



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



580.14 USE OF CANINES 02-23-17

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is establish procedures for the use of Department canines.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department to use only canines in appropriate circumstances and to review all injuries received from Department canines.

PROCEDURE

A. GENERAL

1. Approval shall be obtained from a field supervisor prior to using a canine to search for or apprehend an individual. Exception: A rapidly evolving situation that is within the deployment guidelines, but in which it is impractical to obtain supervisory approval.
2. It is recognized that situations may arise that do not fall within the provisions set forth in this policy; in any such case, a standard of reasonableness shall be used to review the decision to use a canine in view of the totality of the circumstances.
3. Watch Commanders shall notify the Metro Traffic and Air Operations Section Lieutenant of any performance issues regarding handlers or canines.

B. DEPLOYMENT GUIDELINES

Department canines may be used to apprehend an individual if the canine handler and approving supervisor reasonably believe that the individual has either committed or is about to commit any offense and if any of the following conditions exist:

1. There is a reasonable belief that the individual poses an immediate threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any officer, or the handler.
2. The individual is physically resisting arrest and the use of a canine appears necessary to overcome such resistance.
3. The individual 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.

NOTE: Absent the presence of one or more of the above conditions, mere flight from pursuing officer(s) shall not serve as good cause for a canine apprehension.

C. CONSIDERATIONS PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT

Prior to the use of a Department canine to search for or apprehend an individual, the canine handler and/or supervisor at the scene shall consider all pertinent information reasonably available at the time. The information shall include, but is not limited to

1. The individual's age or an estimate thereof.
2. The nature of the suspected offense.
3. Any potential danger to the public and/or other officers at the scene if the canine is utilized.
4. The degree of resistance, if any, the individual has shown.
5. The potential for escape or flight if the canine is not utilized.
6. The potential for injury to officers or the public caused by the individual if the canine is not used.

D. BUILDING AND AREA SEARCHES

Whenever practical, the field supervisor (or the canine officer if the field supervisor is not on scene) should establish a perimeter before the canine is used for a building/area search. Canine officers shall



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1. If necessary, make search recommendations to the field supervisor.
 2. Unless it would otherwise increase the risk of injury or escape, provide a verbal warning prior to releasing the canine. In a loud voice, or by use of amplified sound
 - a. Announce the presence of the canine unit.
 - b. Order the suspect out of hiding.
 - c. Warn the subject that they may be bitten.
 - d. After allowing for a reasonable period of compliance, repeat the warning. If no response is received after again waiting for a reasonable period of compliance, the search may begin.
 3. Repeat additional warnings when appropriate.
 4. Advise Communications after warnings are given, and when possible record on ICC.
 5. Notify Communications and perimeter officers that the search has begun.
 6. Maintain control and frequent visual contact of the canine during the search.
- E. CANINE OFFICERS**
1. Canine officers shall
 - a. Report to the canine unit sergeant for supervision and to the district sergeant in their assigned area for field supervision related to regular patrol functions.
 - b. Take a pro-active approach in dealing with priority calls.
 2. Canine officers normally should not
 - a. Be assigned to handle routine report calls.
 - b. Be dispatched to misdemeanor calls; i.e., 415s, 5150, 901 or traffic control.
- F. CARE OF CANINE AND EQUIPMENT**
1. Canine officers shall
 - a. Be responsible for the health and welfare of the canine, ensuring that the canine receives the proper nutrition, grooming, training, medical care, and living conditions.
 - b. Not expose the canine to any foreseeable and unreasonable risk of harm, unless required by a particular application.
 - c. Maintain Department canine equipment under their control in a clean and serviceable condition.
 - d. Permit the canine unit sergeant to conduct on-site inspections of affected areas of the residence to verify that conditions and equipment conform to this policy. The canine unit sergeant shall minimally provide 24-hour notice prior to the inspection.
 - e. Report to the canine unit sergeant any changes in living status which may affect the lodging or environment of the canine.
 - f. Report any injury or illness of the canine to the canine unit sergeant.
 - g. Advise the canine unit sergeant prior to taking their canine to the veterinarian for a routine examination or for minor medical problems.
 - h. Take the canine to the nearest available veterinarian if the canine is seriously injured or requires immediate medical attention. The canine unit sergeant shall be notified as soon as time permits.
- G. TRAINING**
1. Prior to assignment in the field, each canine team shall
 - a. Be trained and certified to meet POST standards.
 - b. Receive training as defined in the current contract with the Department canine training provider.
 - c. Conduct all canine training while on duty unless otherwise approved by the canine sergeant.



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H. CROSS TRAINED CANINES

1. Canines trained in more than one discipline shall assist with investigations as directed by the Metro Traffic and Air Operations Section Lieutenant.
2. Cross trained canine teams shall meet POST certifications.
3. Narcotics and firearm detection canines shall
 - a. Assist in the search for narcotics or firearms during a search warrant service.
 - b. Search vehicles, buildings, and any other articles deemed necessary.
 - c. Not be used to search a person.
4. Explosives detection canines shall
 - a. Assist in the search of a location where a bomb threat has been established. NOTE: Prior to responding, credibility of the threat shall be assessed.
 - b. Conduct preventive searches at locations such as special events, dignitary visits and restricted areas.
 - c. Not be used to clear a suspicious package.
5. SWAT deployment canines
 - a. Shall be used in specialized SWAT operations. NOTE: only canine teams that have received specialized training and the approval from the Metro Traffic and Air Operations Section Lieutenant will be utilized in this capacity.
 - b. Shall participate in bi-annual training with the SWAT team.

I. OUTSIDE AGENCY ASSISTANCE

Upon request from an outside agency for the assistance of a Department canine

1. Communications Division shall
 - a. Obtain all necessary information, location, type of incident, suspect description, contact person, etc.
 - b. Notify the watch commander.
2. The watch commander will respond to the request, taking into consideration personnel availability, the availability of the requesting agency's canine, and whether the need for the canine is consistent with Department policy.
3. Prior to deployment, the canine officer will ensure that the use of the canine is within Department policy.

J. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CANINE INJURIES

Canine officers shall

1. Complete appropriate reports detailing the incident.
2. Obtain a statement from the suspect or witnesses relevant to the use of the canine when possible.
3. Complete City of Sacramento form RM3-77 (red border form).
4. Notify CSI for photos of suspect's injury(s). If CSI is unavailable, notify the district sergeant for photos.
5. Notify the district sergeant, who shall follow the supervisor's reporting procedures / responsibilities specified in GO 580.02, including the completion of a Blue Team entry.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

1. The canine unit sergeant shall
 - a. Review all incidents in which a Department canine injures any person.
 - b. Notify the Metro Traffic and Air Operations Section Lieutenant of any deployment or training issues.
 - c. Maintain a record, cross referenced by officer, on all injuries involving Department canines for a period of five (5) years from the date of injury.



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2. The Metro Captain and the Metro Traffic and Air Operations Section Lieutenant shall
 - a. Review all incidents in which a Department canine injures any person.
 - b. Review the Blue Team entry, making a determination as to the appropriateness of the use of the canine.