

Joining the Reserve Army as a Dog Handler

1st Military Working Dogs Regiment

Answered on video

- Can you still join the military if you require glasses? And have asthma?
- We have had a question that asks 'is there an upper age limit for a qualified veterinary nurse to join the military working dog regiment?'

Additional Q&As

If a dog does a job like find drugs do they get a treat?

As part of continuous training, when the dog has a find we would use positive reinforcement (praise, Kong, ball etc). We don't use edible treats or drugs.

Are there these kind of opportunities in Wales?

We are a National Unit, so you can come from all over the country. Training is based over weekends and accommodation is provided.

Do you get your own dog or is it one dog per group?

A large portion of the dogs are trained to be multi handled. As the nature of being a reservist, you won't be given your own dog. When you are on exercise or attached to a squadron, you would then be allocated a dog for that time period for the specific classification that you're trained for.

What type of dog training methods do you use? Are they based on positive reinforcement or do you use punishment-based methods?

It's all positive reinforcement. We don't use punishment-based methods in the British Army.

Is there just the one regiment with dogs so it would suit someone with a day job who lives within a 20 mile radius?

The beauty of 101 MWD is that we are on the same camp as the Regular Squadron. Becoming a reservist has been designed to work alongside your chosen vocation and not against it.

Do people work with all the dogs or have their own or a small group?

There are different classifications to what we use the dogs for. The majority can be multi handled. As a reservist you will be given a specific dog when either on exercise or attached to a squadron in the classification that your trained.

When you say 19 days is that per month or year?

Because we are a national unit, it is 19 days a year. You are looking at 30 days per annum to achieve all the training requirements and your annual camp completed. Completion of this entitles you to a tax-free bounty every year.

If you apply to be a reserve, are you guaranteed you will then go on to train as a reserve dog handler?

Applying to become a Reservist does not guarantee that you will become a dog handler. Due to the nature of the work, the bar is set high on entry requirements. It's not impossible but expect stiff competition on gaining a place. Good luck.

