



Kilmarnock prison - Drug Dog

It is necessary for all prisons in Scotland to have a drugs dog.

Mac is a three-year-old black Labrador that works for Serco at HMP Kilmarnock. He was born in London. 'However he has managed to lose his English accent'. He has worked within HMP Kilmarnock for the last year. Before this he was in training at Surrey Dog School. Mac is trained to detect controlled substances in a passive and pro-active manner.

- He is used in passive searching of visitors and staff, who enter the prison. This is where Mac works on a harness attached to a lead.
- For pro-active searching Mac again works on a harness but works freely from the Dog Handler. Pro-active dogs can do an area search, vehicle or cell search.

Mac and Jacqui, my Drug Dog Handler, work as a team at all times. During initial training Jacqui had to learn to read the dogs reactions and trust the dog. There is a very strong bond between Mac and Jacqui. This is due to their training and also whilst off duty Jacqui is still responsible for the dog. He is kenneled at the prison during operational duty and is kenneled at home with Jacqui whilst off duty.

He is very friendly, show's enthusiasm, alertness and is a keen working dog. These are all normal traits of a Labrador. Labrador's have an excellent nature and are normally very good with children (and good at detecting drugs!!).

He receives 6 monthly refresher training at Surrey Dog School. He can detect a large variety of drugs. On his last trip to Surrey, Mac and Jacqui were put through their paces, as the instructor introduced them to a new form of drug. Mac came top of his class during this training. I'm proud to work with such an intelligent and highly trained dog. He is an asset to the team at HMP Kilmarnock.

He is given regular check ups at one of the local veterinary centre. This is to ensure he is fit and healthy for duty at all times.

Mac loves his job (and his food) and if everyone was more like him the world would be a far better place to work.

Wendy Sinclair

DIRECTOR

HM PRISON KILMARNOCK