



Hunting dogs as a tool for the airport bird control

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Scope

- How can hunting dogs support the daily work in the bird control.
- The advantages of using hunting dogs over herding dogs (i.e. Border Collies).
- Implementation of hunting dogs at Copenhagen Airport.
- How to implement a hunting dog in the bird control unit.
- Risk assessment of the use of hunting dogs at the airport.



My background



- Six years of experiences as a bird controller.
- Training my own and other handlers' dogs for more than ten years as a certified trainer.



- Sharing a teamwork by improving the technique of handling hunting dogs at Copenhagen Airport.



How can hunting dogs support the daily work of the bird control?

- The dog provides you with an extra tool in controlling birds, and consequently, reduces the risk of overdoing your other tools, which can result in habituation.
- The dog can do what you are unable to do yourself:
 - search effectively for birds that hide alive or dead in the vegetation.
 - scare (run up birds, appear as a four-legged predator).
 - entering ILS critical areas and areas close to active runways.



Hunting dogs



- Great willingness to please, learn, and obey.
- Works in good contact with the handler and have high working ethics.
- Hunting skill
- Great willingness to search for game.
- Passion for retrieving the game.



Herding dogs



- Great willingness to please, learn, and obey.
- Work in good contact with the handler and have high working ethics.
- Do not retrieve naturally and work primarily using eyesight.



Hunting dogs at Copenhagen Airport

Three dogs are in place at CPH:

- 2008 - : Labrador retriever
- 2009 - : Field trial Cocker Spaniel
- 2011 - : Field trial Labrador

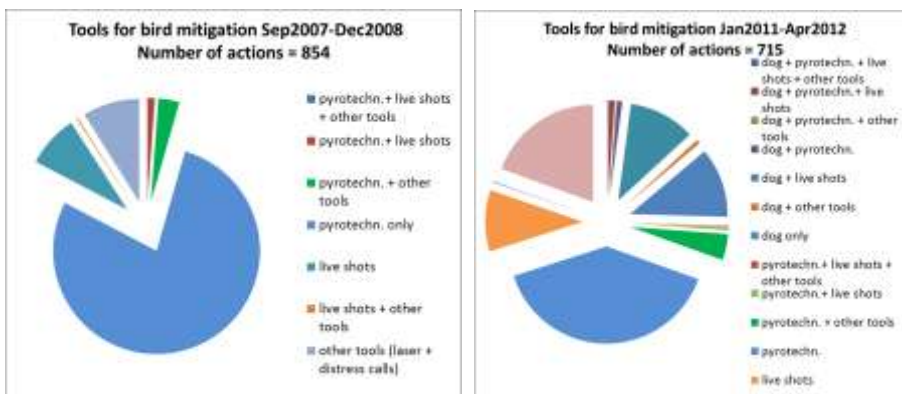


Data obtained

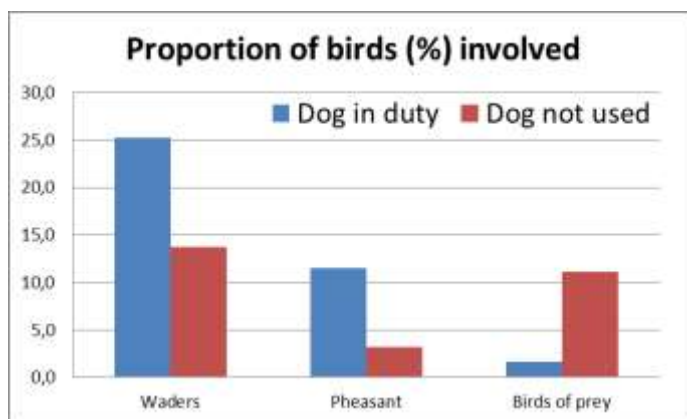
- Data from my own scaring actions of birds during two separate periods:
 - 16 months (Sep2007-Dec2008) without using the dog.
- compared to*
- 16 months (Jan2011-Apr2012) where the dog is fully trained and applied in my work.



Combination of tools used in the bird control before and after the introduction of the dog.



Maximum differences in target birds where the dog is either used or not used



How to implement a dog in a bird control unit

- Choose between the three primary types: retrievers, flushing dogs, and pointing breeds.
- When choosing your favorite dog for the job, it is important to investigate which different skills the particular breed consists of.
- No matter what type of dog you choose, the overall key to success in implementing dogs into the bird control, is to do it slowly.
- Training of the dog is a time consuming work, and obtaining a hundred percent dutifulness of the dog to its handler is an invariable demand before releasing the dog onto the airport.



Risk assessment of the use of dogs

Two main potential hazards can be identified:

- Runway incursion (causing a 'dog strike')
- Failure of the ILS systems when the dog enters into the critical areas.



Hazard	Severity	Probability	Corrective actions
Entering an active runway or a taxiway	Similar to the severity of a fox collision. Moderate or low?	Very small or negligible if the dog is quit dutiful to the handler and correct trained.	Using the dog can eventually be paused when an aircraft is actually operating
Entering ILS critical areas	Not harmful. Only negligible impacts to the transmissions are recorded (Tests trial conducted in CPH).	When entering is needed.	No corrective actions are needed. The dog can be released in the critical areas



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Thank you!



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