comparison, from locating scent traces, to securing them, to the actual comparison of two scent conserves. The legal framework for the use of olfactory comparison as part of evidence in criminal proceedings is also presented.

In spite of the above, opinions persist within the judicial practice, especially that of the Czech Constitutional Court, that the evidence provided by the scent analysis is only supporting evidence and cannot be the main evidence. The thesis seeks to identify possible reasons for these opinions as well as to outline possible solutions that could enable the method of scent identification to become the main evidence in specific cases.

The master's thesis contains findings from Czech and foreign literature on the topic of criminalistic olfactorics, as well as from publications on the training of service dogs, scientific articles and studies on the reliability of service dogs in the execution of scent work, including a personal interview with a former cynologist and dog handler of the Police of the Czech Republic and findings from a tour of the cynological training facility of the Customs Service of the Czech Republic. Extensive case law is also analysed, focusing on the findings of the Constitutional Court, which has repeatedly commented on the characteristics of scent test evidence. The thesis reflects the current wording of laws and police guidelines for the purpose of conducting olfactory identification and includes a number of photographs provided by both the archives of the Police Museum of the Czech Republic and the Police of the Czech Republic upon request.

Key words: scent trace, forensic olfactorics, scent identification method