# 2.422 CANINE PROGRAM

A. The agency may use CANINE (K9) teams consisting of trained officers and dogs to detect controlled dangerous substances (CDS), explosives, firearms, and related evidence; provide comfort and emotional support services during appropriate non-enforcement activities; enhance officer safety and public safety; and support proactive, reactive, and community-oriented policing functions.
B. This directive governs all agency-owned or agency-controlled K9s and remains in effect regardless of whether the agency currently maintains an active K9 team.
C. The agency K9 program is detection and support based. Unless a K9 team is specifically trained, certified, and authorized in writing by the Chief of Police for apprehension or bite work, K9s will not be used to apprehend, bite, hold, or physically restrain a person and are not considered a use-of-force option.
D. Comfort K9s are included in this directive for agency control, care, safety, and accountability. A K9 used exclusively for comfort or therapy purposes is not a police service K9 for purposes of CALEA Standard 41.1.5 unless the K9 is also used for police service functions.

## 2.422.02 Program Structure and Definitions *(16.2.1, 41.1.5)*

A. The commander responsible for the patrol function is designated as the K9 program coordinator and is responsible for:
    1. K9 handler:
        a. Scheduling duty hours and days off;
        b. Leave and timekeeping approval and functions;
        c. Performance evaluations and other related personnel matters; and
        d. Authorizing and scheduling any special details, special assignments, public demonstrations, or mutual-aid deployments when required by this directive;
    2. Ensuring K9 team initial, ongoing, in-service, monthly maintenance, and annual certification requirements are met;
    3. Ensuring agency K9s are licensed consistent with Public Safety (PS) § 2-313 and any other applicable Maryland law;
    4. Ensuring permits are acquired, maintained, and documented for CDS, explosives, firearms, or other training aids;
    5. Ensuring an annual documented review is conducted to determine the continued need, effectiveness, and compliance status of the K9 program;
    6. Ensuring training records, certification documentation, deployment logs, veterinary records, equipment inventories, bite or injury reviews, and other required records are documented and maintained;
    7. Ensuring annual veterinary wellness exam is documented for each agency K9; and
    8. Ensuring other appropriate and required records are documented and maintained in accordance with agency record retention schedules.
B. The on-duty patrol supervisor will provide:
    1. Immediate supervision to an on-duty K9 team that is consistent with patrol and K9 operational requirements; and
    2. Feedback to the K9 program coordinator for employee performance and evaluation purposes.
C. For purposes of this directive:
    1. Agency-owned or agency-controlled K9 means any K9 owned, leased, assigned, maintained, or otherwise controlled by the agency for police, detection, support, comfort, community outreach, or related agency functions.
    2. Police service K9 means an agency-owned or agency-controlled K9 used for law enforcement functions such as CDS detection, explosives detection, firearms detection, evidence detection, tracking, searching, apprehension, or other police service duties.

3. Comfort K9 means an agency-owned or agency-controlled K9 used exclusively for comfort, therapy, victim assistance, crisis response, community outreach, or similar non-enforcement functions.
4. K9 team means the assigned handler and K9 trained and deployed together.
5. Deployment means any operational use of a K9 team, including detection scans, searches, special events, public demonstrations, mutual aid, comfort deployments, or any other call for service or assignment involving the K9.
6. K9 use of force means the intentional use of a trained and authorized K9 to bite, hold, seize, apprehend, or physically restrain a person. A detection scan, public demonstration, or comfort deployment is not a use of force unless the K9 is intentionally used to physically seize or restrain a person. All K9 bites or injuries will be reported and reviewed as required by this directive.

### 2.422.04 Authorization, Conditions, Limitations, and General Operations *(41.1.4.a, 41.1.5.a, i)*

A. K9 teams are a law enforcement resource and may engage in foot and vehicle patrol of their assigned post; self-initiate calls for service for witnessed crimes or incidents; and respond to calls for service when not actively involved in an authorized K9 assignment.

B. K9 teams:
   1. May be assigned to calls involving CDS, explosives, firearms, or related evidence detection functions when the team is trained and authorized for the requested function;
   2. May conduct proactive patrol and scanning consistent with law, training, certification, and this directive;
   3. May be used for special events, demonstrations, community outreach, victim assistance, crisis response, or mutual-aid functions when authorized; and
   4. May be redirected from non-K9 assignments when needed for an authorized K9 deployment.

C. Areas of potential deployment include, but are not limited to:
   1. Scanning motor vehicle exteriors during traffic stops when legally permissible;
   2. Scanning spaces or locations generally open to, or accessible by, the public;
   3. Scanning vehicles or locations to develop probable cause after officers have developed reasonable articulable suspicion for CDS violations;
   4. Scanning vehicles or locations to facilitate service of drug-related, explosives-related, firearms-related, or evidence-related search warrants;
   5. Building sweeps, suspicious package investigations, threat response, dignitary protection, and special events when the K9 team is trained and authorized for the requested discipline;
   6. Mutual aid to allied agencies;
   7. Other scans based on the facts and circumstances of calls and as otherwise permitted by law;
   8. Public demonstrations approved by the K9 program coordinator; and
   9. Comfort or community outreach deployments approved consistent with this directive.

D. A K9 handler:
   1. Will advise Communications and the on-duty patrol supervisor when the K9 team is on duty and available for calls;
   2. Has exclusive control over the use of the K9 on any scene where the K9 team may be deployed;
   3. Will assess a situation as it pertains to the capabilities, certification, safety, and legal limitations of the K9 and determine how, or if, the K9 is to be used;
   4. Will coordinate the team's activities with the on-duty patrol supervisor and command staff;
   5. Will accept other assignments that do not involve using the K9 when operationally appropriate;
   6. Will record activities by writing:
      a. Supplement reports when they provide K9 assistance to this agency;
      b. Initial reports when they provide K9 assistance to allied agencies or self-initiate K9 or other police activities unrelated to retraining; and

c. K9 deployment records or log entries for all operational deployments as required by this directive;

7. Will ensure all K9 activity complies with constitutional standards, applicable law, agency policy, and the K9 team's training and certification;
8. Will not transport prisoners when the K9 is in the vehicle except in exigent circumstances as approved by the on-duty patrol supervisor; and
9. Will not take a K9 to court unless requested by the State's Attorney's Office and approved by the K9 Program Coordinator.

E. Employees will not:
1. Provoke, tease, agitate, or harass the K9;
2. Approach the K9 without the handler's permission or presence;
3. Feed the K9 without the handler's permission;
4. Interfere with the K9 team while scans, searches, demonstrations, or comfort deployments are being conducted; or
5. Use the K9 or the presence of the K9 to intimidate, coerce, or punish any person.

F. K9s will not be deployed outside the scope of the K9 team's training, certification, authorization, and legal authority.

G. The handler will record deployment data for each K9 deployment in the K9 tracking software system.

Deployment data will include, as applicable:
1. Date, time, location, handler, K9, and requesting officer or agency;
2. Reason for deployment and K9 discipline or function used;
3. Legal basis for the deployment, when applicable;
4. Type of scan, search, demonstration, special event, comfort deployment, or mutual-aid assistance provided;
5. Results of the deployment, including alert or no alert, items located, evidence seized, arrests, or assistance provided;
6. Whether any person was bitten, injured, or subjected to a K9 use of force;
7. Any supervisor notification or review required by this directive; and
8. Any additional information required by the K9 program coordinator.
9. Deployment data will be maintained for a period of 10 years after the K9 is removed from service.

H. The K9 program coordinator will periodically review deployment data to monitor program effectiveness, legal compliance, training needs, equipment needs, and any use-of-force, bite, injury, or complaint trends.

### 2.422.06 Selecting K9 Handlers *(16.2.2, 41.1.4.b, 41.1.5.c)*

A. The position of K9 officer is a specialized assignment that is filled through a selection process that is announced through the agency.

B. Selection process notifications must contain information that includes, but is not limited to:
1. Descriptions of candidate minimum qualifications;
2. Examples of essential duties;
3. Descriptions of selection process elements;
4. Required knowledge, skills, and abilities;
5. Schedule, call-out, training, residence, equipment, and 24-hour care responsibilities associated with the assignment; and
6. Any additional requirements specific to the K9 discipline or assignment.

C. Minimum qualifications for K9 handler candidates will be identified in the announcement and may include, as applicable:

1. Current certification and satisfactory status as a police officer for police service K9 assignments;
2. Satisfactory performance evaluations and disciplinary history appropriate for a specialized assignment;
3. Demonstrated initiative, judgment, report writing, communication skills, and ability to work independently;
4. Ability to complete required training and maintain certification;
5. Ability to provide or facilitate 24-hour care, maintenance, and safe housing of the K9 if assigned after-duty care responsibilities;
6. Ability to respond to call-outs and schedule adjustments associated with the assignment; and
7. Supervisor recommendation and command review.

D. The selection process may include review of qualifications, supervisory input, oral interview, practical exercises, home or housing suitability review if the K9 will be housed by the handler, command review, and final approval by the Chief of Police or designee.

### 2.422.08 Selecting and Evaluating Dogs *(41.1.5.b)*

A. The K9 program coordinator will preliminarily select dogs in consultation with qualified trainers, vendors, handlers, or other subject matter experts as appropriate.

B. Prior to final selection, dogs will be evaluated:
1. For appropriate temperament;
2. For drives, workability, and environmental stability essential to the intended K9 discipline;
3. For suitability for the specific discipline, including CDS, explosives, firearms, evidence detection, comfort work, or other authorized K9 function;
4. By an approved veterinarian for health and general physical fitness; and
5. For compatibility with the assigned handler when practical.

C. A K9 will not be placed into operational service until pre-service evaluation and initial training requirements have been successfully completed and documented.

### 2.422.10 K9 Team Training and Certification *(33.6.1, 41.1.4.b,c, 41.1.5.b, d, e, f)*

A. A K9 team must successfully complete:
1. Initial training before being assigned to K9 duties;
2. Monthly in-service or maintenance training to continue K9 activities, developed and monitored, either in person or remotely, by a certified trainer or other approved K9 training authority, and annual evaluation or certification for each discipline in which the K9 team is used, preferably by a recognized national, regional, or state organization, to independently validate the team's operational readiness and effectiveness.

B. Initial training must be through an approved K9 training program that culminates with the team demonstrating proficiency as determined by the staff of the training program, a certified trainer, or an approved certifying organization.

C. Approved training or certification programs may include programs recognized by USPCA, NAPWDA, IPWDA, ATF, DHS, a state or regional police K9 organization, or an equivalent organization or trainer approved by the agency.

D. Training and certification will be discipline-specific and will address the service or function for which the K9 team is used, including CDS detection, explosives detection, firearms detection, evidence detection, comfort work, or any other authorized function.

E. The schedule, frequency, and duration of retraining sessions will be developed by the K9 program coordinator and K9 handlers in consultation with officials from an approved K9 training program or certifying organization and recommended to the Chief of Police or designee for adoption.

F. Training documentation will be maintained for each K9 team and will include, at a minimum:
1. Date, time, location, duration, and type of training;

2. Handler, K9, instructor, trainer, or evaluator present;
3. Training aids, scenarios, skills, or tasks completed;
4. Performance results, deficiencies, corrective action, or remedial training;
5. Certification, recertification, or evaluation results; and
6. Any other documentation required by the K9 program coordinator.

G. Training aids will be secured, inventoried, handled, and documented in compliance with applicable laws, permits, and agency procedures.

### 2.422.12 K9 Vehicles and Equipment *(41.1.3, 41.1.5.h, 41.1.4e)*

A. An on-duty K9 team will use a vehicle specially equipped for K9 use unless it is not available, in which case another departmental fleet emergency vehicle can be used. A K9 equipped vehicle may be operated by other officers when the vehicle is not needed by a K9 team and when such use will not compromise K9 safety, cleanliness, or readiness.
   1. K9 vehicles are designated for assignment to certified K9 handlers and shall only be assigned to other use when operational requirements or exigent circumstances require.

B. Designated K9 vehicles shall be specially equipped and include, as applicable:
   1. Secure K9 containment system, kennel, insert, or crate;
   2. Temperature monitoring system with alarm;
   3. Adequate ventilation;
   4. Heating, cooling, or climate control appropriate for safe K9 transport;
   5. Emergency door release mechanism where feasible;
   6. Water and food containers when appropriate;
   7. K9 first-aid kit or other approved first-aid supplies; and
   8. Sanitation and cleaning supplies.

C. Required equipment for each K9 team will be issued or made available as appropriate to the K9 discipline and may include:
   1. Collar, harness, leash, lead, long line, or other control equipment;
   2. Approved kennel, crate, or housing equipment;
   3. Food, water, bowls, grooming, and sanitation equipment;
   4. Reward, training, or scent equipment;
   5. Training aids and required training aid storage or permits;
   6. Identification, safety, and visibility equipment;
   7. Protective equipment or muzzle when required by training or assignment; and
   8. Any other equipment required by the K9 program coordinator.

D. K9 handlers will:
   1. Transfer required, portable K9 supplies into and out of K9 vehicles at the beginning and end of their tours of duty;
   2. Vacuum, clean, and disinfect the interior of K9 vehicles if needed at the end of their tours of duty;
   3. Inspect K9 vehicles and equipment for readiness and safety daily documenting findings on the vehicle condition report;
   4. Promptly report vehicle or equipment damage, malfunction, or safety concerns to the on-duty patrol supervisor and K9 program coordinator in writing; and
   5. Use privately owned vehicles equipped with agency supplied or approved dog crates for transporting K9s to and from work when authorized.

E. K9s will not be left in unsafe environmental conditions. Handlers will take reasonable steps to ensure safe temperature, ventilation, water access, and emergency removal capability whenever a K9 is transported or temporarily housed in a vehicle. The temperature monitoring system is a life safety

device, and as such, will remain connected and operating at all times and should not be unplugged or disabled except for routine maintenance of the vehicle.

### 2.422.14 K9 Scans - Generally

A. K9 scans can be conducted:
   1. If there are no reasonable expectations of privacy concerns;
   2. Any time officers develop reasonable articulable suspicion indicating possible drug-related criminal activities;
   3. Any time officers obtain consent to search, develop probable cause, or serve drug-related, explosives-related, firearms-related, or evidence-related search warrants;
   4. As otherwise permitted by law; and
   5. Only when the K9 team is trained and authorized for the requested scan or detection function.

B. Officers:
   1. Who believe that K9 scans may be appropriate should request K9 assistance as soon as possible to give K9 teams an opportunity to arrive on a timely basis;
   2. Will cancel their requests for K9 assistance if they subsequently believe that scans are not needed;
   3. Will establish control of the situation to maximize the safety of the K9 team and any other officers; and
   4. Will tell K9 handlers about any items that have already been seized or areas of particular concern that should be scanned.

C. K9 handlers will:
   1. Tell requesting officers of areas identified or items located based on K9 alerts; and
   2. Allow requesting officers to recover any items to be seized and make any arrests.

D. Vehicle exteriors can be scanned so long as drivers are not detained longer than reasonably necessary to conclude the initial business of the traffic stop.
   1. Officers will situate and control the vehicle's location and occupants in a manner that will not jeopardize the safety of the K9 team, assisting officers, or vehicle occupants during the scan. This includes having occupants exit vehicles and stand away from the traveled portion of the roadway and under the observation of at least one other officer.
   2. Scans will not be conducted of occupied vehicles.

### 2.422.16 Mutual Aid

A. A K9 team may be deployed to assist allied agencies, typically within a 10 air-mile radius, based on K9 availability, distance to the call, and local demands for patrol and K9 assistance, unless exigent circumstances justify a response beyond that area.
   1. Requests to assist these agencies may be approved by the on-duty patrol supervisor:
      a. Maryland State Police;
      b. Baltimore County Police;
      c. Baltimore County Sheriff's Office;
      d. Maryland Transportation Authority Police (MdTA); and
      e. Maryland Transit Administration Police Force (MTA).
   2. Requests to assist other agencies must be promptly routed to the K9 program coordinator if on duty or to the duty officer during non-business hours.

B. When a K9 team has been preliminarily approved to assist an allied agency, the K9 handler will:
   1. Promptly respond with the K9 to the scene of the request;
   2. Determine the facts and circumstances of the case from the allied agency's ranking on-scene officer;

3. Proceed with the requested scan only if the request is consistent with K9 team controlling directives, training, certification, and legal authority;
4. Promptly return to campus; and
5. Complete an "Assist Other Jurisdiction" report that describes the request and what, if any, K9 services were provided.

C. The on-duty patrol supervisor may authorize requesting a K9 team from an allied agency if this agency's K9 team is not available or the agency needs a K9 team for a discipline or function not available from this agency. K9 teams from allied agencies operate under their controlling directives and training.

### 2.422.18 K9 Bites, Injuries, and Use of Force *(41.1.5.i)*

A. All bites, injuries, or K9 uses of force caused by a K9 owned or controlled by this agency will be reported, documented, and administratively reviewed.

B. If the agency authorizes a K9 team trained to bite, hold, apprehend, or physically restrain a person:
1. The handler will provide a verbal announcement or warning when feasible before using the K9 to search for, bite, apprehend, or physically restrain a person. The announcement should identify police presence and warn that the K9 may be used if the person does not comply;
2. An exception to the announcement may be made only when articulable facts reasonably indicate that an announcement would create or increase a risk to officer safety, public safety, or the safety of another person, or would compromise the lawful purpose of the deployment; and
3. The handler will document whether the announcement was given or the reason an exception was used.

C. The handler will:
1. Ensure that any appropriate medical treatment is offered and provided to injured persons as soon as practical;
2. Ensure that any appropriate veterinarian services are provided to an injured K9 as soon as practical;
3. Ensure the on-duty patrol supervisor is notified;
4. Ensure the incident is reported to the health department of the county in which the incident occurred. See also 2.403.04 Animal Bites, etc.;
5. Ensure a Spleen Advisory (UPO.074.D) is completed by each person that was bitten;
6. Complete a police report or supplement detailing the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident; and
7. Complete the required K9 deployment, bite, injury, and use-of-force documentation prior to the end of their shift.

D. The on-duty patrol supervisor will:
1. Ensure the K9 program coordinator is notified if the incident occurred during normal business hours or the Duty Officer is notified if the incident occurred during non-business hours;
2. Ensure the handler has completed all required tasks;
3. Ensure photographs are taken of any injuries;
4. Attempt to obtain written statements from civilian victims and witnesses, including whether or not any injured parties accept or refuse medical treatment;
5. Attempt to obtain copies of any medical treatment records;
6. Ensure all departmental witnesses complete written statements or report supplements; and
7. Submit a packet of all related documents to the K9 program coordinator prior to the end of their shift.

E. The K9 program coordinator is responsible for completing a documented, timely review and submitting it to the commander responsible for the IA function.
1. Routine reviews should be completed in 10 days or less, and will determine:

a. If bites, injuries, or K9 uses of force resulted from events that were consistent or inconsistent with agency directives and training; and
b. If there are implications for changes to training, equipment, or directives.

2. Incidents involving no apparent chargeable conduct will be submitted through the chain of command to the Chief and recommended for closure.
3. Incidents involving apparent chargeable conduct will be referred to the commander responsible for the IA function for assignment and follow-up.

F. Bite, injury, and K9 use-of-force data will be included in deployment data collection and will be reviewed for trends, training needs, equipment needs, legal concerns, and policy compliance.

### 2.422.22 24-Hour Care and Maintenance *(41.1.5.g, 41.1.4 d)*

A. The agency will establish and document responsibilities for the 24-hour care and maintenance of agency-owned or agency-controlled K9s.
B. Unless otherwise approved by the Chief of Police or designee, the assigned handler is responsible for the K9's daily care and maintenance, including:
   1. Feeding, watering, exercise, rest, grooming, and sanitation;
   2. Safe housing, containment, and transport;
   3. Maintaining the K9 in excellent physical condition;
   4. Monitoring the K9's health, behavior, and welfare;
   5. Promptly reporting illness, injury, behavioral concerns, or fitness issues to the K9 program coordinator; and
   6. Ensuring humane treatment consistent with agency expectations and accepted K9 care practices.
C. Agency K9s may be housed and cared for by the assigned handler after duty hours or boarded at an agency-approved location. The K9 program coordinator will ensure housing and boarding arrangements are documented and appropriate for the K9's safety, welfare, and readiness.
D. The cost of authorized veterinary care, food, grooming, and required equipment will be covered by the agency. The handler must assume any additional expenses not authorized by the Chief of Police or designee.
E. A handler must use an agency-approved veterinarian facility and must follow all university vendor rules and regulations. K9s will receive routine, emergency, and follow-up veterinary care as recommended by the veterinarian and authorized by the agency.
F. Should an agency K9 be injured to the degree that it requires significant care at home, the handler may be assigned to care for the K9 as part of the handler's duty day when the necessary care is supported by a diagnosis or recommendation from an agency-approved veterinarian.
G. Compensation, scheduling, and work-time issues related to required off-duty K9 care and maintenance will be addressed consistent with applicable law, university requirements, and agency procedures.

### 2.422.24 Comfort K9 Program

A. The comfort K9 is a valuable tool in fostering dialogue and communication between the Towson University Police Department and the TU community it serves. The comfort K9 may be used in the Department's community policing efforts.
B. Comfort K9 deployments:
   1. Are limited to non-enforcement functions;
   2. May include victim assistance, crisis response, employee wellness, student support, and community outreach;
   3. Will be voluntary for persons receiving comfort or support services; and
   4. Must be evaluated by the handler for safety, appropriateness, and K9 welfare.

C. Comfort K9 teams must complete a service, therapy, or comfort dog training program approved by the Chief of Police prior to deployment. Comfort K9 teams must continue regularly scheduled follow-up training after the team is deployed and will continue training as recommended by a training organization approved by the Chief of Police.
D. Comfort K9 teams will complete annual evaluation and ongoing exposure training as approved by the Chief of Police or designee.
E. Care and maintenance of comfort K9s will be provided in accordance with 2.422.22 of this directive.
F. Vehicles used to transport comfort K9s will be equipped and utilized in accordance with 2.422.12 of this directive when applicable.
G. Comfort K9s will be retired based on health, age, or behavior in accordance with 2.422.34.

### 2.422.26 Explosives and Firearms Detection K9 Program

A. An explosives, firearms, or related evidence detection K9 team consists of an officer and specifically trained dog used to protect the University community from criminal acts, including acts of terrorism and threats, through authorized detection functions and systematic open-air scans of both university and non-university sponsored events.
B. The following situations are considered possible deployment situations for an explosives, firearms, or related evidence detection K9 team:
    1. Building sweeps;
    2. Suspicious package investigations;
    3. Threat response;
    4. Dignitary protection;
    5. Special events;
    6. Open-air scans; and
    7. Mutual aid.
C. Handlers must evaluate risk and coordinate with supervisors, command staff, allied agencies, or specialized units when appropriate.
D. Training will be consistent with 2.422.10 of this directive and must be specific to the discipline for which the K9 team is deployed.
E. Care and maintenance of explosives, firearms, and related evidence detection K9s will be provided in accordance with 2.422.22 of this directive.
F. Vehicles used for explosives, firearms, or related evidence detection K9 teams will be equipped and utilized in accordance with 2.422.12 of this directive.
G. Detection K9s will be retired based on health, age, or behavior in accordance with 2.422.34.

### 2.422.28 K9 Welfare and Safety

A. K9s will:
    1. Have defined work and rest cycles appropriate for the K9's health, function, and deployment conditions;
    2. Not be deployed in extreme environmental conditions when deployment would create an unreasonable risk to the K9's health or safety;
    3. Receive annual veterinary fitness certification;
    4. Receive appropriate food, water, shelter, sanitation, veterinary care, and humane treatment; and
    5. Be removed from duty when illness, injury, fatigue, behavior, or environmental conditions make deployment unsafe or inappropriate.
B. Handlers are responsible for ensuring humane treatment consistent with agency expectations, training, and accepted K9 care practices.

C. The K9 program coordinator may temporarily restrict or suspend a K9 team from deployment when there are concerns regarding training, certification, equipment, handler control, K9 welfare, legal compliance, or operational readiness.

### 2.422.30 Documentation and Records *(41.1.5.f, i)*

A. The K9 program coordinator will ensure maintenance of:
   1. Training logs;
   2. Certification and recertification records;
   3. Deployment records and deployment data;
   4. Veterinary and annual fitness records;
   5. Incident reports;
   6. Bite, injury, and K9 use-of-force reviews;
   7. Equipment inventories and vehicle equipment records;
   8. Training aid permits, inventories, and storage documentation;
   9. Handler selection documentation; and
   10. Annual program reviews.

B. Records will be maintained in accordance with agency record retention schedules and any applicable legal, accreditation, or university requirements.

C. Deployment records will include the information required by 2.422.04.G and any additional data fields established by the K9 program coordinator.

### 2.422.32 Legal Compliance

A. All K9 operations will comply with:
   1. Maryland law;
   2. Constitutional standards;
   3. Applicable case law governing search, seizure, detention, K9 use, and K9 care;
   4. Agency use-of-force policies;
   5. Agency reporting, review, and documentation requirements; and
   6. Training, certification, and discipline-specific limitations.

B. A handler may decline or discontinue a deployment when the requested use is inconsistent with law, K9 training, certification, safety, the K9 team's operational capabilities, or agency policy unless an exception is provided by the Chief of Police or his designee.

C. Questions regarding legal authority, policy application, training limitations, or appropriate deployment should be referred to the on-duty patrol supervisor, K9 program coordinator, duty officer, or Chief of Police as appropriate.

### 2.422.34 K9 Ownership and Retirement

A. A K9 may be retired and its ownership transferred from the agency by approval of the Chief when:
   1. Its handler leaves the K9 program, the agency decides to retire the animal, and the handler requests to accept ownership of the dog;
   2. The dog must be retired and the handler requests to accept ownership of the dog; or
   3. The dog is being retired and its handler does not want to accept ownership of the dog, in which case ownership can be transferred to a citizen not directly affiliated with the agency.