

A. PURPOSE. To establish procedures and guidelines for the use and management of trained police canine teams

B. GOALS

1. Increase the likelihood of criminal apprehension and illegal drug and evidence detection.
2. Minimize risk of injury or harm to officers, citizens, and suspects.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. *Police Service Dog.* Any canine trained for utilization by the Department.
2. *Canine Handler.* Police officer trained to handle a Police Service Dog.
3. *Canine Team.* The combination of a Canine Handler and a Police Service Dog.

D. PROPER UTILIZATION OF POLICE SERVICE DOG

1. Grand Rapids Police Canine Teams, or teams from other agencies due to GRPD unavailability, may be used in the following situation without prior supervisory approval:
 - a. *Tracking operations.* The canine may be used during or after a criminal offense to locate suspects and potential evidence. The canine also may be used in missing persons incidents where there is a belief that the person may be in danger.
 - (1) If a suspect's location becomes known during a track, the Canine Handler will attempt to have the suspect surrender without a physical canine apprehension. If, in the judgement of the Canine Handler, the announcement will compromise officer safety, the announcement need not be given.
 - b. *Article Searches.* The canine may be used to check for stolen or abandoned property or evidence of a crime.
 - c. *Building Searches.* The canine may be used to search buildings believed to be burglarized. The canine may also be used to search buildings where felony suspects are believed to be hiding to escape police apprehension.

- (1) The Canine Handler must attempt to ascertain that the building to be searched is clear of innocent people.
 - (2) The Canine Handler, or designee, must announce the Canine Team's presence and the probability that sequestered persons may be bitten. The announcement must be of sufficient volume to be heard by those inside. Anyone inside will be allowed sufficient time to exit the building. In large buildings, the announcement may have to be repeated prior to entry into separate areas of the building. If, in the judgement of the Canine Handler, the announcement will compromise officer safety, the announcement need not be given.
- d. *Narcotic Searches.* The canine may be used to search for narcotics in homes, vehicles, open areas, parcels, or other items deemed necessary if legal search requirements have been met.
- e. *Physical Apprehensions.* Before a Canine Handler allows a Police Service Dog to make a physical apprehension the following totality of the circumstances will be considered. These factors include the severity of the crime, the potential threat to citizens and officers, and whether the subject is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.
- (1) *Handler, Officer, and Public Protection.* The canine may be used to apprehend any suspect assaulting or attempting to assault the Canine Handler, other officers, or the public. The Police Service Dog may be used to effect the arrest of any suspect who is armed or believed to be armed.
 - (2) *Area Searches.* The canine may be used to locate and apprehend a hidden felony suspect when, upon considering other relevant factors, it appears the use of a Canine Team is a reasonable course of action.
 - (3) *Off Lead Apprehensions.* The canine may be deployed off lead to make an apprehension after the handler has given verbal warnings, alerted assisting officers of the impending canine use, and considered the totality of the circumstances including:
 - (a) Severity of the crime.
 - (b) Potential threat to citizens and officers.

- (c) If the suspect resists arrest or attempts to evade arrest by flight.
 - (4) In all circumstances where the Police Service Dog is used to apprehend a suspect, the dog must be recalled or otherwise restrained as soon as the suspect is in custody or no longer poses a reasonable threat.
 - (5) *Apprehensions Without Command.* If the Police Service Dog makes a physical apprehension without handler command, the dog must be recalled or otherwise restrained as soon as the suspect is in custody or no longer poses a reasonable threat.
 - f. *Non-serious Offense Situations.* When requested, the Canine Handler will respond and evaluate the situation to determine if the use of the Police Service Dog is appropriate. When there is no danger to the handler, other officers, or citizens, a physical apprehension by the canine will not be permitted.
 - g. *Tactical Canine Team.* When requested, trained Canine Team will respond to Special Response Team Tactical call-outs. During an SRT operation the canine team will work under the direction of the on-scene supervisor. The canine team's action may also be directed by a team leader, if approved by the SRT supervisor on the scene.
2. Grand Rapids Police Canine Teams may be used with supervisory approval in special circumstances. Some circumstances warrant special consideration prior to the deployment of a Canine Team. These incidents shall be evaluated and the decision to use a Police Service Dog shall be made by a supervisor.
- a. When a GRPD or surrounding agency Canine Team is not available, a patrol supervisor shall determine if call out of a departmental Canine Team is necessary.
 - b. When a GRPD Canine is requested by an outside agency, the Canine Team will be notified by Dispatch. Any supervisor may deny an outside agency request if circumstances warrant denial. Canine Teams will contact the Watch Commander by phone or computer data terminal and obtain approval to leave the City of Grand Rapids to assist another agency. Canine Teams shall be governed by the same rules, regulations, and directives as if performing that same service within the City.

- c. A Canine Team can also be used in special circumstances where other means have been exhausted, and the unique abilities of a Police Service Dog can assist in the successful conclusion of an incident.
- d. If a Canine Handler is ordered by any supervisor to perform duties in conflict with prescribed rules, directives, or training techniques, then the Canine Handler shall immediately bring the conflict to the attention of the supervisor. If the order is not altered or rescinded, it shall be obeyed. The Canine Program Supervisor shall be notified of the conflict as soon as possible.

E. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. The Service Area Commander or designee to whom the Canine Program Supervisor is assigned shall be responsible for the general management of the Canine Program.
- 2. The Canine Program Supervisor shall:
 - a. Report directly to the assigned Service Area Commander or designee.
 - b. Function as a liaison on all matters pertaining to the Canine Program.
 - c. Provide supervisory oversight and evaluation of employees, in conjunction with their Canine duties, assigned to the Canine Program.
 - d. Coordinate Canine Program training activities for handlers and other department members.
 - e. Assist in the professional development of those assigned to the Canine Unit.
 - f. Maintain central records on canine use, training, certification, apprehension, and statistics.
- 3. Canine Handlers shall:
 - a. Be responsible for the tactical use of their Police Service Dog unless directed by a supervisor.

- b. Act in accordance with Federal and State laws and Departmental policy and procedures.
 - c. Act in accordance with program training, guidelines, and directives in the handling and deployment of the canine.
 - d. Maintain national Canine Team certification (IPWDA, NAPWDA, USPCA, or other with prior approval from the Canine Program Supervisor).
 - e. Annually pass minimum Departmental canine standards pursuant to written guidelines.
 - f. Regularly attend Department canine training sessions.
 - g. Train their assigned canine to react to potential threats during deployments for criminal location and apprehension (building searches, area searches, tracking, handler protection, and off-lead apprehensions).
 - h. Be responsible for the general care and maintenance of their Police Service Dog. This includes, but is not limited to, feeding, grooming, and keeping annual veterinary appointments, as well as reporting any concerning health issues to the Canine Program Supervisor.
4. Patrol Officers shall:
- a. Quickly determine if a Canine Team may be of assistance and make any needed request for a Canine Team through Dispatch.
 - b. Prepare the scene in a manner that increases the probability for a successful outcome.
 - (1) Building searches. Quickly secure perimeter around the building. Do not enter prior to the arrival of the Canine Team. Attempt to establish that all lawful occupants are not on the premises. Attempt to determine if any hazards exist, along with other information that may be helpful to the handler.
 - (2) Tracks. Establish perimeter of sufficient size in the area of flight. Determine direction of flight and protect the area from scent contamination. Provide incident details to handler and other responding units. Provide adequate cover for the Canine

Team while on the track, along with frequent updates to Dispatch.

(3) Narcotic Searches. Make sure legal requirements are satisfied for search. Remove all persons away from the area to be searched. Notify the Canine Team of potential hazards and known contraband. For vehicles to be searched, attempt to move vehicle to area away from heavy traffic and direct sunlight, roll up windows, and turn engine off.

c. Understand that a Police Service Dog may be used for a physical apprehension based upon the totality of the circumstances. These factors include the severity of the crime, the potential threat to citizens and officers, and whether the subject is resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.

F. CANINE BITE INCIDENT PROCEDURE

1. A review of any canine bite incident will be completed pursuant to written Canine Program guidelines. These guidelines include the completion of a “Use of Force Report” and an internal review.
2. In the event of a canine bite that causes injury or requires treatment, the handler shall immediately notify the Watch Commander and the Canine Program Supervisor. A supervisor shall respond to the scene. The Canine Program Supervisor, or designee, may also respond to begin the Canine Program Internal Review.
3. The Canine Handler shall submit the completed “Use of Force Report” to the records management system and ensure it is presented to the Canine Program Supervisor for review.
4. The Canine Program Supervisor will conduct the Canine Program Internal Review and make a determination as to whether proper procedures have been followed. Factors considered as to whether the Canine Handler acted appropriately include the severity of the crime, the potential threat to citizens and officers, and whether the subject is resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight. The Canine Program Supervisor will identify the reasonableness of the force based upon the factors known to the handler at the time the force was used.
5. If upon review of the “Use of Force Report” and/or Internal Review it is determined that the Canine Handler or Police Service Dog acted inappropriately, then appropriate remedies, which may include

supplemental training and/or recommendation for discipline, will be taken.

6. If the Canine Program Supervisor is directly involved in a bite incident, his or her Service Area Commander or the assigned designee will conduct the Canine Program Internal Review.
7. Copies of the review will be forwarded to the Office of the Chief of Police, Internal Affairs, Assigned Service Area Commander or designee, and Canine Records.