



**PITTSBURGH
BUREAU OF
POLICE**

*"...honor, integrity, courage, respect,
and compassion."*

SUBJECT:

**"RESPONSIBILITIES AND
UTILIZATION OF CANINE
OFFICERS"**

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1.0 PURPOSE/POLICY

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to outline the duties, responsibilities, regulations, and structure governing canine officers of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police as well as provide guidelines for officers, supervisors & handlers to follow when utilizing the canine teams.
- 1.2 It is the policy of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police to create and train canine teams to support the mission of the Bureau of Police. Canine teams shall aid in locating people and individual items and will assist in apprehensions when necessary. Canine handlers are governed by the rules, regulations, and procedures prescribed for other members of the Bureau in so far as they are applicable. Police officers are encouraged to work closely with the Canine teams.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Canine Team - The officer/handler and his/her assigned canine. Canine teams will respond to all calls for service as needed as a support unit.
- 2.2 Deployment - Deployment is established when the handler uses the canine to accomplish any goal of law enforcement, from searches to complementing officer safety. The mere presence of a canine at a scene is not deployment.
- 2.3 Management – Defined as the rank of Commander and above, in consultation with assigned Lieutenant and Sergeant.

3.0 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Duties of the canine handler include the proper training, handling, boarding, deployment, and care of their assigned canine in addition to their duties and responsibilities as a police officer.
 - 3.1.1 Canine officers are responsible for the general well-being and the performance of their canines. Canine officers will be on alert for possible hazards that could affect the health and well-being of the dog. Canine officers will keep their canines in peak operating condition; this includes weight management and overall performance-drive satisfaction.
 - 3.1.2 Canine handlers are responsible for the care and maintenance of their issued canine equipment. The issued canine equipment will be returned in serviceable condition to the PBP upon the officer’s reassignment, retirement, or under orders of the Chief of Police or his/her designee. [REDACTED]
- 3.2 [REDACTED] The remaining hours shall be spent on patrol.

4.0 GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 4.1 Canine officers are under the immediate supervision of the SDD Commander, SDD Supervisor, or thier designee for special events and operations.

4.1.1. Canine officers are under the immediate supervision of SDD Commander, SDD supervisor, or their designee for their regular tours of duty unless otherwise assigned.

4.2 CANINE HANDLERS

4.2.1 The Chief of Police or their designee shall select canine handlers in accordance with the Working Agreement between FOP Lodge #1 and the City of Pittsburgh.

4.2.2 Canine handler annual performance evaluations will be conducted in accordance with General Order #22-01, "Performance Evaluations for Police Officers." In addition, the canine trainers will conduct a canine-specific performance evaluation for each canine handler, along with annual certifications.

4.2.3 Canine teams will be assessed annually for retention and/or retirement during annual performance evaluations. Areas that shall be considered when determining handler retention will include, but are not limited to, the following:

4.2.3.1 Performance evaluations

4.2.3.2 Canine Use Reports submitted for approval

4.2.3.3 Discipline

4.2.3.4 Competency as a canine handler as determined by the canine training staff and PBP/SDD Management.

4.3 CANINES

4.3.1 All dogs selected and used by City of Pittsburgh / Region 13 shall be considered the property of the City of Pittsburgh or Region 13, respectively. Only dogs selected and procured by PBP/SDD canine Management and PBP canine trainers are authorized for use by PBP canine handlers.

4.3.2 The well-being of a PBP canine, and the 24-hour general day-to-day care and maintenance of the canine, shall be the primary concern of the handler. The handler shall be knowledgeable of the provisions set forth in this policy in regards to care and maintenance of the canine.

4.3.2.1 Handlers owning additional animals may be excluded from being a canine handler if the living conditions are not compatible with the proper care and maintenance of the PBP canine

4.3.3 Canines that are [REDACTED] old & younger will be considered for redeployment with another handler when the current handler is removed from the canine unit. Dogs no longer suited for police work as determined by SDD Commander, in consultation with the Lieutenant, Sergeant, and canine academy training staff will be retired from service and placed with the former handler, when possible. The placement of retired animals is at the discretion of PBP Management.

4.3.4 Canine handlers may have their dogs retired due to age or ineffectiveness, to include but not limited to, physical ability, drive and overall health, as determined by the SDD Commander, in consultation with the Lieutenant, Sergeant, and the canine training academy staff.

4.3.5 In accordance with Pa. Crimes Code Title 18 section 5511(f), canines are not permitted to work more than fifteen (15) hours in a consecutive twenty-four (24) hour period or more than ninety (90) hours in any one week.

4.4 CANINE CARE AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

4.4.1 Under normal circumstances, handlers will take their canine to an approved and authorized animal care facility for care or injury.

4.4.1.1. In an emergency, the closest facility may be utilized. SDD Supervisors and canine training academy staff shall be notified of any emergencies at the earliest and most practical time.

- 4.4.1.2. Non-emergency procedures outside of routine vet care must receive prior authorization from the Canine Sergeant or their designee. All vet reports must be forwarded to the canine training academy to be added to the canine's file.
- 4.4.2 Vehicles and kennels used by handlers to transport / house their canine shall be kept clean and sanitary. Vehicles / kennels shall be cleaned at the conclusion of the handler's tour of duty.
- 4.4.3 Before the start of their tour of duty, canine handlers shall inspect their vehicle for hazards and ensure that all equipment is functioning properly. Vehicles with faulty equipment shall be removed from service and proper notifications shall be made to ensure that the vehicle is sent for repairs in a timely manner.
- 4.4.4 Transportation of a canine is only permitted in a PBP approved kennel, unless preparing to deploy.
- 4.4.5 Non-canine officers shall not utilize canine vehicles for patrol functions unless authorized by an SDD Supervisor.

4.5 CANINE TEAM TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

4.5.1 All canine teams will be trained in the following areas:

- Complete an entry level training program which consists of instruction on basic working dog skills, applicable specialty skills, and team training with assigned handlers.
- Obedience and Agility
- Area, Article & Building searches
- Criminal Suspect Apprehension
- Article Detection, to include narcotics or explosives detection
- Tracking criminal(s) or endangered person(s)
- Evidence Recovery
- Public Relations
- Patrol Duties

4.5.2 It will be the responsibility of all handlers during the course of their training, to participate in all aspects of the training exercises. This will help to ensure every canine team benefits equally during their development and instruction. Handlers will participate in not less than 16 hours of monthly maintenance training within the parameters of Act 60.

4.5.3 It is the responsibility of the handler to properly document all training received on the provided canine in-service sheets. This is necessary in order to evaluate each canine team's progress, as well as current operating status. [REDACTED]

4.5.4 Handlers will submit all required documentation of each in-service training session at the end of each training day, unless otherwise instructed.

4.5.5. Handlers will adhere to the training requirements of MPOETC Act 60 which may include mandatory membership to a certifying organization. Handlers will be evaluated and approved by a trainer operating with the approval of one of the organizations identified in Act 60.

4.5.6. This policy applies to special service canines to include but not limited to Bloodhound, accelerant detection/Arson. This standard does not apply to agency therapy dogs who are not cross trained in a "field" discipline such as explosive, narcotics, tracking, or patrol.

4.5.7 Maintain records of all basic and maintenance training and evaluations, successful or unsuccessful, for the duration of the canine unit's service, plus (5) five years.

5.0 CANINE UTILIZATION PROTOCOLS

- 5.1 Canines will deploy when probable cause exists to suspect that a felony or other violent crime has been or is being committed or officer safety is threatened. Actors that fight, flee, or become aggressive may be apprehended/bitten by the canine.
- 5.2 Handlers will assess situations and decide how and whether or not to deploy the canine unless directed not to deploy by an on-scene supervisor.
- 5.3 When there is a canine deployment, officers shall keep presence of mind regarding their actions and proximity to the canine. Police officers shall not tease or incite any police canine.
- 5.4 A "Canine Warning" should be given prior to releasing the dog unless, in the opinion of the handler, doing so would cause undue risk to the canine team.
 - 5.4.1 The warning should announce the presence of the officer and the canine, and that the failure to comply with verbal commands will cause you to release the dog, and that he/she will be bitten.
 - 5.4.2 There will be a minimum of three (3) warnings, when practicable.
 - 5.4.3 Handlers will complete a PBP Form #10.20, "Use of Canine Report" when a canine is deployed. Handlers will complete all required paper work, to include a "Subject Resistance Report" (Use of Force Report) in the event the canine makes an apprehension. The required reports will be submitted to the canine supervisor and the canine training academy for deployment data.

6.0 CANINE APPREHENSION PROTOCOLS

- 6.1 The safety of all involved parties and the effectiveness of the use of the canine will be assessed when considered for apprehension. Use of canines for apprehension will be as outlined in this policy and in accordance with current case law.
- 6.2 A police canine may be used to apprehend an individual if:
 - 6.2.1 The canine handler reasonably believes that the individual has either committed or has threatened to commit any serious offense and if any of the following conditions exist:
 - 6.2.1.1 There is a reasonable belief that the individual poses an immediate threat of violence or serious harm to anyone.
 - 6.2.1.2 The individual is physically resisting or is threatening to resist arrest and the use of a police canine appears necessary to overcome such resistance.
 - 6.2.1.3 The individual is believed to be concealed in an area where entry by other than the canine would compromise officer safety.
- 6.3 When there is a canine apprehension, the canine shall be recalled from the apprehension as soon as the suspect has been secured.
- 6.4 Canine bites will be classified into two (2) categories: Deployment & Incidental.
 - 6.4.1 Deployment apprehension – When the canine has been directed to apprehend a specific individual.
 - 6.4.2 Incidental bites – Bites that occur during the course of business when the canine has not been directed to make an apprehension. These may occur on active scenes or during training.
 - 6.4.2.1 When an incidental bite occurs, a PBP Form #54.0, "Special Report," along with copies of any supporting police reports, shall be submitted to the SDD Commander which will provide a full explanation of the event.

6.4.3 Any individual who has been bitten by a PBP canine shall be transported to a hospital for medical treatment. The Crime Scene Unit will be notified to respond to the treatment facility to photograph injuries caused by a PBP canine.

7.0 AREA/BUILDING SEARCHES

7.1 Officers shall not contaminate the area where the canine team will be searching. Officers are to establish a tactically sound perimeter that will allow for visual confirmation of movement within the area. Contamination of the search area will make the search more difficult for the canine team.

7.2 When there is a need to locate a suspect(s) in a specified area, the following procedure shall be followed by the requesting officer:

- Make a request for a canine unit to respond.
- Attempt to have a key holder respond if in a building or locked area.
- Gather as much information as possible, such as:
 - Point of entry
 - Layout of the search area
 - Possible hazards
 - Number of actors
- Relay all known information to the Canine handler upon their arrival.
- Assist the Canine team as directed by the handler.
- Canine handlers will coordinate the search.

7.3 If no suspect or contraband is found during the search and a police report is generated, the reporting officer shall note the use of the canine. Handlers will complete a PBP, "Use of Canine Report", and a PBP, "Supplemental Report", if needed.

8.0 TRACKING SUSPECTS

8.1 During this type of deployment, the canine team will utilize various tracking strategies. The decision of how and when to initiate a track rests with the canine handler on scene, based on the totality of the circumstances.

8.2 Officers shall not contaminate the area where the canine team will be searching. Officers are to establish a tactically sound perimeter that will allow for visual confirmation of movement within the area. Contamination of the search area will make the search more difficult for the canine team.

8.3 If the suspect(s) are located, the handler will take or direct control of the situation.

8.4 When there is a canine apprehension, the canine shall be recalled from the apprehension as soon as the suspect has been secured.

9.0 CANINE USE FOR CROWD MANAGEMENT

9.1 The mere presence of canines in crowd management situations serve as a psychological deterrent and their use will be at the discretion of the canine handler in conjunction with the on-scene Supervisor.

9.2 Canines may be used for crowd management when the crowd becomes otherwise unmanageable, threatening officer safety, and/or to de-escalate behavior which is threatening public safety.

9.3 The following procedure shall be followed when deploying canine teams for crowd management:

- Warnings will be given regarding the use of canines, when reasonable and such warning(s) will not be detrimental to officer safety
- When feasible, the warnings will be broadcast over an amplification system, following crowd management best practices.
- When deployed in conjunction with Field Force Operations (FFO), the canine(s) will deploy to the rear of the

formation.

- Canines will be used for targeted arrests and flank security of the Mobile Field Force (MFF).
- Approved crowd management procedures will be followed for the arrest of suspects.
- Canine bite protocols will be followed, in the event of an arrest or bite.
- The Incident Commander will make decisions regarding the deployment of canines in crowd management scenarios.

10.0 S.W.A.T. CANINES

- 10.1 PBP canines assigned to handlers who are members of S.W.A.T. may utilize their canines in a manner consistent with the PBP Manual of Procedural Orders, Pittsburgh Police Canine Training & Deployment protocols, and S.W.A.T. Operations.
- 10.2 Handlers shall maintain operational awareness of the canine team's abilities and shall only insert the canine where positive performance has been demonstrated in training and deployment under the supervision and direction of the canine training staff.
- 10.3 Generally, Pittsburgh Police canines will not be used to search when an armed encounter is likely. The Incident Commander may direct the use of canines in likely armed encounters where it has been determined that the area to be traversed and searched creates unacceptable risk (e.g.: uneven terrain, thick foliage, limited space, etc.) to PBP personnel.

11.0 DRUG DETECTION

- 11.1 Drug detection canines discover the odor of various drugs, identified on the Canine Drug Detection Certification. Canine teams working in conjunction with the training staff will ensure that canine teams maintain a proficiency level in all certified odors.
- 11.2 Drug detection canines can be helpful in locating illegal narcotic odors in vehicles, places, packages and on currency.
- 11.3 The guidelines set forth may be more restrictive than current case law and are the policy of the PBP.
- 11.4 Pittsburgh Police canines do not sniff/search people.
- 11.5 The use of a drug detection dog to sniff vehicles, places, and packages is not a search requiring probable cause, and is non-intrusive. However, it is the policy of the PBP that reasonable suspicion exists to utilize the dog to sniff the vehicles, places & packages (*Refer to General Order #45-02, "Warrantless Searches and Seizures"*).
- 11.6 When there is a need to sniff a vehicle, place, or package, the following procedure will be followed by the requesting officer:
- Secure the item to be sniffed unless additional circumstances dictate otherwise.
 - Request for a "Drug Dog" to respond.
 - If the request is for a vehicle sniff, ensure that the windows of the vehicle are closed.
 - Note any possible hazards related to the sniff.
 - Relay all known information to the canine handler upon arrival.
 - The handler will utilize the canine once all deployment criteria is met.
 - The handler will note the location of the narcotic odor & notify the investigating officer.
- 11.6.1 If no contraband is found during the sniff and a police report is generated, the investigating officer shall note the use of the canine. Handlers will complete a PBP Form #10.20, "Use of Canine Report" and submit it to the canine Supervisor.
- 11.6.2 If contraband is detected during the sniff, the handler shall complete a PBP, "Supplemental Report" and a PBP, "Use of Canine Report". Investigating officers are bound to continue the investigation.

11.6.3 If contraband is detected during the sniff while assisting an outside agency, the handler will complete a PBP, "Incident Report", and a PBP, "Use of Canine Report."

12.0 EXPLOSIVE DETECTION

12.1 Explosive Detection Dogs support the mission of the Bureau of Police. When deployed, explosive detection canines can locate and detect the odor of ingredients used to make explosive devices, including firearms & ammunition.

12.2 Explosive Detection canines are one tool utilized in response to a Class 1 or Class 2 call (*Refer to G.O. #42-06, "Bombs/ Bomb threats/ Explosives/ Post Blasts/ Suspicious Packages"*).

12.2.1 Class 1 Response: Explosive Detection canines may be deployed to search the surrounding area for secondary explosive devices. The suspected explosive item will not be sniffed or searched by the canine unless directed to do so by an E.O.D. technician.

12.2.2 Class 2 Response: Explosive Detection canines may be deployed to search the target area of a Class 2 call.

12.3 Preventive canine sweeps: As part of comprehensive security measures, Explosive Detection canines can be used to search areas for explosive devices where public/special events are held.

12.3.1 E.O.D. Technicians should be on-scene for all preventive canine sweeps/searches. E.O.D. Technicians will be available to check areas inaccessible by the canine and to investigate positive alerts.

12.3.2 Canine Teams working in conjunction with the training staff will ensure that canine teams maintain a proficiency level in all certified odors.

13.0 TRACKING MISSING/ENDANGERED PERSONS

13.1 The tracking of missing/endangered persons will be done by the bloodhound team. An on-duty canine handler and the responding officer or shift supervisor will discuss the use of the bloodhound. If it is determined that the best course of action is to use the bloodhound team, the request for the bloodhound team will be made via police radio. Dispatch will make the necessary notifications.

13.1.1 Patrol officer guidelines:

- Patrol Officers shall secure the scene and set up a containment perimeter.
- Make a request for a canine unit to respond.
- Establish the last known location of the person sought.
- Gather as much information as possible, such as:
 - Point of entry
 - Layout of search area
 - Possible hazards/weapons
 - Number of persons sought
 - Other information deemed necessary for the safety of the public and police
- Relay all known information to the Canine handler upon their arrival.
- Assist the canine team as directed by the handler.

14.0 MUTUAL AID

14.1 It shall be the policy of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police to support the efforts of other law enforcement agencies. Therefore, any call for canine support shall be honored when that request is within the working guidelines of our canine policy and it is feasible for a canine to assist.

14.2 Requests for aid shall be made through the Allegheny County Emergency Operations Center who will make the proper notifications and obtain permission from an SDD Supervisor or their designee to dispatch a canine unit.

15.0 CANINE DEMONSTRATION REQUESTS

15.1 Specific canine teams designated by the SDD Supervisor shall be utilized for canine demonstration requests. The canine's temperament and sociability in relation to the specific request shall be considered when assigning a canine team to a demonstration request.

15.2 Canine teams utilized for requested demonstrations may be on-duty personnel or be on overtime at the discretion of the canine Supervisor or their designee.

15.3 Canine demonstrations will be classified into (2) categories: Familiarization and Practical.

15.3.1 Familiarization is a socialization, obedience/agility exercise, and informative talk.

15.3.2 Practical demonstrations are performed canine exercises and explanations of canine services.

15.3.2.1 Practical demonstrations shall only be conducted with experienced assistance (second handler/instructor).

16.0 CALLOUTS

16.1 An SDD Supervisor or their designee may authorize a callout if deemed necessary to fill a request that is specific to training and knowledge that is not currently available from on-duty personnel.

16.2 If a request for a callout is authorized, the Allegheny County EOC will initiate the following procedure: A CAD page and Active 911 notification will be sent out to the City of Pittsburgh canine group. A canine team will respond as per unit standard operating procedure.

Approved by:



Larry R. Sciroto
Chief of Police