



SUPER

SNIFFER digest

Issues 7; October 2019

TRAFFIC's e-newsletter to celebrate achievements of wildlife sniffer dogs in India

ABOUT THE WILDLIFE SNIFFER DOGS:

Wildlife Sniffer Dogs Squad 1

Name of the dog: Norman

DOB: 28 Jan 2015

Breed/Gender: German Shepherd/Male

Handler name: Ashish Khare

Wildlife Sniffer Dogs Squad 2

Name of the dog: Simba

DOB: 30 Jan 2015

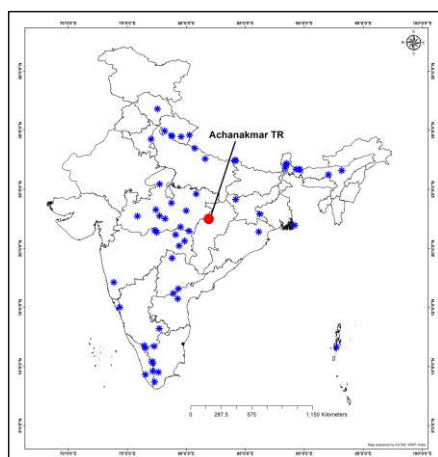
Breed/Gender: Belgian Malinois/Male

Handlers: Suresh Kumar Nawrang & Sarita Paikra

Training centre: National Training Centre For Dogs (NTCD), BSF Academy, Tekanpur Gwalior (MP); Batch Vth

Deployment: October 2016

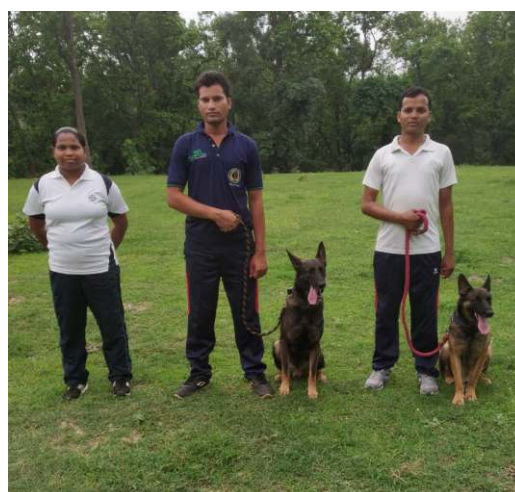
Place of deployment: Anti-poaching unit under Lormi division, Achanakmar Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh



Total number of wildlife sniffer dogs trained in India by TRAFFIC: 66

Total number of seizures: 300 +

ESCAPADES OF SUPER SNIFFER DUO THAT SAFEGUARD THE FORESTS OF CHHATTISGARH



Simba and Norman are two wildlife sniffer dogs (Super Sniffers) trained under TRAFFIC's programme in India and deployed by the Chhattisgarh Forest Department as a team to help curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the State.

The two wildlife sniffer dogs along with their handlers have a reputation of achieving almost 100% success in some of the most complicated wildlife cases where investigation had reached a dead end. The Super Sniffer Duo has helped the forest department in solving 11 major wildlife cases so far, including cases related to poaching of Elephant, Leopard, Bison, Sambar and Spotted Deer. They have partnered together to help seize several wildlife articles, equipment and weapons used in poaching. Several wildlife poachers and traders have also been arrested by the authorities based on the clues provided by the duo.

Recently, an interesting case of a missing elephant tusk put Simba and Norman in the limelight again. On a fateful day in June 2019, forest officials found an elephant carcass at the Pingla range of the Achanakmar Tiger Reserve (ATR), with its tusks missing. The department had a tip off about the poachers but since there was no evidence to act, Simba and Norman were pressed into action, and as a result two suspects were identified who later confessed their crime of poaching and took the authorities to the place where the tusks were hidden by them wrapped in a gunny bag in a tree.

Similarly, in another case earlier in the year, Simba and Norman helped to solve a case when a leopard cub was found electrocuted in Aalamkhara in the Khudia range of ATR. Forest officials had found no clues during preliminary investigations and when Super Sniffer Duo were pressed into action they searched the crime scene and found pieces of cloth used to tie the electric fence wire. The duo then led their handlers approximately 500 m towards a village, where the investigating team recovered the wires used for the electrocution leading to the arrest of suspects.

The partnership of Simba, Norman and their handlers is truly inspiring, one of its kind in India and is proving to be a huge deterrent for wildlife crime in the state of Chhattisgarh, well known for its forest resources.

Congratulations to the winners of CANINES FOR FELINES Contest!

We are happy to announce that Nirman, a super sniffer from Tiger Strike Force, Satna was the overall winner of the Canines for Felines contest. Myna, a wildlife sniffer dog from Tiger Strike Force, Indore was adjudged second. Wildlife sniffer dog Quarmy from Biswanath Wildlife Division, Assam won a special prize for combatting wildlife crime.

Canines for Felines was a special contest for the wildlife sniffer dog squads in India to celebrate their contribution towards curbing tiger poaching and illegal trade. The winners were announced on Global Tiger Day, 29th July 2019. It was organised by TRAFFIC and WWF-India aimed at acknowledging and bringing visibility to the wildlife sniffer dog squads who work tirelessly to curb crime related to tigers.

Editorial Team:

Saket Badola; saket.badola@traffic.org
Amar Nath Choudhary; amarnath.choudhary@traffic.org
Dilpreet B. Chhabra; dilpreet.chhabra@traffic.org

Photo credit: Saket Badola (Masthead);
Chhattisgarh Forest Department (Others)



Contact:

TRAFFIC India
c/o WWF-India Secretariat; 172-B, Lodi Estate
New Delhi-110003
Email: trafficindia@wwfindia.net
Website: www.traffic.org & www.trafficindia.org