



Bufty: A Mine Detection Dog

Bufty and her handler Muhammed Ali Sdiq in Iraq 2015

MAG Update
October 2015





Bufty jumping off one of the MAG trucks in Iraq

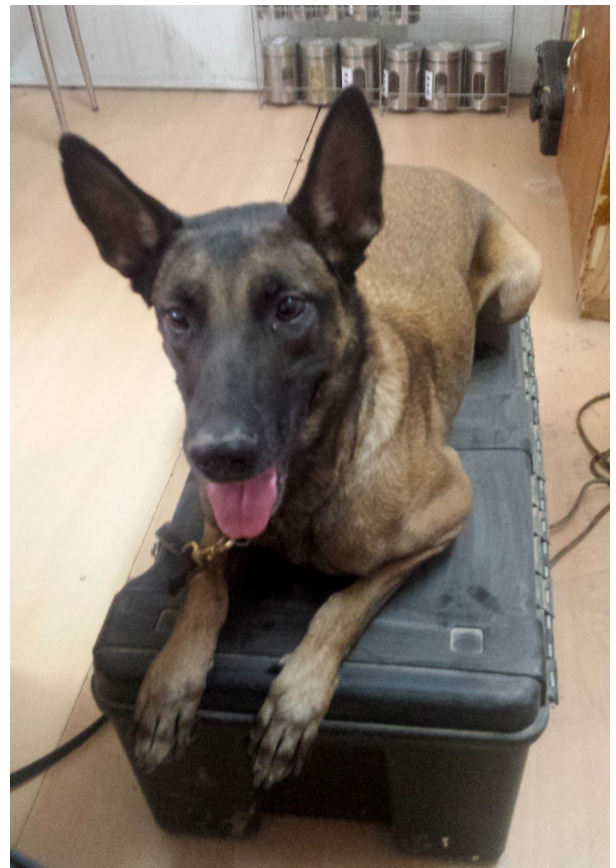
Bufty's Story

Bufty is female Belgian Shepherd Mine Detection Dog (MDD), born 1 March 2010 in Norwegian Peoples Aid's global training centre in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

Bufty received full training in Bosnia and when she arrived in Iraq on the 12 June 2012, she was a fully trained MDD and ready to work with MAG's team in Iraq.

Once she arrived in her new home in MAG's Chamchamal base in northern Iraq, Bufty received final training with her new handler Muhammed Ali Sdiq.

This included training on how to identify mines in the local environment (scent imprinting). Bufty passed her first Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) accreditation on 30th May 2013 and became fully active from this date.



Bufty relaxes at MAG Chamchamal's base



Bufty and her handler Muhammed Ali Sdiq working to clear land in Sulimaniya governorate, Kurdistan region of Iraq 2015

Bufty's Achievements

Bufty finds landmine and unexploded bombs with Muhammed so MAG can destroy them to clear the land and make it safe. She also checks areas which have been demined (land quality checks)

This safe land is then released back to local communities who desperately need it to grow food, build homes and live free from fear.

During the months of July, August and September 2015 Bufty successfully passed her internal evaluations and was performing very well.

Bufty showed herself to be fully motivated in both training and work.

Bufty's outputs were lower in July because MAG staff were on stand down for Ramadan. In August, Bufty had an infection and did not work for a week, and very high temperatures led to decreased hours of operation across the Iraq programme.

MAG is pleased to report that Bufty and Mohammed achieved the following outputs during July, August and September 2015:

July:

Land cleared: **948 m²**

Land quality checked: **0 m²**

August:

Land cleared: **1,458 m²**

Land checked: **900 m²**

September:

Land cleared: **3,782 m²**

Land quality checked: **100 m²**

TOTAL LAND CLEARED: 5,240 m²

TOTAL LAND CHECKED: 1,000 m²

Thank you Anicura and VSF Sweden for your support of Bufty and humanitarian mine action in Iraq!