

Information from Finland on the use of a sniffer dog at the EU external borders

Best practises to prevent an introduction of African swine fever

Detection dog for products of animal origin

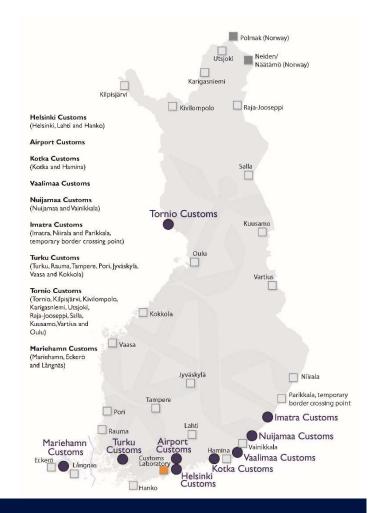


- Finland's first food sniffer dog, 'Aino', owned by the Finnish Customs
- Golden Retriever, born 7.2.2017, bitch, from a trusted breeder
- Finnish Customs dogs are from hunting dog lines. Kind, agile and active dogs, those qualities are used in their training and duty
- All Finnish Customs dogs are part of the handlers family and live with the handler 24/7
- After the basic training Aino's education for products of animal origin began 2.5.2018
- Training was coordinated by the Finnish Customs Dog Training Centre which is involved in the training of all Customs dogs
- Instructions and guidance received from the Heathrow Airport Customs in London about the training process of food detection dog
- Aino's operational duty began 14.6.2018



Detection dogs are part of the wider effort to prevent the spreading of animal diseases (e.g. ASF) to Finland

- Collaborative efforts by the public authorities (the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Finnish Food Authority, Customs, the Finnish Border Guard), co-operation strengthened since the ASF mission in August 2017
- Veterinary border inspection in close co-operation
- Reinforced internal training in Customs
- Reinforced training from the Finnish Food Authority to Customs
- Inspection of goods which might transmit animal diseases, disinfection of empty livestock vehicles
- · Passenger restrictions, control of personal consignments
- New information material produced





Intensified efforts to prevent the spreading of ASF to Finland

- Pilot started from the FIN-RUS border
- Information boards at the BCPs (pilot in Vaalimaa)
- Food waste containers ('amnesty bins') for personal consignments of food of animal origin at the BCPs (pilot in Vaalimaa)
- The food sniffer dog Aino (more publicity gained for the import restrictions)
- Information through the media
- Posters, leaflets, videos, press releases, interviews, articles in different media, contacts to embassies, consulates...
- Ongoing process
- Illegal meat/milk products are brought to the border mostly by people who are not aware of the regulations













Illegal meat and dairy products detected by Aino

- All Finnish Customs dogs are trained by play. Clicker + treat used in training. Final reward for the dog is playing with her favorite toy or receiving a dog treat
- The role of the dog is to help Finnish Customs in detecting illegal personal consignments of meat/dairy products at the EU external borders
- Aino and her handler Seija Kontunen work mainly at the eastern BCPs. They can work nationwide also in ports, airports and international post offices
- Aino detects all kinds of raw, processed, frozen, dried, canned, vacuum packed meat and dairy products. From June 2018 to December 2018 Aino has detected nearly 600 kilos of illegal meat/dairy products
- In January 2019 Aino has detected about 70 kilos of illegal meat/dairy products
- Most common detected products are sausages, raw meat, fat, canned meat and some milk products







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• Aino detects meat/dairy products from cars (sniffing the cars from outside) as well as from sniffing personal luggage. Detected cases vary from few slices of ham up to 40 kg of meat.







Nuijamaa Border Crossing Point



• Aino indicates target vehicle by pointing the vehicle with her nose and staying next to it.

Aino indigates meat/dairy products by keeping her nose touching the target and staying still.



Nuijamaa Border Crossing Point



• Cold weather is part of the job during winter, hot weather during summer.

Aino can work for about 10 hours per day if needed but always in short working periods (about 20 minutes working periods if the weather is very hot/cold).







Imatra Border Crossing Point



Experiences gained and plans for the future

- Experiences from intensified actions (e.g. sniffer dog, information boards, food waste containers) have been really positive
- Information boards and food waste containers are taken into use at all BCPs with third country traffic
- Budgetary funding (1 milj. euros) for Customs provided by the Government
- Customs have decided to train a second sniffer dog which will be located at the Airport Customs:
 - Selection of handler finalized in few weeks
 - Dog Training Centre will make selection of the new puppy
 - Operational duty of the second food dog begins during summer 2020
- Modification of the Animal Disease Act gives Customs competence to check food consignments also at the EU internal borders





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- Aino as a trainee working in car flow in port: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuWwz4c7ZBQ
- Aino as a trainee detecting meat/milk from luggage at the airport: https://www.facebook.com/tullikoirat1/videos/2228231750789569/
- Aino detecting meat from luggage at the press release of the food dog in Vaalimaa BCP 14.6.2018: https://www.facebook.com/tulli.fi/videos/832757810240688/
- Customs dogs have their own Facebook account (in Finnish only): Tullikoirat
- Information on the restrictions of personal imports:
 https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/globalassets/tietoa-meista/julkaisut/esitteet/elaimet/matkustajaesite_pieni.pdf
 https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/globalassets/tietoa-meista/julkaisut/esitteet/elaimet/yksityinen_elintarvtuonti_laaja.pdf
- Videos of ASF information (in Finnish only but subtitles for other languages will be added soon;
 the third video is for passengers):
 https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/viljelijat/elaintenpito/elainten-terveys-ja-elaintaudit/elaintaudit/siat/afrikkalainen-sikarutto/asf-videot/

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Thank you!

