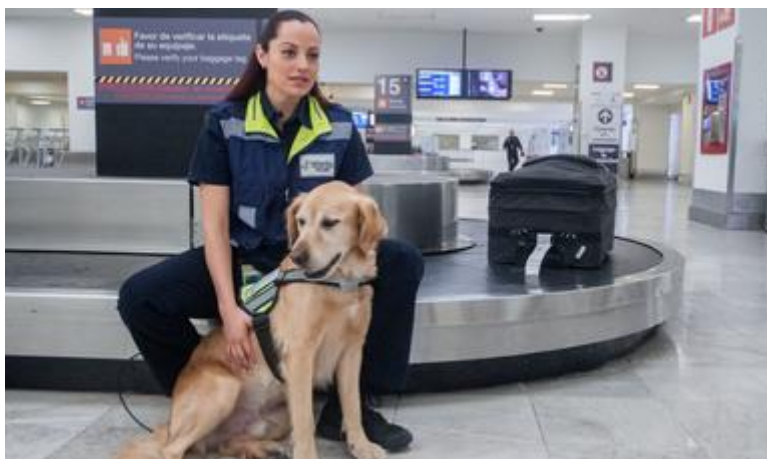


100 canine paired teams of the SENASICA protect the Mexican agro-alimentary assets

In inspection tasks, canine units speed processes and reduce times, because the average person checks a suitcase in three to five minutes on average, while a dog can sniff up to 100 suitcases in 10 minutes.



To protect the Mexican agro-alimentary assets, 107 officers and 100 canine units of the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) work at Sanitary Inspection Offices (OISA) and at various Federal Inspection and Verification Points (PVIF) in 26 states.

With the support of SENASICA's canine units, 250,000 commercial shipments and more than two million pieces of luggage are inspected annually without the need to open them, which results in nearly 800 tons of seized hazardous products at the country's points of entry.

Canine units speed inspection tasks, because the average person might check a suitcase in three to five minutes on average, depending on their size, while a dog can sniff up to 100 suitcases in 10 minutes on average.

To protect the national plant and animal health status, SENASICA's canine units collaborate to speed and streamline inspection tasks in ports, airports and borders.

Mexico extends sanitary scheme to Central America

Mexico extended this scheme to Central America to strengthen non-intrusive inspection processes at regional ports, airports and borders with the training at the SENASICA of three Nicaraguan and Guatemalan officers to integrate paired canine teams.

The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development and the OIRSA (Agricultural and Livestock Health Regional International Organization) signed the fifth and sixth Technical Appendixes of the Technical Cooperation Specific Agreement to fortify the quarantine services of Central America and Caribbean countries.

This cooperation instrument was signed by Jorge Leyva Vazquez, SENASICA's General Director of Phytozoosanitary Inspection, and Hector Sanchez Anguiano and Nidia Sandoval Alarcon, the OIRSA representatives in Mexico and Guatemala, respectively.

The instrument provides for the training of two officers from Nicaragua and one officer from Guatemala, to integrate pairs with three dogs trained at the SENASICA's canine school in Tecamac, State of Mexico.

The goal is that OIRSA's member countries fortify their non-intrusive inspection processes for agro-alimentary products that entail plant and animal health risks for the region.

Canine unites underwent training as part of the recently graduated 25th class of the School, which also included six paired teams that will operate in Mexico.

Since the signature of the Specific Cooperation Agreement in 2017, the number of trained canine paired teams working in inspection tasks in Central America has risen to eleven: four in Nicaragua, four in Panama and three in Guatemala.

Jorge Leyva, General Director of Phytozoosanitary Inspection of SENASICA stated that this class marks the beginning of new inspection challenges in the face of grave threats posed by diseases such as African swine fever (ASF) and *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* tropical race 4 (FOC TR4) fungus.

He underlined that the canine school, in addition to continue training paired teams for Mexico, will continue training units for Central American countries with the aim of fortifying their pest and disease detection systems, in benefit of all the region which includes Mexico.