I. POLICY

It is the policy of this police department to use police canines to improve investigative effectiveness and enhance both officer and public safety.

The decision to use the canine rests with the canine handler, subject to department policy and any reasonable limitations that may be imposed by a supervisor. A canine cannot be deployed over the objection of a supervisor and a canine cannot be deployed over the objection of the handler.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Canine Coordinator

The Patrol Commander serves as the canine coordinator. The responsibilities of the coordinator include, but are not limited to:

1. Reviewing all canine use reports to ensure compliance with policy and to identify training issues and other needs of the program.
2. Maintaining a liaison with other agency canine coordinators.
3. Maintaining accurate records to document canine activities.
4. Recommending and overseeing the procurement of equipment and services for the handler and canine.
5. Oversee scheduling all canine-related activities.
6. Ensuring the canine team is scheduled for regular training to maximize their capabilities.

B. Outside Agency Request for Canine Assistance

All requests for immediate canine assistance from outside agencies must be approved by the Watch Commander and are subject to the following:

1. Canine teams (handler and canine) shall not be used for any assignment that is not consistent with this policy.
2. The canine handler shall have the authority to decline a request for any specific assignment they deem unsuitable.
3. Calling out off-duty canine teams is discouraged.
4. It shall be the responsibility of the canine handler to coordinate operations with agency personnel in order to minimize the risk of unintended injury.
5. It shall be the responsibility of the canine handler to complete all necessary reports or as directed.
All requests for planned canine assistance from outside agencies must be approved by the Patrol Commander or the Deputy Police Chief.

C. Davis PD Canine Handler Call Out

If no canine is on duty and a police canine is needed, the duty Watch Commander should request an on-duty canine from the West Sacramento Police Department, Woodland Police Department or the Sacramento Police Department in accordance with PP 2.09-B, Mutual Aid. If no canine is available from those agencies, the Watch Commander may call out a Davis PD canine handler in any of the following circumstances:

1. A suspect was seen and a perimeter was set up in a timely manner.
2. A suspect is likely to be hiding in a structure or other area of concealment.
3. A warrant is being served and the suspect is likely to flee.
4. The canine is needed for use in narcotic or drug detection.

D. Public Demonstrations

All public requests for a canine team shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, approved by the Canine Coordinator prior to making any resource commitment. The Canine Coordinator is responsible for obtaining resources and coordinating involvement in the demonstration to include proper safety protocols. Canine handlers shall not demonstrate any apprehension work unless authorized to do so by the Deputy Police Chief.

E. Apprehension Guidelines

1. Use of Canine

A canine may be used to locate and apprehend a person if the canine handler reasonably believes that the individual has either committed, is committing or threatening to commit any serious offense and if any of the following conditions exist:

   a. There is a reasonable belief the person poses an imminent threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any officer or the handler.
   b. The person is physically resisting or threatening to resist arrest and the use of a canine reasonably appears to be necessary to overcome such resistance.
   c. The person is believed to be concealed in an area where entry by other than the canine would pose a threat to the safety of officers or the public.

It is recognized that situations may arise that do not fall within the provisions set forth in this policy. Such events require consideration of the totality of the circumstances and the use of an objective reasonableness standard applied to the decision to use a canine.

Absent a reasonable belief that a suspect has committed, is committing or is threatening to commit a serious offense, mere flight from a pursuing officer, without any of the above conditions, shall not serve as the basis for the use of a canine to apprehend a suspect.

Use of a canine to locate and apprehend a suspect wanted for a lesser criminal offense than those identified above requires approval from the Watch Commander. Absent a change in circumstances that present an imminent threat to officers, the canine or the public, such canine use should be conducted on-leash or under conditions that minimize the likelihood the canine will bite or otherwise injure the individual.
In all applications, once the suspect has been located and no longer reasonably appears to present a threat or risk of escape, the handler should secure the canine as soon as it becomes reasonably practicable.

If the canine has apprehended the suspect with a secure bite, and the handler believes that the suspect no longer poses a threat, the handler should promptly command the canine to release the suspect.

2. Preparation for Deployment

Prior to the use of a canine to search for or apprehend any suspect, the canine handler and/or the supervisor on-scene should carefully consider all pertinent information reasonably available at the time. The information should include, but is not limited to:

a. The nature and seriousness of the suspected offense.
b. Whether violence or weapons were used or are anticipated.
c. The degree of resistance or threatened resistance, if any, the suspect has shown.
d. The suspect’s known or perceived age.
e. The potential for injury to officers or the public caused by the suspect if the canine is not utilized.
f. Any potential danger to the public and/or other officers/deputies at the scene if the canine is released.
g. The potential for the suspect to escape or flee if the canine is not utilized.

As circumstances permit, the canine handler should make every reasonable effort to communicate and coordinate with other involved members to minimize the risk of unintended injury.

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 shall have the authority to decline the use of the canine whenever they deem deployment is unsuitable.

A supervisor who is sufficiently apprised of the situation may prohibit deploying the canine.

Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, assisting members should take direction from the handler in order to minimize interference with the canine.

3. Warnings and Announcements

Unless it would increase the risk of injury or escape, a clearly audible warning announcing that a canine will be used if the suspect does not surrender should be made prior to releasing a canine. The handler should allow a reasonable time for a suspect to surrender and should quiet the canine momentarily to listen for any verbal response to the warning. If feasible, other members should be in a location opposite the warning to verify that the announcement could be heard. If available, warnings given in other languages should be used as necessary.

If a warning is not to be given, the canine handler, when practicable, should first advise the supervisor of their decision before releasing the canine. In the event of an apprehension, the handler shall document in any related report how the warning was given and, if none was given, the reasons why.
4. Reporting Deployments, Bites and/or Injuries.

a. The injured person shall be promptly treated by emergency medical services personnel and, if appropriate, transported to an appropriate medical facility for further treatment. The deployment and injuries should also be included in any related incident or arrest report.

b. Whenever a canine deployment results in a bite or causes injury to an intended person, the medical and reporting procedures contained in PP 3.05-A, Use of Force, will be followed. The completed Canine Use Report shall be forwarded to the Office of the Police Chief for review. The Office of the Police Chief will evaluate the incident for purposes of training, resource allocation, analysis and related purposes.

c. Any unintended bite or injury caused by a canine, whether on- or off-duty, shall be promptly reported to the Canine Coordinator or to the Chief/Deputy Chief. Unintended bites or injuries caused by a canine should be documented in an internal memorandum to the Office of the Police Chief, not in a canine use report.

d. If an individual alleges an injury, either visible or not visible, a supervisor shall be notified and both the individual’s injured and uninjured areas shall be photographed as soon as practicable after first tending to the immediate needs of the injured party. Photographs shall be retained as evidence in accordance with current department evidence procedures. The photographs shall be retained until the criminal proceeding is completed and the time for any related civil proceeding has expired.

e. Canines used by law enforcement agencies are generally exempt from impoundment and reporting requirements. However, the canine shall be made available for examination at any reasonable time if requested by the local health department. The canine handler shall also notify the local health department if the canine exhibits any abnormal behavior after a bite (Health and Safety Code § 121685).

F. Non-Apprehension Guidelines

1. Properly trained canines may be used to track or search for non-criminals (e.g., lost children, individuals who may be disoriented or in need of medical attention). The canine handler is responsible for determining the canine’s suitability for such assignments based on the conditions and the particular abilities of the canine. When the canine is deployed in a search or other non-apprehension operation, the following guidelines apply:

a. Absent a change in circumstances that present an immediate threat to officers, the canine or the public, such applications should be conducted on-leash or under conditions that minimize the likelihood the canine will bite or otherwise injure the individual, if located.

b. Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, assisting members should take direction from the handler in order to minimize interference with the canine.

c. Throughout the deployment the handler should periodically give verbal assurances that the canine will not bite or hurt the individual and encourage the individual to make him/herself known.

d. Once the individual has been located, the handler should place the canine in a down-stay or otherwise secure it as soon as reasonably practicable.
2. Article Detection

A canine trained to find objects or property related to a person or crime may be used to locate or identify articles. A canine search should be conducted in a manner that minimizes the likelihood of unintended bites or injuries.

3. Narcotics Detection

A canine trained in narcotics detection may be used in accordance with current law and under certain circumstances, including:

a. The search of vehicles, buildings, bags and other articles.
b. Assisting in the search for narcotics during a search warrant service.
c. Obtaining a search warrant by using the narcotics-detection trained canine in support of probable cause.

A narcotics-detection trained canine will not be used to search a person for narcotics unless the canine is trained to passively indicate the presence of narcotics.

G. Handler Responsibilities

1. The canine handler shall ultimately be responsible for the health and welfare of the canine and shall ensure that the canine receives proper nutrition, grooming, training, medical care, affection and living conditions.

2. The canine handler will be responsible for the following:

   a. Except as required during appropriate deployment, the handler shall not expose the canine to any foreseeable and unreasonable risk of harm.
   b. The handler shall maintain all department equipment under their control in a clean and serviceable condition.
   c. When a handler is off-duty for an extended number of days, the assigned canine vehicle should be stored at the Davis Police Department.
   d. Handlers shall permit the canine coordinator to conduct kennel inspections as well as inspections of their canine vehicles to verify that conditions and equipment conform to this policy.
   e. Any changes in the living status of the handler that may affect the lodging or environment of the canine shall be reported to the canine coordinator as soon as possible.
   f. When off-duty, the canine shall be kept by the handler so the canine does not pose a foreseeable risk of harm to others. When a canine is secured at the handler’s home unattended, the canine shall be secured in locked quarters.
   g. Under no circumstances will the canine be lodged without the handler at another location unless approved by the Canine Coordinator or the Deputy Police Chief.
   h. When off-duty, the handler shall not involve the canine in any law enforcement activity or official conduct unless approved in advance by the canine coordinator or a deputy chief.
   i. Whenever a canine handler is off-duty for an extended number of days, it may be necessary to temporarily relocate the canine. In those situations, the handler shall give reasonable notice to the canine coordinator so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
3. The canine should be kept on a leash or under direct voice control when in areas that allow access to the public. Exceptions to this rule would include specific law enforcement operations for which the canine is trained.

4. A canine shall not be left unattended in any area to which the public may have access.

5. When the canine vehicle is left unattended, all windows and doors shall be secured in such a manner as to prevent unauthorized access to the dog. The handler shall also ensure that the unattended vehicle remains inhabitable for the canine.

H. Canine Injury and Medical Care

In the event that a canine is injured, or there is an indication that the canine is not in good physical condition, the injury or condition will be reported to the Canine Coordinator or the Deputy Police Chief as soon as practicable and appropriately documented.

All medical attention shall be rendered by the designated canine veterinarian, except during an emergency where treatment should be obtained from the nearest available veterinarian. All records of medical treatment shall be maintained in the handler’s personnel file.

I. Training

Before assignment in the field, each canine team shall be trained and certified to meet current POST guidelines or other recognized and approved certification standards. Cross-trained canine teams or those canine teams trained exclusively for the detection of narcotics and/or explosives also shall be trained and certified pursuant to POST standards or other recognized and approved certification standards established for their particular skills.

The Canine Coordinator shall be responsible for scheduling periodic training for all department members in order to familiarize them with how to conduct themselves in the presence of department canines.

All canine training should be conducted while on-duty unless otherwise approved by the Canine Coordinator or the Deputy Police Chief.

1. Continued Training. Each canine team shall thereafter be recertified to a current POST, CNCA or other recognized and approved certification standards on an annual basis. Additional training considerations are as follows:

   a. Canine teams should receive training as defined in the current contract with the canine training provider.
   b. Canine handlers are encouraged to engage in additional training with approval of the Canine Coordinator.
   c. To ensure that all training is consistent, no handler, trainer or outside vendor is authorized to train to a standard that is not reviewed and approved by this department.

2. Failure to Successfully Complete Training

   Any canine team failing to graduate or obtain certification shall not be deployed in the field for tasks the team is not certified to perform until graduation or certification is achieved. When reasonably practicable, pending successful certification, the canine handler shall be temporarily reassigned to regular patrol duties.
3. Training Records

All canine training records shall be maintained in the canine handler’s and the canine’s training file.

4. Training Aids

Training aids are required to effectively train and maintain the skills of canines. Officers possessing, using or transporting controlled substances or explosives for canine training purposes must comply with federal and state requirements regarding the same. Alternatively, the handler may work with outside trainers with the applicable licenses or permits.

5. Controlled Substance Training Aids

Canine controlled substance Officers acting in the performance of their official duties may possess or transfer controlled substances for the purpose of narcotics-detection canine training in compliance with state and federal laws (Health & Safety Code § 11367.5; 21 USC § 823(f)).

The Police Chief or the Deputy Chief may authorize a member to seek a court order to allow controlled substances seized by the Davis Police Department to be possessed by the member or a narcotics-detection canine trainer who is working under the direction of this department for training purposes, provided the controlled substances are no longer needed as criminal evidence.

As an alternative, the Police Chief or the Deputy Chief may request narcotics training aids from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

These procedures are not required if the canine handler uses commercially available synthetic substances that are not controlled narcotics.

6. Controlled Substance Procedures

Due to the responsibilities and liabilities involved with possessing readily usable amounts of controlled substances and the ever-present danger of the canine’s accidental ingestion of these controlled substances, the following procedures shall be strictly followed:

a. All controlled substance training samples shall be weighed and tested prior to dispensing to the individual canine handler or trainer.

b. The weight and test results shall be recorded and maintained by this department.

c. Any person possessing controlled substance training samples pursuant to court order or DEA registration shall maintain custody and control of the controlled substances and shall keep records regarding any loss of, or damage to, those controlled substances.

d. All controlled substance training samples will be inspected, weighed and tested quarterly. The results of the quarterly testing shall be recorded and maintained by the Canine Coordinator with a copy forwarded to the dispensing agency.

e. All controlled substance training samples will be stored in locked, airtight and watertight cases at all times, except during training. The locked cases shall be secured
in the trunk of the canine handler’s assigned patrol vehicle during transport and stored in an appropriate locked container. There are no exceptions to this procedure.

f. The Canine Coordinator shall periodically inspect every controlled substance training sample for damage or tampering and take any appropriate action.

g. Any unusable controlled substance training samples shall be returned to the Evidence/Property Room or to the dispensing agency.

h. All controlled substance training samples shall be returned to the dispensing agency upon the conclusion of the training or upon demand by the dispensing agency.

Darren Pytel
Police Chief

Revised
7/03
8/04
10/08 changes to call out procedure and training
04/11 changes to II A, add II f
03/17 policy updated
02/19 policy updated
11/19 typo fixed

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