

DEPARTMENTAL GENERAL ORDER 22-043

ST. LOUIS COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

August 10, 2022

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CANINE TEAMS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish policy and procedures for the effective use of **police service dogs** within the Department.

The use of police service dogs provides officers with an advantage when searching for missing persons, contraband items, explosives, and criminal suspects. Aside from the advantage provided, the use of police service dogs protects officers while also providing safety to the community.

II. POLICY

The Department has **police service dogs** trained in a variety of specialized capabilities and functions. It is this Department's policy to limit the use of **police service dogs** to those functions for which the **dogs are** trained.

The primary function of a police service dog is to locate. Due to the police service dog's potential to inflict injury, canine use requires procedures to properly control when and how the canines are deployed.

III. POLICE SERVICE DOG SPECIALTIES

The Department currently uses four (4) types of police service dogs that specialize in the following:

A. Dual-Purpose Patrol Utility/Narcotics Dogs (Patrol Dog) –

1. Specialized in locating:

- a. Human(s) scent (missing persons or suspects) by building/area/tracking searches;
- b. Articles discarded by a human; or
- c. Select illegal narcotics odor.

2. Patrol Dogs are trained in the protection of officers and the apprehension of criminal suspects.

- B. **Single-Purpose Person Borne Explosives Detection Dogs – (PB-EDD) – Specialized in locating the odor of explosives, recently discharged firearms, expended bullet fragments, and expended shell casings. PB-ED Dogs are specialized in locating the odor of explosives on a moving or stationary person.**
- C. **Single-Purpose Narcotic Detection Dogs (Narcotics Dog) – Specialized in locating select illegal narcotics odor.**
- D. **Single-Purpose Accelerant Detection Dog (Arson Dog) – Specialized in locating the odor of accelerants related to arson investigations.**

IV. USE AND DEPLOYMENT OF CANINE TEAMS

The canine will not be used for investigative purposes by an individual other than the trained handler. The canine **team** will be assigned to **various** positions within the Department, consistent with training and the needs of the Department.

- A. Canine teams are available in an on-call status 24 hours a day.
- B. Canines from other agencies shall not be used unless a Department canine **team** is not **available for call-out** and/or in the case where multiple canine **teams** are needed, **or exigent circumstances exist**.
- C. The canine **teams** will be scheduled and **used** according to the Department's needs and **at** the direction of their respective commanders. Duties will include, but not be limited to, routine patrol, public appearances and assisting with investigations **conducted by** other precincts, bureaus, units, or outside agencies.
- D. Departmental requests for canine **team's** assistance require authorization of an on-duty supervisor.
- E. Requests for canine assistance by other law enforcement agencies require authorization of the canine **team's** supervisor. However, requests for canine **team** assistance in the apprehension, tracking or control of persons outside of St. Louis County require authorization of the canine **team's** Bureau Commander.
- F. **When using police service dogs to locate suspects, the canine team handler will consider the totality of the circumstances known to them at that time. The handler will make the decision whether to deploy a canine team based on safety/legal/technical reasons and will notify the on-scene supervisor of their decision based on these factors.**
- G. Canine **teams** should not be deployed to detain an individual unless a crime is involved.
- H. The police service dog **should** remain on a **leash** for missing person searches.
- I. Department employees **and members of the public** should not approach a Department **police service dog** without the permission of the handler.
- J. **When deploying with a canine team, officers will follow the instructions of the handler.**
- K. **Officers will not engage in a foot pursuit when they have knowledge that a canine unit is on scene.**

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- L. Department owned **police service dogs must** not be used in secondary employment.
- M. Department owned **police service dogs will not be used for breeding purposes.**

V. PATROL TACTICS WITH SUSPECTS INVOLVED

- A. If the use of a canine **team** is expected, on-scene officers **will** secure a perimeter and make every effort to avoid contaminating the scene with the officer or bystander's scent.
 - 1. **While holding containment on a suspect, activation of emergency equipment can aid in keeping a suspect inside the perimeter.**
 - 2. **If the area to be searched is a building or vehicle, officers should consider having HVAC or vehicle air movement turned off.**
- B. **During felony vehicle stops with a canine team present, officers will not approach the vehicle. Officers will maintain a position of tactical advantage.**
- C. **The handler will evaluate the totality of circumstances before deploying a police service dog.**
- D. **Unless exigent circumstances exist, canine teams will not enter a building, residence, or area to search/track without the assistance of a search team.**
- E. **Officers handling the original call or incident should assist the search team. This protocol enhances immediate suspect identification, ensures continuity, and increases experience in canine searches over a broader range of patrol officers.**
- F. **Before initiating a search for a suspect, the search team officers will be briefed by the handler on the general search pattern, tactical plan, and whether the search is on or off-leash.**
- G. **The following factors will be considered by the search team:**
 - 1. **The officers will listen to the direction of the handler regarding their positioning. Straying from the handler can place officers in danger of injury; and**
 - 2. **If the police service dog gives a positive alert identifying a suspect's location or an apprehension is made by a police service dog on a suspect, the search team officers shall maintain an advantageous position and stand by until directed to act by the handler; and**
 - 3. **Once the police service dog is recalled following the apprehension of a suspect, it is the search team officers' responsibility to take control of the suspect; and**
 - 4. **If the suspect attempts to escape the search team, officers should listen to the direction of the handler and not give chase.**
 - 5. **Following an apprehension or compliant surrender by the suspect, the search team will follow the commands of the handler and take the suspect into custody.**

VI. USE OF FORCE DETAILED PROCEDURE

A. Graham vs. Connor

1. **"The U.S. Supreme Court in *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989), acknowledged that the "reasonableness" test in analyzing the use of force is "not capable of precise definition or mechanical application." For that reason, in determining whether an officer's use of force is reasonable in a case, it is necessary to evaluate the facts and circumstances, confronting the officer at the time force was used. The evaluation of an officer's use of force will be undertaken from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, not through the 20/20 vision of hindsight.**
2. **The central inquiry in every use of force case is whether the amount of force used by the officer was objectively reasonable considering the circumstances faced by the officer. Taking into consideration the totality of the circumstances, using the information available to the officer at the time of the incident, a three-part test should be used to satisfy and justify a police service dog application:**
 - a. **The severity of the crime at issue; and**
 - b. **Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others; and**
 - c. **Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight or concealment.**
3. **A canine announcement shall be made before releasing a police service dog to conduct an area search, building search, tracking or to make a physical apprehension.**
 - a. **Canine announcements are made to prevent innocent people from inadvertently being injured by the police service dog and to allow the suspect(s) additional opportunity to surrender.**
 - b. **Only if the canine team handler has specific and articulable facts to indicate that making a canine announcement would put the officers or the public in additional and unnecessary danger can the announcement be foregone.**
 - c. **Handlers will consider other available options before deploying a police service dog.**
 - d. **Announcements shall be made in a loud and clear manner. They shall include:**
 - 1) **Your authority as a police officer; and**
 - 2) **The suspect is under arrest; and**
 - 3) **A request for an articulate action indicating a compliant surrender and without such surrender, a police service dog will be used to make a physical apprehension.**
 - e. **Handlers shall wait a reasonable amount of time to ensure that anyone within the search area has ample opportunity to comply with the handler's directions.**

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- f. Handlers should make additional canine announcements as they progress through a search, especially when entering new or separated areas where prior announcements may not have been heard, when changing floors of a building, when an observed change of behavior in the police service dog signals the possible presence of a suspect or another human, or the officer has observed what they believe to be a suspect hiding.
 - g. In the event an apprehension occurs, and the suspect attempts to comply with the officer's commands to stop resisting, either verbally or by action, the canine handler should either verbally recall the canine or physically remove the canine from the apprehension when reasonably safe to do so.
- B. The Department considers a bite or claw from a Department-owned police service dog to be a use of non-deadly force. Should any Department-owned police service dog bite or claw an individual, whether directed or accidental, and whether on-duty or off-duty, the following procedures are required:
 1. The canine team handler shall ensure that appropriate medical care is rendered to anyone in need of such treatment.
 2. The canine handler shall immediately notify the Bureau of Communications that an apprehension has occurred.
 - a. When the incident is within St. Louis County, the Bureau of Communications will notify the appropriate Precinct Watch Commander, who must respond to the scene and initiate an administrative use of force review.
 - b. The Bureau of Communications will notify the canine team's supervisor who will respond as the investigating supervisor.
- C. When the incident is outside of St. Louis County, the Bureau of Communications will notify the canine team's supervisor who will respond to the scene as the initiating and investigating supervisor.
 1. Should the apprehension occur within an incorporated area of St. Louis County or outside of St. Louis County, the Bureau of Communications shall ensure that the appropriate local law enforcement agency is notified. The canine team handler shall cooperate with the local authorities if they also desire a report.
 2. The investigating supervisor shall request the Crime Scene Unit to contact the injured person as soon as possible to photograph the injuries.
 3. The investigating supervisor shall ensure that a thorough investigation is conducted, all witnesses are located and interviewed, and anyone arrested that has been apprehended is escorted in an ambulance or transported in a police vehicle by a police officer not directly involved in the incident.
 4. The investigating supervisor shall complete the administrative review in accordance with the Department's Use of Force policy. The canine team handler shall complete a police report which describes details of the apprehension, which may be in the form of a supplement in the case of a suspect apprehension, or a miscellaneous incident report when a bystander is apprehended.
- D. The Bureau of Professional Responsibility shall include apprehension data in their quarterly report analyzing incidents involving the use of force by Department employees.

VII. CROWD CONTROL

- A. Canine teams will not be used for crowd control at peaceful demonstrations.
- B. Canine teams may be used during a riot, for the protection of property or to protect an individual from imminent loss of life or serious bodily injury. Permission will first be obtained from the Bureau Commander. In these situations, canine teams will:
 - 1. Be short leashed unless no other means are available to protect an individual from imminent loss of life or serious bodily injury; and
 - 2. Not initiate any offensive action, unless to guard against imminent loss of life or serious bodily injury.
- C. Canine teams may be used for building clearances during looting.

VIII. CANINE TEAM HANDLER INJURY

- A. If a canine **team** handler is injured the **police service dog** may become aggressive toward anyone approaching. Anyone attempting to assist the handler should not approach the **police service dog** or handler until directed to do so by the handler. If the handler is unconscious and/or cannot maintain control of the **police service dog**, alternate action may be necessary.
 - 1. Immediately request the response of another canine team handler, the team's supervisor, or animal control.
 - 2. A training sleeve should be removed from the trunk of the canine team vehicle. The police service dog will recognize the sleeve as a training tool and toy. Once the police service dog's attention has been drawn to the training sleeve and he/she appears interested in the sleeve, the sleeve should be placed in the back of any vehicle and the command "free" given to the police service dog. The police service dog can be expected to enter the car to retrieve the training sleeve. The car door should then be closed. Do not reopen the car door.

IX. CANINE HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Assist in the furtherance of investigations for which they were trained and other assignments (e.g., public appearances) as directed by their supervisor.
- B. Provide for the care, control, training, and recertification of the canine. Recertification and health-related care shall be conducted at facilities selected by the Department as needed. All requests for professional grooming and boarding must receive prior authorization from the canine **team** handler's **supervisor**.
- C. Maintain, care for and clean all specialized equipment, training aids, supplies and vehicles related to the canine **team** handler assignment.
- D. Maintain accurate records regarding training and recertification of the canine **team**.
- E. Maintain detailed records of all **deployments** including date and time, location of search, results of search and complaint number, if applicable.

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- F.** All records regarding training, recertification and **deployments** shall be available for inspection by the canine **team** handler’s supervisor. **The supervisor is responsible for reviewing and approving all records.**
- G.** Remain current on recent court rulings pertaining to **police service dog use** in the furtherance of police investigations.

X. CANINE TEAM HANDLER SELECTION

- A.** The selection of a canine team handler is a process conducted with the utmost importance. An officer considering this assignment must possess a genuine desire and patience for working with police service dogs. They must be in good physical condition and be able to perform the functions and tasks required of the canine team, while displaying sound judgment. Canine teams are assigned to various Bureaus. The selection process will consist of varying assessments approved by the selection Bureau Commander.
- B.** The selection process may include but is not limited to the following:
 - 1. Interview of applicant.
 - 2. Physical fitness assessment related to job-functions.
 - 3. Demonstration of control/confidence with police service dog.
 - 4. Review of applicant submitted memorandum.
 - 5. Review of past performance review with supervisor(s).
 - 6. Recommendations of supervisor(s).
 - 7. Completion of additional tasks as directed.
- C.** Additional considerations may include:
 - 1. Sufficient patrol experience with satisfactory work performance.
 - 2. Exceptional written and verbal communication skills for report-writing and testifying.
 - 3. Willingness to remain with the unit for an extended period as prescribed by the Department.
 - 4. The home of a prospective canine team handler should be that of a single-family dwelling with a fenced (minimum 4ft in height) rear yard or a fenced-in kennel. A canine team supervisor will perform a home inspection and may conduct interviews with the neighbors of a prospective candidate.
 - 5. Willingness and ability, together with other family members, to house the police service dog at the handler's residence safely and securely and with adequate provisions and facilities to properly care for the health and well-being of the police service dog following departmental requirements.

XI. POLICE SERVICE DOG SELECTION

- A. Police service dogs should demonstrate the following:**
 - 1. Confidence; and**
 - 2. Trainability; and**
 - 3. Athleticism; and**
 - 4. Sociability; and**
 - 5. No signs of unwarranted or unpredictable aggressiveness.**
- B. Police service dogs will be obtained, trained, and certified through sources selected and approved by the Department.**
- C. A police service dog must undergo a physical exam by the Department contract veterinarian. This includes complete x-rays, dental and fecal tests, eye exams, and blood tests. If the contract veterinarian finds no reason to disqualify the dog for physical reasons, the dog will be admitted into the Department.**
- D. Vendors supplying candidate dogs must be willing to provide a written guarantee for the health, workability, and compatibility of the canine for at least six months.**

XII. CANINE TEAM TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

- A. The efficiency of a canine program is proportional to the quantity and quality of training that the canine teams receive. A police service dog learns through repetition. It is necessary to continue the team's training once initial certification training is completed. All training should be frequent, ongoing, and structured to address the basic skills that a canine team is expected to perform.**
- B. Dual-purpose utility/narcotics detection police service dog must be able to perform obedience, building, area and article searches, tracking, apprehension, narcotics detection, and handler protection skills.**
- C. A single-purpose police service dog must be able to perform basic obedience, explosives/narcotics detection, and/or trailing/tracking skills.**
- D. All canine team handlers will attend and pass a basic canine team handler course and certification through a Department-approved vendor at the time of police service dog acquisition.**
- E. Bureau Commanders shall allow canine **teams** under their command to conduct continuing proficiency training of their canine **teams** as follows:**
 - 1. Narcotics detection canine **teams** – 20 hours per month**
 - 2. Accelerant detection canine **teams** – 1 hour per day**
 - 3. Explosives detection canine **teams** – 24 hours per month**
 - 4. Dual-purpose canine **teams** – 32 hours per month**

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These minimal training requirements may be increased according to the level of proficiency recognized by the **canine team’s** supervisor or proficiency required to maintain the vendor warranty of the purchased/trained **police service dog**. Additional training may also be required, with approval from the canine **team’s** supervisor, to pass certification requirements.

- F. **At any time, a canine team can be evaluated and/or removed from street duty for training at the request of a Canine Unit Sergeant and approval from the Bureau Commander. This may be necessary to correct deficiencies in any of the above standards.**
- G. **All canine teams will be required to pass a nationally recognized third-party entity certification exam annually.**
- H. **Upon a canine team’s failure to certify, a canine team supervisor will prepare a written recommendation and forward it to the canine team’s Division Commanding Officer through the chain of command, recommending the canine team be taken out of service, and/or a course of remedial training be completed to bring the team back into certification standards.**
- I. **New canine team handlers must complete the prescribed canine team training course and successfully pass a canine team certification.**

XIII. TRAINING AID PROCUREMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- A. Narcotic/Explosives training aids will be obtained through vendors selected and approved by the Department.
 - 1. The training kits will be secured in the Precinct/Bureau safe.
 - 2. Canine handlers shall only remove training kits from the secured location immediately prior to training and shall return the kits immediately after training, **unless given prior approval from their supervisor.**
 - 3. Canine **team** handlers are required to complete an **accountability** log when removing **or returning a training kit to** the secured location.
 - 4. The **canine team’s supervisor will** be responsible for inventorying each training kit **monthly**. The inventory shall include:
 - a. Types of **each aid** in each training kit; **and**
 - b. **Amount** of each **aid** at the time of the inventory; **and**
 - c. An examination of the **accountability** logs for each kit; **and**
 - d. Verification that any loss of an **aid** has been properly documented **by a police report.**
 - e. Written documentation of the inventory shall be maintained for three years.
 - 5. Canine **team handlers** that experience any loss of a training **aid in whole or in part will** immediately notify their supervisor and document the loss in a police report. A copy of the police report **will be maintained with the unit accountability log for three years.**

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6. **Narcotic/explosives trained canine handlers may transport narcotic/explosives training aids in their vehicles. They will be maintained securely in their vehicles when not in use.**
 7. **When it becomes necessary to destroy narcotics/explosives being used as a training aid (i.e. old and stale needing replacement), a police report documenting the packaging and surrender of the narcotic/explosives training aid will be completed along with an F-306. The report will be kept for three years.**
 8. Only controlled substances contained in the training kits are authorized to be used in training exercises.
 9. Pseudo/artificial narcotics **will** not be used for training aids.
- B. Accelerant detection canine handlers may carry small amounts of flammable substances (i.e. lighter fluid) for training and demonstration purposes.

XIV. CARE OF POLICE SERVICE DOGS

- A. All police service dogs will be given annual health screenings as well as routine health care as needed. Canine team handlers will use Department approved facilities for care.
- B. If a police service dog is injured or ill and it is determined by the handler to be life-threatening, the assigned handler will immediately seek care for the police service dog and inform their canine team supervisor or the on-call Canine Unit Sergeant. For 24-hour emergency services, police service dogs will be taken to any 24-hour emergency animal clinic approved by the Department.
- C. A police service dog may be housed in an enclosed area approved by a canine team's supervisor, at the handler's home. The handler will ensure that the police service dog is in a secure yard with locked gates, or a lockable dog run, lockable kennel, or under the handler's direct control. This policy applies whether the handler is home or not at home.
- D. While the Police Service Dog's Handler is out of town, or not able to care for the daily needs of a Police Service Dog, the dog shall be kenneled at a Department-approved facility.
- E. Handlers are always accountable for the police service dogs' actions on-duty or off-duty.
- F. Police service dogs will not be allowed to run unsupervised in public areas, or areas accessible to the public, such as an unfenced yard or dog park.
- G. While out of service and secured in a home environment, the police service dog will wear a collar identification tag provided by the Department that contains St. Louis County Police Department identification and a phone number to the Bureau of Communications.

XV. RETIREMENT OF POLICE SERVICE DOGS

When a **police service dog** is no longer able to perform its duty due to age, infirmity, or failure to maintain certification, it will be removed from service. Disposition of the canine will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Chief of Police. If the **police service dog** is presented to its handler, a Release Agreement must be completed (see attached).

XVI. CANINE HANDLERS - COMPENSATION

The care and handling of **the** Department **police service dog** often requires employees to work with their **police service dog** beyond their normal duty hours. To accommodate these activities, the following compensation is authorized.

A. Duty Hours/Duty Days

1. When assigned and caring for a trained Department **police service dog**, handlers scheduled **duty days will accommodate their training/maintenance hours**. Overtime worked immediately prior to, or after this scheduled tour of duty time, or recalls to duty not directly before or after their tour of duty will be compensated for as provided elsewhere in Department policy.

Example: Officer Smith and his **police service dog** began their tour of duty at 7:00 AM and should end their tour at 2:00 PM. Later in the day they respond to a call which requires them to work until 3:00 PM. Officer Smith would receive compensation for the one hour worked from 2:00 PM until 3:00 PM. Caring for the dog later at his residence would not be compensated by overtime because he worked only 7.0 hours before the overtime assignment.

2. In the event the handler cannot adjust their schedule and must work eight hours or more, they will be credited with one hour of compensatory time for the necessary at-home care and should prepare an overtime slip for this time. Handlers shall request approval from their immediate supervisor for time exceeding one (1) hour for **police service dog** off-duty care.

B. Compensatory Time Off/Holidays/Recreation Days

1. Accrued compensatory time or medical leave used for time off during a duty day, will be for actual time off as determined by their scheduled tour of duty. Handlers using accrued compensatory time or medical leave for an entire day off will deduct 7.0 hours for that day off.
2. Use of single vacation days, PTO recreational leave and holidays will be deducted as an 8-hour day and handlers shall be credited with one (1) hour of compensatory time for which they shall prepare an overtime slip.
3. Handlers shall be credited with one (1) hour of compensatory time for caring for their dogs on recreation days. An overtime slip shall be prepared and submitted to their immediate supervisor.
4. In any of the above instances, handlers shall request approval from their immediate supervisor for time exceeding one (1) hour for **police service dog** off-duty care.

C. Extended Absences

Canine **team** handlers, while on weekly vacation or away from their duties for extended periods of time due to illness/injury or training may kennel their **police service dog** for extended care, as authorized. Kennel services are provided through contract by the Department. Canine **team** handlers may also arrange for the dog to be cared for by another approved Department employee during their absence. The approved employee

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will be compensated, in the same manner as the handler, during this period of **police service dog** care. In situations where there is an extended absence of the handler, Department **police service dog** may be temporarily reassigned to another trained handler, as determined by their commanding officer.

- D. Routine veterinary care, grooming, food, or material purchases, etc., should be performed on-duty. Emergency veterinary care will be compensated for as overtime, with supervisory approval.

Adopted by Command Staff

By order of:

COLONEL KENNETH GREGORY
Chief of Police

KG:km

Approved at the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners on August 10, 2022.

COMMISSIONER
Chairman

COMMISSIONER
Secretary

Distribution
All Department Personnel

CALEA Reference
41.1.5