



## Bufty: A Mine Detection Dog

Bufty and her handler Muhammed Ali Sdiq in Iraq

**MAG Update**  
January 2016





*Bufty and Muhammed at work in Iraq, November 2015*

## **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 Muhammed carrying out clearance on a minefield in Sulymaniya Governorate in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), October 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 double-checks areas which have been demined (land quality checks). This safe land is released back to local people who desperately need it to grow food, build homes and live free from fear.

During the months from October until December 2015, Bufty successfully passed her internal evaluations and was performing very well. From 16-28 November, Bufty was non-operational due to an infection of her perianal gland, which required her to get one week of treatment in the veterinarian clinic in Sulymaniah.

The vet, Dr Behdjet, monitored Bufty for the week and recommended a two week follow up course of antibiotics. After treatment Bufty returned to operations as normal.

MAG is pleased to report that Bufty and Muhammed achieved the following outputs in October, November and December 2015:

### **October:**

Land cleared: **2,760 m<sup>2</sup>**

Land quality checked: **500 m<sup>2</sup>**

### **November:**

Land cleared: **2,439 m<sup>2</sup>**

Land checked: **0 m<sup>2</sup>**

### **December:**

Land cleared: **1,390 m<sup>2</sup>**

Land quality checked: **0 m<sup>2</sup>**

**TOTAL LAND CLEARED Q2: 6,589 m<sup>2</sup>**

**TOTAL LAND CHECKED Q2: 500 m<sup>2</sup>**

**TOTAL LAND CLEARED Q1 & Q2:  
11,829 m<sup>2</sup>**

**TOTAL LAND CHECKED Q1 & Q2:  
1,500 m<sup>2</sup>**

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