

UTAH DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND YOUTH SERVICES POLICY		
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CANINES IN DIVISION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS		
RATIONALE: The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines for having canines in Division programs and facilities.		
Original Effective: July 10, 2022	Revision: February 6, 2025	Next Review Due: February 6, 2028

I. DESCRIPTION

The Division recognizes the important role canines can play in the wellbeing and treatment of minors. This policy guides when canines are allowed in Division programs and facilities by developing a clear understanding of required standards and approvals. The Division is responsible for ensuring the health and safety of minors in its care, volunteers, and staff members.

II. DEFINITIONS

The following terms are defined for this policy:

- A. **Aggressive Behavior:** The threat of harm to another individual involving snarling, growling, snapping, biting, barking, or lunging.
- B. **Canine:** A dog; a domesticated carnivorous mammal that typically has a long snout, an acute sense of smell, non retractable claws, and a barking, howling, or whining voice.
- C. **Direct Threat:** A significant risk to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated or mitigated by a modification of practices or procedures or by the provision of aids or services.
- D. **Emotional Support or Comfort Animal:** An animal that provides a therapeutic benefit through devotion, affection, and companionship, but does not have training to perform specific tasks for a person's disability or diagnosis.
- E. **Fearful Behavior:** The canine is afraid, anxious, or nervous about a perceived or anticipated threat or unpleasant outcome. Canines may display

- defensive or offensive body language that may include but not limited to flattened ears, lip licking, yawning, cowering, tail tucked between the hind legs, raised hair on the back of the neck, averting the eyes, or trembling.
- F. **Handler:** The person responsible for controlling and providing care for an animal.
 - G. **Pet Therapy:** The use of specifically trained and approved animals for interactions with minors with the intention of providing general therapeutic benefit.
 - H. **Service Animal:** An animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including but not limited to:
 - 1. A hearing animal;
 - 2. A guide animal;
 - 3. An assistance animal;
 - 4. A seizure alert animal;
 - 5. A mobility animal;
 - 6. A psychiatric service animal; or
 - 7. An autism service animal.
 - I. **Therapy Canine:** A dog trained to provide affection, comfort and support to people, often in settings such as hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, schools, libraries, hospices, disaster areas, or other congregate care settings.
 - J. **Vaccinations:** Vaccines are products designed to trigger protective immune responses and prepare the immune system to fight future infections from disease-causing agents. Vaccines provide immunity against one or several diseases that can lessen the severity or prevent certain diseases altogether.

III. POLICY

- A. Canines shall not reside full-time in a JJYS facility or program.
- B. Canines entering a Division facility or program shall:
 - 1. Be approved by the Assistant Program Director (APD), Program Director (PD) and, if the canine is used in therapy, must also be approved by the Clinical PD;
 - 2. Be well tempered;
 - 3. Not shed excessively;
 - 4. Be well socialized (exposed to many environments).
 - 5. Be housebroken, except for facility animals less than one year old;
 - 6. Have completed obedience training, except for facility canines which shall complete obedience training within one year of purchase for the facility; and
 - 7. Be screened for their ability to interact favorably with humans and other animals.
- C. Vaccinations and Preventative Care

1. Canines must be spayed or neutered prior to coming into a Division facility.
 2. Canines less than one year old shall not be allowed in a Division facility or program, except for puppies purchased as a facility animal.
 3. Canines allowed in a Division facility, shall be licensed by the local municipality, have annual medical exams and required vaccinations.
 - a) Required Vaccinations:
 - 1) For dogs one year old or older: Vaccine DA2PP (every three years), Vaccine Bordetella (yearly), Vaccine Leptospira (yearly), Vaccine Rabies (every three years), parasite prevention for fleas and ticks, parasite prevention for heartworm, roundworm, and hookworm ([2022 AAHA Canine Vaccination Guidelines](#)).
 - 2) For dogs seven years of age and older: All of the above exams and vaccinations along with senior blood and urine tests every year.
 - 3) Other preventative care necessary to protect the health and safety of minors and Division employees.
 - b) Records of these exams and vaccinations shall be kept on file with the program APD.
 4. All necessary preventative care shall be provided to canine animals owned by the facility or individual staff members to ensure the health and safety of minors and Division staff.
 - a) Canines shall be kept clean, nails trimmed, waste promptly and appropriately disposed of, and their habitats regularly cleaned.
 - b) Canine behavior must be respectful of all minors, employees, and visitors.
- D. Aggressive, Direct Threat Behavior
1. A canine demonstrating an aggressive or fearful response to people or other canines shall not be allowed in a Division facility or program.
 2. Aggressive behavior, such as biting or nipping, shall not be tolerated.
 - a) If a canine bites a person and causes physical injury, the animal's current rabies status shall be confirmed and the individual who is bitten shall receive immediate medical attention.
 - b) Aggressive behavior or behavior that poses a direct threat to minors, employees, facilities visitors, or others shall result in the canine no longer being allowed into a facility or program.
 - c) If a Division facility canine becomes aggressive or a direct threat, the facility APD and PD shall work to rehome the canine. The canine may not reside at the facility during the interim.
 3. An incident report shall be completed when canine aggressive behavior is displayed.

E. Illness or Injury

If a canine becomes ill or injured, the animal shall be taken to a veterinarian for evaluation. Signs of illness may include, but are not limited to, changes in appetite, uncontrolled urination or defecation, or behavior.

F. Allergies

1. All minors and program staff members shall be asked if they have any pet allergies and shall be made aware that canines may be in the facility, either all the time or periodically, and that contact with the canine may occur.
2. If a minor or staff member has allergies to canines that cannot be controlled by medication, the following steps shall be taken:
 1. The facility canine shall be placed with a designated staff member for housing during the time the minor or staff member is in the facility.
 2. Emotional support, comfort, and pet canines shall not be allowed in the facility or program during the time the minor or staff member is in the facility.

G. Handlers shall be aware of potential allergies, phobias, and other medical conditions that could be exacerbated by contact with canines. In addition, people may have cultural and religious beliefs about contact with animals and handlers need to be aware of these factors.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Service Animals

1. Service animals shall be allowed into Division facilities in accordance with Division policy and state and federal law.
2. Service animals shall be permitted in unrestricted areas of a Division facility and where the presence of the service animal does not disrupt the safety and security of the program. Service animals shall not be permitted in restricted areas such as areas where food is prepared.
3. If there is a question on whether or not the animal qualifies as a service animal, only limited inquiries may be made. The following two questions may be asked:
 - a) Is this service animal required because of a disability?
 - b) What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?
4. A service animal handler shall:
 - a) Control the service animal at all times;
 - b) Provide the service animal with food, water, and other necessary care (including toileting);
 - c) Clean up promptly after the service animal; and
 - d) Ensure the service animal is vaccinated and licensed.

B. Emotional Support, Comfort Animals, and Pets

1. Emotional support, comfort animals, and pets are not considered to be service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

2. Emotional support, comfort animals, and pets owned by staff members and not affiliated with a facility program are not allowed in facilities or programs except as allowed in policy 04-06 Visitation.
- C. Therapy and Treatment Canine
1. Therapy and treatment canines must have completed obedience training and be screened for their ability to interact favorably with humans and other animals.
 2. Therapy and treatment canines being brought into a Division facility or program should be trained to provide affection, emotional support and comfort to the minors in Division care.
 3. Therapy and treatment canines require prior authorization from the program APD, PD and Clinical PD prior to being brought into a Division facility.
 4. Therapy canines must be registered as a therapy dog.
 5. Once approval is obtained and prior to the first visit, the handler shall:
 - a) Sign the Animal Visitation Agreement;
 - b) Provide proof of vaccinations;
 - c) Provide proof of and demonstration of completed obedience training; and
 - d) Provide proof of therapy dog registration.
 6. The canine handler shall:
 - a) Control the canine at all times;
 - b) Provide the canine with food, water, and other necessary care (including toileting);
 - c) Clean up promptly after the canine;
 - d) Ensure the canine is vaccinated and licensed;
 - e) Ensure the canine does not interfere with the treatment, supervision and safety of the minors in division care; and
 - f) Provide a clean bed and crate.
 7. The handler is responsible for all damage caused by the canine.
- D. Division Facility Canines
1. Division facility canines require prior authorization from the program APD and PD prior to being brought into a Division facility.
 2. Facility canines shall have a designated staff member assigned by the program APD. The assigned staff is responsible for the canine's care and ensures compliance with this policy.
 3. Some care of the canine, such as grooming, feeding, exercising, and proper waste disposal, may be delegated but remain the primary responsibility of the designated staff member.
 4. Facility canines shall complete obedience training and be screened for their ability to interact favorably with humans and other animals.
 5. Division staff shall:
 - a) Control the canine through physical means or trained commands;

- b) Provide the canine with food, water, and other necessary care (including toileting);
 - c) Clean up promptly after the canine;
 - d) Ensure the canine is exercised daily;
 - e) Ensure the canine is vaccinated and licensed with the local municipality; and
 - f) Ensure the canine does not interfere with the treatment, supervision, and safety of minors in the care of JJYS.
6. Canines shall have a bed and a crate readily available for their use. Beds and crates shall be cleaned and maintained weekly.

V. EXCEPTIONS

- A. Canines who have been working in Division facilities and programs prior to January of 2022 shall be allowed to continue in this capacity after completing the following:
- 1. Canines shall require prior authorization from the program PD and APD prior to being brought into a Division facility.
 - 2. Once approval is obtained, the handler shall:
 - a) Sign the Animal Visitation Agreement;
 - b) Provide proof of vaccinations and licensing; and
 - c) Provide proof of or demonstration of completed obedience training.

VI. CONTINUOUS RENEWAL

This policy shall be reviewed every three years to determine its effectiveness and appropriateness. This policy may be reviewed before that time to reflect substantive change.

This policy has been reviewed by the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services Executive Management Team, and is approved upon the signature of the Director.



Brett Peterson, Director
Division of Juvenile Justice & Youth Services

02/06/2025
Signature Date