

## 462.00 Canine Unit (K-9 Team)

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A police canine's primary purpose is to be used as a locating tool. A canine can locate suspects, evidence, and lost or missing people. In using police canines, the department's first and foremost priority is the safety of the public and our community. The canine unit is supervised by a commander who reports directly to the deputy chief of the operations division.

Before using a canine to search for or apprehend any person, the canine handler must carefully consider all known or reasonably believed information about the circumstances available at the time. The information should include, but is not limited to:

- a) The individual's age or estimated age,
- b) The individual's behavior leading up to the call for service and continuing throughout the incident,
- c) Whether the individual lives with a known or reasonably believed barrier to cooperation such as perception barriers, mental or emotional capacity, physical and language barriers, including whether the individual is known or believed to be deaf or hard of hearing,
- d) Time of day and circumstances of the action,
- e) The nature and seriousness of any known or reasonably suspected offense,
- f) Whether violence or weapons have been used or are anticipated,
- g) The degree of resistance or threatened resistance the individual has shown in the incident or known (reasonably believed) prior encounters,
- h) The potential for injury to officers or the public caused by the individual if a canine team is not used,
- i) Any potential danger to the public or officers at the scene if the canine is used or potential danger to the public or officers based on the way that the handler intends to use the canine, and
- j) The potential for a suspect to escape or flee if the canine is not used (does not apply to minor offenses).

**Canine deployment is only authorized in known or reasonably believed circumstances where the use is objectively reasonable.**

It is the canine handler's responsibility to evaluate each situation and determine whether the use of a canine is appropriate and reasonable. The canine handler has the authority to decline the use of the canine whenever they determine the deployment is unreasonable. A supervisor who is sufficiently apprised of the situation may also decide not to deploy the canine.

A deployed canine handler is responsible for the canine deployment. Other officers also responding to the scene must defer to the canine handler's directions regarding the canine deployment. As circumstances permit, the canine handler should make every reasonable effort to communicate and coordinate with cover officers to minimize the risk of unintended injury.

## Searching

The primary purpose of a police canine is to locate individuals and articles.

**Canine deployment is not authorized to find criminal suspects based solely on a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or non-violent felony.**

When using a police canine as a searching (locating) tool under circumstances where a physical apprehension is **NOT** authorized the canine handler must do the following:

- Give appropriate warnings to individuals in the search area pursuant to this policy, before and throughout the search.
- Conduct the search with the police canine on-lead and with the assistance of a cover officer (another canine handler is preferred).
  - This does not apply to narcotic or explosive detection searches.
- Handlers must search safely, taking all reasonable measures to prevent human contact.
- Once the individual has been located, the police canine will be kept a safe distance away from the individual to prevent contact between the person and the canine. Cover officer(s) are responsible for taking individuals into custody, if custody is justified and appropriate.
- Avoid taking the police canine into areas where there is an increased risk of injury from unintentional contact.

## Searching with the Possibility of Apprehension

A police canine may only be used to search with the possibility of physically apprehending subjects who officers reasonably believe pose an imminent threat of serious physical harm to officers or others if not immediately detained as authorized by general order 246.00 and 246.02

OR

If the handler reasonably believes the individual has either committed or threatened to commit a serious offense (probable cause or warrant investigation) and if the following conditions exist:

There is a reasonable belief based on the subject's actions that the individual intends to harm officers or others (as perceived by the officer) and poses an imminent threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any officer, or the handler, and

- The individual is physically resisting or threatening to resist arrest and the use of a canine reasonably appears to be necessary to overcome such resistance, or

- The individual is fleeing and officers reasonably believe that the individual poses an imminent threat of harm to others if not immediately apprehended, or
- The individual(s) is/are believed to be concealed in an area where entry by a person other than the canine would pose a threat to the safety of officers or the public.

A serious offense can be one of the following:

- Murder
- Aggravated robbery involving a firearm or weapon capable of causing great bodily harm or death
- Kidnapping
- Criminal sexual conduct involving acts of violence
- Aggravated assault with a firearm or weapon capable of causing great bodily harm or death
- Burglary, if the following criteria are met:
  - Evidence of forced or surreptitious entry,
  - Indicators of criminal activity consistent with burglary,
  - A reasonable belief that a suspect is within the building, and
  - Officers reasonably believe that conducting the search without a canine would be dangerous for officers, victims, or uninvolved individuals.

Absent a reasonable belief that a suspect has committed, is committing or threatening to commit a serious offense, mere flight from pursuing officer(s), is not good cause for the use of a canine to apprehend the suspect.

When using a canine as a searching (locating) tool under circumstances where a physical apprehension **IS** authorized under this policy and general orders 246.00 and 246.02 the canine handler must do the following:

- a) Give appropriate warnings to individuals in the search area pursuant to this policy, during and throughout the search.
- b) Conduct the search with the police canine on lead, unless circumstances make on-lead searching dangerous for the canine or officers. The circumstances for an off-lead search must be documented in a police report.
- c) The handler must be assisted by a cover officer and it is preferred a second canine handler, if available.
- d) The canine should not be used as the primary force option unless the situation dictates otherwise. When possible, once the suspect has been located the canine will be kept a safe distance away from the suspect while cover officers utilize other tools available to them to safely take the suspect into custody.

## **Announcement and Opportunity for Peaceful Resolution**

Officers must be mindful of any known or reasonably believed barriers to cooperation such as perception barriers, mental or emotional capacity, physical and language barriers, including whether the individual is known or believed to be deaf or hard of hearing. The ability of a person to respond to commands should be a critical piece of the canine handler's assessment when looking at the totality of the circumstances and deciding how to deploy the canine.

The handler(officer) must give a loud police canine announcement prior to deploying a canine for searching or apprehension and throughout the search. The canine announcement must include the officer's authority, what the officer wants the subject to do, and what will happen if the subject does not comply. The warning must tell subjects that a police canine may find them and they may be bitten.

For searching/tracking:

- a) The canine announcement must be substantially similar to, "Saint Paul Police Canine, come out to the sound of my voice with your hands up or my dog will find you and may bite you", and must be given periodically throughout the search.
- b) The canine announcement must be given at least one time on every floor while searching inside of a building, when the environment changes, and every time the canine teams has moved to an area where the previous canine warning may not have been heard.
- c) When the canine indicates the presence of a person additional canine warnings must be given.

When a canine handler encounters an individual fleeing and they are authorized by policy to physically apprehend the person, the handler must give the following announcement or similar:

- a) "Police canine stop now, or my dog may bite you."

In exceptional circumstances, such as during a SWAT or tactical response, where giving the canine announcement would create an imminent threat of physical harm to officers, or public, the canine officer may allow the canine to apprehend without warning. For those circumstances that the canine announcement is not made, the facts supporting the decision must be included in the canine handler's and scene supervisor's reports.

## **General Provisions**

In all applications, once the subject or suspect has been located and no longer reasonably appears to represent a threat or risk of escape, the handler should secure the canine as soon as it becomes reasonably practical.

Police canines will not be used for crowd control or to move groups of people in civil disturbances, peaceful demonstrations, crowd control formation, or labor strikes. Police canine teams should not be directed to assist with civil disturbances except in emergency circumstances.

If at any time a canine handler is uncertain about a canine deployment, the handler must consult with a canine supervisor. If no canine supervisor is available, the handler must not deploy the canine.

### **Physical Contact Procedures**

If the canine has apprehended a suspect with a secure bite, the handler must promptly command the canine to release the suspect when the use of the canine is no longer necessary.

Whenever there is physical contact between a canine and a person while a canine is deployed in an operational mission, including while being used to search or apprehend, the canine handler must call for emergency medical services to evaluate the person as soon as it is safe to do so.

Emergency medical services must also be called whenever there is unintended contact between a canine and a person that results in any suspected injury or complaint of injury. The handler must also do the following:

- a) Immediately notify their supervisor or, if unavailable, another on-duty supervisor
- b) Notify a canine supervisor as soon as possible.

An on-duty canine or district sergeant must respond to the scene to ensure emergency medical services have been called if there is any injury, complaint of injury, or suspected injury. In accordance with G.O. 246.03, the supervisor will notify the watch commander, or in the watch commander's absence the appropriate district commander, to ensure the incident is communicated. The supervisor must also complete a supplemental incident report.

### **Certification**

All canine handlers must successfully complete the St. Paul Police Basic Canine Handler's Course and be approved for deployment by the head trainer and the canine unit commander prior to deploying a canine.

To maintain skills learned in the basic handler's course, new canines must also certify maintenance of skills with the United States Police Canine Association at a sanctioned United States Police Canine Association Regional Police Dog 1 (PD1) Field Trial, and Tracking Trial, or similar organization. During this period and while actively working as a department canine, new canines will be assessed by canine unit trainers at least twice a month to ensure that the handler is maintaining proper control of the police canine and that proper development of the canine team is being accomplished. The trainer assessing the new canine team will document the training, the training plan, and the assessment of the new canine team. The canine unit commander must be notified whenever a police canine or handler is not performing to satisfactory standards.

Once the canine team is certified by the United States Police Canine Association they will be required to certify annually at a sanctioned United States Police Canine Association Regional Police Dog 1 (PD1) Field Trials, and Tracking Trials, or similar organization.

Narcotics and Explosives detecting canines will be certified by the United States Police Canine Association at a regionally sanctioned detector dog trial prior to being deployed for narcotics or explosives detection. Each narcotics or explosives detecting canine will thereafter be certified annually at a United States Police Canine Association detector dog trial or similar organization.

### **Injured Canine Handler**

If a handler is down or injured, the assisting officer must as soon as it is safe to do so:

- Call to the handler. If they can, the handler will call the dog.
- If possible, try to call the dog into the rear of an open canine vehicle.
- Attempt to get another handler at the scene as soon as possible. They will be able to get to the handler faster. They has received instructions in handling this type of situation.

### **ECD /Canine Deployment**

Do not deploy the ECD while a police canine is attempting or engaged in the physical apprehension of a subject.

### **Outside Agency Canine Teams – Operating Within the City of Saint Paul**

Canine teams from other agencies are not authorized to assist in department investigations, except in exigent circumstances approved by the deputy chief of operations, assistant chief, or chief.

### **Saint Paul Police Canine Assistance to Other Agencies**

A request from another agency for out-of-city canine response is a request for interagency assistance. The canine unit may assist out-of-city agencies on calls located within 25 miles of the city in response to a request for emergency canine support only if authorized pursuant to this policy.

Any out-of-city response must be based on (1) a request from the agency with primary jurisdiction, (2) a sufficient situational briefing, and (3) authorization from the canine unit commander, deputy chief of operations, assistant chief, or chief. Requests for authorization should be made first to the canine unit commander and then proceeding along the chain of command if the canine unit commander is not available.

The request for agency assistance should include the following information:

- Canine services being requested (Tracking, building search, narcotics or explosives detection, article search?) \*If tracking confirm they have a large enough perimeter.
- Crime they are investigating or original crime of the warrant if appropriate.
- Any weapons or officer safety information.
- Location where the canine officer should respond to (may not be the crime location, last place the suspect was observed or may be located).
- Radio channel they will be using (If they do not have a PTAC or LTAC request they get one).
- Name and contact number for person requesting canine to include agency and cell phone numbers.

Calls for service within Saint Paul take priority. Unless exigent circumstances exist, there should always be at least one canine team on duty within the city.

If the request for support is approved, a canine officer will be sent to assist the outside agency. One additional officer will be sent to respond as a cover officer. The cover officer will be determined using the following criteria:

- If there are three (3) or more department canine officers on duty, then a second department canine officer will be sent as the cover officer.
- If there is not a department canine officer available to respond as the cover officer, then a department patrol officer from a district will be directed to respond. Preference should be given to an officer who is, SWAT Officer or prior canine officer.

All responding officers must follow the policy and procedures of the Saint Paul Police Department at all times while assisting outside of the city.

A written report will be made by all officers assisting an outside agency. This includes the canine officer and cover officers.

The canine officer sent to assist an out-of-city agency will be in charge of canine operations. The canine officer will determine the canine tactics to be used. Upon arrival, the canine officer sent to assist the out-of-city agency will re-evaluate the request for canine assistance and determine whether they will be able to assist based on department policies and procedures, including this policy and the general orders for responding to resistance or aggression. If a conflict arises, the canine officer will contact the supervisor who authorized the assistance to resolve the issue.

### **Exceptional authorization**

In addition to the regulations under this order, the canine unit commander may contact the deputy chief of operations, assistant chief, or chief to deploy a canine team in exigent and exceptional circumstances. The designated chief has all final authorization to approve exceptional canine deployments or other use.