

19th. November 1947.

Dear Mr. Hawley,

With respect to your interesting letter on testing the sense of smell in police dogs, I feel very sure that an effective and objective test could be applied before or at an early stage in the animals' training, so that unnecessary trouble need not be lost on a dog not really qualified for the business.

On this subject I think you might well do worse than consult Dr. A.E. Brandt, formerly of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Washington, though now working on research work for the U.S. Navy. Brandt has, I know, in the past been keenly interested in gun dog trials and he has long experience in scientific experimentation, so that he knows what a good test is and how to measure its precision.

I imagine the tests would be carried out by men familiar with the dogs and habitually handling them, but with supervision and record ^{arranged} by their official superiors on a strict and preconcerted plan.

With respect to inheritance, it is a safe guess that the olfactory powers of a breed ~~will~~ respond, probably to a considerable extent, by selectively breeding from the highest performers from the very moment at which sufficiently precise individual testing has been organised as a routine. That, at least, is the general

experience with other livestock, which is supported by the
existence of breeds ^{of dogs} with keen powers of scent.

I may say that I find your project one of considerable
personal interest, as the sort of thing which I should love to try
my hand at, though unfortunately I have not been able to breed
dogs in my own department.

Any future correspondence will find me easily at this
Cambridge address.

Yours sincerely,