
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS POLICE

GENERAL ORDER

SUBJECT: Police Canines

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I. PURPOSE

- A. To provide Departmental guidelines for the management and use of police canines in Departmental operations.
- B. To serve as a support function to all areas of the Police Department's drug enforcement activities in detecting and identifying controlled substances
- C. To aid in locating lost, missing or endangered persons in an emergency situation.
- D. To utilize canines in building and area searches, protect police officers and apprehend criminal offenders.
- E. To promote public relations and awareness through educational programs.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Police Canine Team – One certified canine handler and his / her assigned police canine.
- B. Patrol Trained Canine – Canine trained to search, detect, engage and hold subjects in an operation.
- C. Tracking Trained Canine – Canine trained to follow a foot trail and / or air scent to locate the subject of the operation.
- D. Explosives and / or Drug trained canine – Canine trained to detect narcotics.
- E. Dual Purpose Canine – Canine trained in two specific disciplines, example Patrol / Narcotics trained canine.
- F. Cover Officer – An officer of any rank of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department. This officer is responsible for the protection of the handler as a back-up, and for making the arrest if necessary.
- G. Patrol Deployment – Use of a canine to track, search for persons or items, to engage a non – compliant suspect, and as handler protection.
- H. Narcotics Deployment – Use of a canine to detect concealed contraband and/or drug related evidence.

III. RATIONALE

- A. In many cases, the dog's odor response is combined with other considerations to yield probable cause for further police action. Because a canine's sense of smell is vastly superior to a human's, the trained law enforcement canine is a valuable tool to police officers.
- B. Utilization of police canines requires adherence to procedures that properly control their use.
- C. A Police Canine Team consists of one officer (handler) and his or her assigned police canine. The handler will be trained and certified to handle the police canine. Department canines may be trained for different uses.

IV. CANINE USE PROCEDURE

- A. Canine Utilization
 - 1. Police canine teams will generally be available on a 24-hour, on-call basis, to conduct building searches for suspect(s) in hiding; assist in the arrest or prevent the escape of severe misdemeanor suspects as defined by Graham vs Connor and felony offenders; protect officers or others from death or serious injury; track suspects; locate lost, missing or endangered persons; and detect the presence of concealed contraband and/or drug-related evidence.
 - a. Canine teams will not be used to respond to unauthorized assignments. Different canines possess different skills. Care should be given to request the correct canine team. Authorization for assignments not specifically

authorized herein must have the approval of the Chief of Police.

2. The decision to deploy a canine shall be based on the following:
 - a. The nature of the incident and the totality of the circumstances.
 - b. The likelihood of apprehension and whether the suspect poses a threat to the safety of the officers or others, and
 - c. Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest at the time.
 - d. Or to locate and apprehend hidden suspect(s) when it would be unsafe for officers to proceed into a given area.
- B. Canine handlers will make a reasonable effort to locate suspect(s) with minimum risk to police department employees, citizens, and to the suspect.
- C. Prior to deployment of the canine, the handler must have sufficient information based on sources such as radio transmissions, statements by victim's, witnesses and/or officers to establish as conclusive as possible that the suspect was involved in the crime.
- D. The handler will ensure that the three part test of Graham vs. Connor has been met:
 1. The severity of the crime
 2. Whether the suspect poses a threat of harm to the officer or to others.
 3. Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest, or attempting to flee from law enforcement officers.

V. PATROL DEPLOYMENT

- A. Tracks or Searches for persons in buildings or in open areas.
 1. A police canine team may be available to track or search for missing persons or suspects, however, such searches are subject to the following conditions and limitations:
 - a. When officers are pursuing suspects and contact with the suspect is lost, the officer, prior to summoning a canine team shall:
 - i. Establish a perimeter with the following considerations:
 - ii. Stop and pinpoint the location where the suspect was last seen;
 - iii. Shut off engines of vehicles in the area, if possible;
 - iv. Avoid vehicle or foot movement in the area where the suspect or subject was last seen;
 - v. Attempt to limit or prohibit other persons from entering any portion of the search area.

- vi. Generally, articles or items dropped by the suspect in the area to be tracked should not be touched or moved.
- vii. Officers should only continue to search when it is necessary in the interest of safety.

2. Canine handlers will notify their Unit Commander or the ranking Commander on the scene anytime their assistance is requested.
3. The handler will make the final decision whether or not to deploy the canine. It is their responsibility to understand the totality of the situation before making the deployment decision.
4. Before a search is conducted, the Canine Commander, or the on scene field commander if the Canine commander is not available, is responsible for ensuring the legality of any search as well as conformity with all Department requirements of GO 1.4 (Search and Seizure).
5. When circumstances permit and it can be safely done, police officers will take a subject into custody that has been located by a canine, without contact being made between the subject and canine.
6. A "cover officer" will always assist the Canine Officer during a track when possible.
7. Prior to deploying the use of a canine team to search for or apprehend any individual, the canine handler, Canine Commander or on scene commander shall carefully consider all pertinent information available at the time. Patrol canines should remain on a leash of sufficient length to provide a reasonable measure of safety for the subjects in the area to be searched without compromising the canine's tracking/apprehending abilities.
8. Patrol canine handlers are authorized to deploy the canine off-leash under the following conditions:
 - a. to conduct building searches for suspect(s) in hiding;
 - b. Assist in the arrest or prevent the escape of severe misdemeanor suspects or felony offender.
 - c. Protect the handler, officers, and citizens from injury.
9. Prior to releasing the canine the handler should carefully evaluate the following:
 - a. Can the task be completed on leash?
 - b. The individuals age, the nature of the suspected offense, the degree of the suspected offense, and the potential for escape or flight if the canine is not used.
 - c. Potential danger to the handler, canine, other officers, and general public if the canine is released. The Canine should be placed back on leash as soon as tactically possible.
 - d. Compliance with GO 1.2 Use of Force.
 - e. Time of day or night.

- f. The presence of other animals in the building or the area.
 - g. Type and size of building, or other environmental factors.
 - h. Possibility of innocent persons inside. Officers should ascertain from the owner or responsible party if anyone with permission is likely to be in the building.
 - i. Commanders will take into special consideration the use of a patrol canine to search a residential home unless the homeowner or responsible person is present. Elderly or handicapped person(s) may be inside and may not be able to respond when a canine warning order is given or are physically unable to come to the door.
10. Canine handlers are responsible for utilizing the canine according to Departmental policy. Before a search is conducted the canine commander or on scene field commander is responsible for ensuring the legality of any search as well as conformity with all Department requirements of G.O. 1.4 (Search and Seizure).
 11. Upon arrival at an incident scene, the canine handler will assume control over the area and will remain in control of the canine and the area until the appropriate tasks are completed.
 12. Prior to entering a building or area, the patrol trained canine handler shall announce a verbal challenge twice in a loud, clear voice with intermediate time in between announcements. After the second announcement, the handler will command the dog to bark. This announcement may be waived only when giving the announcement would likely place the handler in great danger. Justification will be required. Reasonable time should be given after the bark order to allow the subject to surrender. The verbal challenge will include at least the following:
 - a. Identify your authority
 - b. An order to comply
 - c. Consequences of non-compliance.
 13. Police canines shall not be handled or given commands by anyone other than the assigned handler.
 14. Canine handlers are the foremost expert on their canine's ability. Handler's will advise the on duty commander if a canine cannot or should not be used.

B. Tracking lost, missing or endangered children or persons:

1. A patrol trained canine team should not be used unless articulable factors are present that would constitute exigent circumstances. An additional resource is the Missouri Search and Rescue team that are available to assist all Kansas City Area law enforcement agencies keeping in mind that their response time is usually 1-2 hours.
2. If a patrol trained canine team is to be used for tracking of missing small children or elderly persons, a responsible family member or legally appointed guardian must, if possible, be notified of the possibility of a dog bite. for scent purposes.

C. Patrol Officer Responsibilities

1. If any officer is in need of a canine, that officer should contact the Communications Unit to check and see if a canine team is on duty. If on duty, the dispatcher will request the canine to respond and advise the canine team of the type of search request.
2. Police officers familiar with the incident area should advise the canine handler of any known elements and/or materials that could cause injury to the canine or handler.
 - a. Such elements and/or materials could include any other potentially harmful objects, circumstances, or geography.
3. Officers, other than the canine officer, will not touch, handle, pet or feed the canine without the handler's permission. Unnecessary communication with the handler during canine activity will be avoided.
4. In the event that a canine handler is injured, officers should immediately notify another handler and the canine Unit Commander.
 - a. If necessary request outside assistance from another agency's canine unit and advise them of a down handler.
 - b. If assistance from another handler or outside agency is unavailable, a police unit with a cage or the handlers vehicle should be positioned as close to the downed handler as possible. Open the back door and say over the p.a. system the dogs name along with kennel up or auto. Once the dog is inside the vehicle calmly say good boy and close the door. Once the dog is contained then arrangements should be made with the canine Unit Commander for the animals care.

VI. NARCOTIC DEPLOYMENT

- A. If any officer is in need of a canine, that officer should contact the Communications Unit to check and see if a canine team is on duty. If on duty, the dispatcher will request the canine to respond and advise the canine team of the type of search request.
- B. Upon arrival to the scene, prior to deployment, the canine handler is responsible for ensuring the legality of any canine search as well as conformity with all the department requirements of G.O. 1.4 (Search and Seizure)
- C. Use of the canine for drug detection purposes is authorized in the following situations and under the following conditions:
 1. The canine handlers shall maintain records that document the use and the proficiency of individual canines in drug detection. This documentation shall be readily available to authorized personnel who may need it when seeking warrants.
 2. Random exploratory sniffing of luggage, packages, furniture, or any other fixed or temporary object or other inanimate objects may be conducted in public access facilities as authorized with knowledge and consent of the appropriate facility manager.

- a. Exploratory sniffing shall be conducted without interference or annoyance to the public or interruption of facility operations, if possible.
- 3. Officers may detain specific luggage or related items not presently in the custody of the owner for purposes of requesting a canine sniff, but may not detain the items so long as to interfere with the owner's scheduled travel.
 - a. When the canine has an odor response to luggage or items, a search warrant or consent to search must be obtained before performing the actual search.

Note: The odor response of a certified canine establishes probable cause to conduct further investigation.
- 4. The use of drug detection canines in public schools is permitted when:
 - a. The school principal or other designated authority requests or approves the use of the canine. The Department currently uses a letter from the school principal requesting the drug sniff.
 - b. There is reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal narcotics are being distributed and/or consumed on the premises.
 - c. The search is limited to inanimate objects in public areas such as the exterior of student lockers, unless reasonable suspicion exists to gain admission to lockers and related areas.
 - d. All canine searches shall comply with the legal authority, (e.g., search warrant, exigent circumstances, plain view, etc.)
- D. A drug sniffing canine may be used to sniff motor vehicles when:
 - 1. During a vehicle stop resulting from a believed traffic infraction, the canine may be used to sniff the vehicle's exterior in an exploratory manner. A sniff of the air outside of a vehicle does not constitute a search of the interior of the vehicle and no waiver or warrant is necessary. Unless the canine responds to odor in or on the vehicle, the operator may not be detained longer than reasonably necessary to conclude the business associated with the initial traffic stop.
 - a. **Note:** The odor response of a certified canine establishes probable cause for the officer to investigate further.
 - 2. If a search of the interior of the vehicle is to be conducted, the windows should be rolled up and the air conditioner/heater turned on to help circulate the air. Preparing the vehicle for search in this manner affords the canine the quickest and greatest probability of detection.
 - a. **Note:** Moving items within the search area prior to the detection canine team's arrival affects the canine's ability to locate contraband and/or drug evidence. If drugs are handled by officers they should refrain from touching other items in the proposed search area.
- E. Building Searches (for contraband)

- 1. All persons should be removed from rooms or the building prior to the search. Moving persons from the search area should not affect the canine's ability to locate any contraband drug evidence within it. Care should be taken that persons do not remove evidence from the search area.
- F. Seized/Recovered Contraband Drug Property
 - 1. Contraband or property should not be seized or recovered by the canine handler if the canine team was summoned at the request of another officer. It inserts an unnecessary person into the chain of custody.
 - a. Under normal circumstances the requesting officer will be responsible for assisting the canine handler with handling, seizing, recovering, and security of any property.
 - (1) At major crime scenes, the officer in charge will designate a property recovery officer to assist the canine handler with the handling and security of contraband drug property recovered during the search of the premises.
 - 2. The requesting officer, or property recovery officer, will be responsible for contraband drug property seized or recovered as a result of the search. Seized or recovered property will be handled by these officers in accordance with existing Departmental policies governing evidence; found and/or confiscated property; or drug property.
 - 3. Upon recovery, contraband drug property should be removed from the search area. The recovered property should not be placed anywhere in the search area nor should the officer touch any items that are designated for canine team processing due to possible contamination. Officers must advise the canine handler of where the recovered drugs were found prior to commencement of the canine search.
 - 4. The prior presence of officers and/or suspects in a search area will not affect the performance of the drug detection canine. Items can be moved to another location without affecting the canine's performance in determining whether the object contains contraband drugs.
 - 5. Seized/Recovered evidence may be used as training aids for the canines. These training aids must be accounted for and inspected by the Unit Commander and disposed of when no longer useful for training.
- G. Major Crime Scene
 - 1. When the canine team arrives at a major crime scene, the canine will not be introduced into the scene until all other appropriate processing associated with the preliminary investigation is completed, and only with the knowledge and approval of the on-scene commander in charge.

VII. Assisting Outside Agencies

- A. Canine teams can respond and assist other law enforcement agencies that are working within Kansas City, Kansas

1. Handlers are required to notify the proper supervisor and receive permission prior to any canine deployment.
 2. Handlers will reference any outside agencies report numbers in the Canine Investigative Report.
- B. Canine teams can respond to assist any law enforcement agency working outside Kansas City, Kansas city limits when requested by such agency. The Canine commander or an on duty commander will determine if a canine team will respond.

VIII. Reporting Requirements

- A. Every deployment of a police canine shall be documented by the Canine Handler in the canine units tracking Kats system and forwarded through standard reporting channels. The Canine Commander will monitor and review the handler's entries in the system to include training reports.
- B. If a patrol trained canine is authorized to be off-lead, the authorizing Commander's name must appear in the Deployment report.

IX. PROHIBITED USES

- A. The canine teams will not be used for crowd control, prisoner transportation, or searching persons for narcotics.
- B. The police canines shall not be used for breeding or for off-duty employment unless authorized by the Chief of Police.
- C. Police canines will not be used for participation in shows, field trials, exhibitions or other demonstrations unless authorized by the Canine Commander.
- D. Patrol trained canines are not to be used in the location or apprehension of nonviolent misdemeanor suspects, or traffic violators.

X. CALL OUT PROCEDURE

- A. When a canine team is not on duty and an officer deems a canine is necessary the officer may request the canine team through their Supervisor or an on duty commander.
- B. If the field supervisor or on duty commander concurs with the request, he/she will contact Communications and page the Canine Unit Commander.
- C. The Canine Commander will, with input from the canine handler, determine if the canine team will respond.

XI. CANINE CARE AND TRAINING

- A. Canine handlers are personally responsible for the daily care and feeding of their animal, including:
 1. Maintenance and cleaning of the kennel and yard area where the canine is housed;
 2. Provision of food, water and general diet maintenance as prescribed by the Department authorized veterinarian;
 3. Grooming on a daily basis, or more often as required by weather, working conditions or other factors;
 4. Daily exercise and training;

5. General medical attention and maintenance of health care records.
- B. Anytime the handler is unable to perform these and related duties due to illness, injury, leave, or other unavailability
1. Another canine handler may be assigned to temporarily care for the dog; or
 1. The canine must be housed in a Department approved kennel.
 2. The U.G. Animal Control Shelter should not be used to house a Police Department canine. With approval from the Bureau Director or his/her designee, the canine may be housed at the Department approved veterinarian.
- C. Handlers will be allowed reasonable time for at-home care of the assigned canine.
- D. Teasing or agitating a police canine is prohibited unless performed as part of a training exercise.
- E. For safety reasons, unless the canine handler has direct control of the police canine and without prior permission, other people should not be allowed to touch the canine.
- F. The Canine Commander must ensure compliance with this section and visually inspect the home kennel and vehicle kennel semi-annually.
- G. Canine Handlers shall immediately notify the Canine Unit Commander anytime a canine becomes sick or injured.
- H. Canine Team Certification
1. Each canine team must maintain a minimum yearly certification for that team's specific job. The National Police Canine Association is the approved canine association in which canine teams will be certified.
 2. Each canine team shall successfully complete a yearly Department approved in house certification under the control of the Unit Commander. The in house certification should resemble NPCA standards.
- I. In the event that a canine team fails to obtain the required certification, The Canine Unit Commander or handler shall ensure that:
1. The Canine Commander is notified in writing within one working day of the failure or if out of town by phone.
 2. The canine team is removed from regular duties of the failed discipline and placed in a Department approved re-training course. If the team fails a second re-certification after the re-trainer course, the Canine Commander will submit a detailed report with recommendations to the Director of the Bureau of Services.

XII. CANINES AS A USE OF FORCE TOOL

The main purpose of a patrol canine is a search tool. Bodily injury could occur when resistance/hostility is exhibited.

- A. The use of a canine to seize or hold a person is a use of force and must comply with the force/resistance continuum.
 1. Canines will only be used to engage a person and seize or hold the person when Escape Resistance or greater is being employed by the suspect.

2. Canines may be used to protect the handler, other officers, or citizens from violent actions by other subjects.

3. If practical, Unit Commander consultation and approval should be obtained before a canine is employed as a use of force tool.

B. An "engagement" is a bite or claw scratch, and includes any bruise or abrasion, regardless of whether or not there is any bleeding, so long as the mark is visible. Whenever a police canine engages a person, the following will apply:

1. All appropriate reports will be completed. This will include an Officer Defensive Action Report, a Casualty Report, Canine Incident Report and an Offense Report if necessary as well as any additional reports at the direction of the Department Commander.

2. Medical attention will be provided to the person bitten.

a. Color photographs will be taken of the injuries. If the canine makes contact with the subject and there are no apparent injuries, photographs will be taken of the area contacted by the canine's mouth or claws to document the contact.

b. Revised UG C.O. 7-62

XIII. DETERMINATION THAT A CANINE IS NO LONGER FIT FOR SERVICE

A. Canine handlers and canine Unit Commanders have the most familiarity and background knowledge of a particular dog's performance, skills, demeanor, training, behavior and health. Upon evidence or belief of capacity diminished so as to make the canine unsuitable for continued service to the Department, the handler and/or canine Unit Commander should document the basis for such belief in a memorandum through the chain of command to the Bureau Director. Understandable and objective reasons and observations for such belief should be documented by the handler and/or Unit Commander. The Canine commander should be involved in the evaluation also.

B. The Bureau Director shall review the recommendation and consult with appropriate personnel. After review, the Bureau Director shall prepare a recommendation with regard to the canine's suitability for continued service and submit the recommendation to the Chief for final Department review.

C. The Chief, or his or her designee, shall make a final determination of the appropriateness of the canine's fitness for service.

XIV. DETERMINATION OF WHETHER THE CANINE IS FIT FOR PLACEMENT/ADOPTION

A. If the Chief, or his/her designee, determines that a canine is no longer fit for service, the handler shall prepare a recommendation, to be reviewed by the chain of command to the Bureau Director, of the canine's fitness for placement.

B. Said recommendation will include information as to the dog's general suitability for placement, i.e. behavior demeanor, training, health, etc... and whether the dog should be placed only with its handler or another eligible police officer.

C. The placement of the canine will be at the direction of the Chief of Police.

XV. PLACEMENT / ADOPTION OF DEPARTMENT-OWNED CANINES

A. Canines suitable for placement may be adopted by the following persons in descending priority:

1. The canine's present handler.
2. The canine's former handler, if any.
3. Another trained canine handler.
4. Other officers, based upon suitability and stability of environment.

B. Any canine that is trained for any use by the Department will not be eligible for adoption by the general public.

C. In the event of placement with an officer other than the canine's handler, all reasonable efforts shall be made to transition the dog to its new environment and owner.

D. All adoptions of Department-owned canines shall transfer all ownership and possessory interest in the canine to the adopting party. There will be no charge to the adopting party. The UG will not provide for any further care, costs or services for the canine, other than transitioning assistance.

E. In exchange for the cost-free adoption of the canine, any and all adopting parties must enter into a release and waiver of liability with the UG and the Department. No police dog may be placed for adoption without the execution of a release and waiver.

1. Any officer receiving permission to adopt a canine belonging to the Department shall execute a "hold harmless" agreement drafted by the Legal Department of the Unified Government.

F. The adopting party shall be advised of the canine's training, demeanor and risks attendant thereto in the release and waiver required for the adoption of the animal.

XVI. CANINES WHO CANNOT BE SAFELY PLACED FOR ADOPTION

A. Canines who are not suitable for placement because their behavior, demeanor, training or otherwise shall be euthanized in a humane and professional manner.

B. Canines who are not able to be placed for adoption because no eligible and appropriate persons have chosen to adopt the animal after a reasonable period of time shall be euthanized in a humane and professional manner.