

	Greenville, SC Police Department GENERAL ORDER		
	Subject Police Service Dogs	Number 263A5	Type Operational
Effective Date 11/21/2024	Amends/ Rescinds 263A4	Pages 1 of 7	Re-evaluation Annual November
References CALEA 33.6.1; 84.1.4; 41.1.5			Notes Section 8.1 Updated wording on amount of training required.

1.0 Purpose

The Greenville Police Department Canine Unit is governed by this General Order as well as all other associated general orders, including the Use of Force Policy. This policy outlines the permissible uses of police canine and clearly defines prohibited uses and activities.

The Greenville Policy Department values the sanctity of life and is committed to protecting and preserving the lives of everyone while inspiring mutual respect and public trust.

It is the obligation of the department to train and educate sworn officers who are vested with the authority and the responsibility to protect the public, fellow officers and themselves, while safely apprehending alleged suspects who have violated the law. The authority and responsibilities of officers are governed by the laws of the state of South Carolina and the United States. However, without altering the legal standards for liability under applicable law in any way, the Greenville Police Department considers these as minimum standards and strives to exceed these requirements through additional training, expectations and execution of the Department’s policies, values and principles.

2.0 Authorized Use

Police canine are authorized for use in the following situations:

- Searching buildings or areas believed clear of innocent persons for hidden suspects.
- Locating and apprehending suspects
- Locating missing persons.
- Searching for illicit substances, firearms, explosives, or other items of evidentiary value in vehicles, buildings, parcels, or other items.

- Supporting officers in limited crowd management scenarios as outlined in this policy. Canines are prohibited for use in general, non-emergent crowd control solely by their presence.
- Providing handler protection.
- Participating in community education demonstrations of canine's abilities.

Additionally, police canines are authorized to search for, prevent the escape of, or to arrest a person who the canine handler has reasonable grounds to believe has committed or is about to commit a serious offense, and one or more of the following exist:

- Reasonable belief that the person poses an immediate threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any officer, or him/herself.
- The individual is physically resisting arrest by means of force or attempting to evade arrest by flight and use of a canine appears necessary to prevent injury to the arresting officer.
- The individual is believed concealed in an area where entry by anyone other than a canine would pose a significant threat to the officer.
- In situations where conditions or variables not specifically identified in this policy exist, it is the responsibility of the handler to consider the purpose and substance of this policy, applicable law and any other relevant information to ensure that the circumstances support a reasonable decision to use a canine.

Additionally, on-duty police canine teams will respond to crimes in progress without specific dispatch to assist patrol units in potentially violent situations.

Note - As a general rule, police canine teams should not be assigned as a primary unit to "report type" calls of non-emergency nature unless so authorized by a Watch Commander during unusual complaint periods.

3.0 **Prohibited Canine Usages**

The following are situations where the usage of a canine is not authorized:

- To affect the arrest of a highly intoxicated or feeble person who obviously cannot escape or resist officers and who poses no immediate danger to officers or the public.



- Solely for intimidation of a suspect where canine use would not otherwise be authorized.
- General, non-emergent crowd control solely with their presence.
- To search for known juvenile offenders unless there is probable cause to arrest the juvenile for a violent crime under the SC Code of Laws (16-1-60) or the juvenile poses an immediate threat of bodily harm to officers or the public.

4.0 Use of Canines in Crowd Control Scenarios

The deployment of canine teams for public order policing or crowd management shall adhere to the following rules:

- Canine teams may respond as backup units when appropriate, but shall not be used for general, non-emergent crowd control solely with their presence in a crowd situation.
- Canines shall remain in patrol vehicles or other secure locations and, whenever reasonably possible, out of the view of the crowd.
- Canines may be deployed in limited crowd circumstances related to bomb detection, location of suspects in buildings, or other exigent circumstances.

5.0 Canine Handling Methodology

The Greenville Police Department utilizes a handler control policy. Through the training of both handlers and canines, the handler maintains control of the canine through the use of verbal, hand and leash commands.

5.1 Procedure

Prior to the use of a canine to search for or apprehend any individual, the handler on scene is to carefully consider all pertinent information reasonably available at the time. The information is to include, but is not limited to the following:

- Individual's exact or approximate age.
- Nature of the offense.
- Potential danger to officers attempting to intervene or assist with apprehension.



- Potential danger to the public resulting from the release of a canine.
- Degree of resistance the subject has shown.
- The potential for escape or flight if the canine is not utilized.
- The potential for injury to officers or the public caused by the suspect if the canine is not utilized.

Note: A canine handler and/or the canine supervisor will have the ultimate authority not to deploy the dog. Once the police canine team is deployed, tactical use and application of the canine will be at the discretion of the individual handler who will rely on GPD policy, his/her judgment, training, and experience. The handler will evaluate each situation and determine if the use of a canine is technically feasible.

A canine must be removed from the suspect as quickly and safely as possible once the suspect no longer poses a threat to officers or anyone else on the scene.

5.2 **Body Worn Cameras and Verbal Warning**

Officers in the Canine Unit shall adhere to the Body Worn Camera Policy of the GPD. In addition, as soon as the handler arrives on a scene and takes the canine out of the vehicle, the handler shall ensure the body worn camera is activated.

Except where it would otherwise increase the risk of injury or escape, prior to any area or building search where a suspect may be located, there will be a standardized verbal canine announcement made. The announcement will consist of:

- Verbal identification as a police officer.
- The presence and imminent release of a police canine.
- A demand for surrender.
- Warning that the canine will bite.

6.0 **Canine Inflicted Injuries**

The following applies to incidents involving a law enforcement canine biting or



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otherwise, inflicting injury on anyone:

- 6.1 The officer should provide and obtain medical attention as soon as reasonably and safely possible for the injured person. All injuries sustained by any persons which result in laceration, avulsion, or hemorrhaging will be examined and attended by a physician at a medical facility.
- 6.2 The officer shall have Forensics or a supervisor photograph the injuries/bites on the subject insuring a full-body and face photo, which also shows the wounds.
- 6.3 The on-duty Supervisor will take necessary photos and begin the Departmental Administrative Report, which will be completed by the applicable supervisor.
- 6.4 The officer shall notify the canine supervisor and on-duty Watch Commander; the canine supervisor will notify the Operations Commander whenever a serious canine related incident occurs.

7.0 **Reporting and Administrative Management**

- 7.1 All incidents involving the use of canines resulting in injury will be reported as a use of force incident and this data will be regularly collected by GPD, analyzed and shared with the public.
- 7.2 At a minimum, GPD will record:
 - Every time a canine is deployed (i.e., has the potential to be used as a force option)
 - Every time a canine team conducts a search, and whether the subject is located
 - Every time subjects surrender as the result of a canine being present/on scene
 - Every time a canine makes contact with a suspect other than a bite
 - Every time canines bite a suspect.

8.0 **Responsibilities of Canine Handler**

The canine handler is responsible for:

- 8.1 Attending specialized training in canine operations and participating in a minimum of 16 hours a month of in-service training of the canine.
- 8.2 Attending required and supplemental training on use of force.



- 8.3 Completing detailed training records on approved forms or digital records.
- 8.4 Obtaining national certifications, such as NAPWDA or any other nationally recognized certification, with the canine annually.
- 8.5 Kenneling the canine at an approved facility when circumstances such as leave or incapacitating injury exist preventing the handler from caring for the dog.
- 8.6 A departmental canine will not be used for breeding without approval from the Division Commander. Canine handlers must ensure all police canines are secured appropriately.

9.0 **Selection of Canine Handler**

Officers assigned to the Canine Unit will be carefully selected using the following criteria:

- 9.1 Two years of experience in law enforcement and completion of the probationary employment period with the Greenville Police Department.
- 9.2 Possess strong verbal and written communication skills.
- 9.3 A commitment to the canine unit for at least the working life of the dog (excluding promotions).
- 9.4 Must live on property suitable for placement of a canine as determined by the Division Commander
- 9.5 Selection process for canine handler:
 - Participation in an oral interview board seated by the Division Commander, or designee, and canine handler and/or sergeant.
 - Selection will be made by the affected Division Commander and the Police Chief.

10.0 **Security and Accountability of Substances Used for Canine Training**

Controlled substances used for canine training are stored in a locked safe. Only the Canine Supervisor and Canine Team members have access to the training aids. They are the only officers who can sign in and out the narcotics for training. While using these substances, the handlers are to thoroughly document their use on a K-9 Narcotics Training Form. Controlled substances used for canine training purposes are inventoried monthly.



The Explosive Detection canine handler must have available various samples of explosives to be used as training aids for the canine. Training aids should be kept fresh and therefore replaced regularly. It is also important to keep explosives sealed and separate from one another to prevent cross contamination. The handler is responsible for the security of all explosives used for training. When not in use for training, samples will be stored in the powder magazine.

11.0 Compensation for Off Duty Care

11.1 Canine handlers will receive an hour of pay for every day that they are responsible for the care of a Police Service Dog.

DocuSigned by:
J. H. Thompson
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J.H. Thompson, Chief of Police

11/21/2024
Date

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