

## Canines

### 318.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Canine Program was established to augment law enforcement services to the community. Highly skilled and trained teams of handlers and canines are used to supplement law enforcement operations to locate individuals, contraband and to apprehend criminal offenders. This policy outlines the necessary and appropriate use of canines in law enforcement work as required by ARS § 11-1025(B) and (D).

### 318.2 GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF CANINES

A canine may be used in the investigation of a crime or possible crime, in the execution of a warrant, and to locate and apprehend a suspect if the canine handler reasonably believes that the individual has either committed or threatened to commit any serious offense and if any of the following conditions exist (ARS § 11-1025(B)):

- There is a reasonable belief the individual poses an imminent threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any officer or the handler.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 objective reasonableness shall be used to review the decision to use a canine in view of the totality of the circumstances.

Absent a reasonable belief that an individual has committed or threatened to commit a serious offense, mere flight from a pursuing officer shall not serve as good cause for the use of a canine to apprehend an individual.

#### 318.2.1 PREPARATIONS FOR UTILIZING A CANINE

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

- The individual's perceived age.
- The nature of the suspected offense.
- Any potential danger to the public and/or other officers at the scene if the canine is released.
- The degree of resistance or threatened resistance, if any, the subject has shown.
- The potential for escape or flight if the canine is not utilized.
- The potential for injury to officers or the public caused by the suspect if the canine is not utilized.

The Police service dog team is primarily responsible for providing support in the following situations:

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- Alarm activations, burglaries, and robberies.
- Searching buildings for criminal suspects and clearing of motor vehicles during high-risk stops.

A canine handler shall have the ultimate authority not to deploy the dog. The handler will evaluate each situation and determine if the use of a canine is technically feasible. Generally, the decision to deploy the dog shall remain with the handler. However, a supervisor sufficiently apprised of the situation may decide not to deploy the dog.

**318.2.2 WARNINGS GIVEN TO ANNOUNCE THE USE OF A CANINE**

Unless it would otherwise increase the risk of injury or escape, a clearly audible warning to announce that a canine will be released if the person does not come forth shall be made prior to releasing a canine. The canine handler, when practicable, shall first advise the supervisor of his/her decision if a verbal warning is not given prior to releasing the canine. In the event of an apprehension, the handler shall document in any related report whether a verbal warning was given and, if none was given, the reasons why.

**318.2.3 USE OF NARCOTIC-DETECTION CANINES**

A narcotic detection-trained canine may be used in accordance with current law under the following circumstances:

- To assist in the search for narcotics during a search warrant service.
- To obtain a search warrant by using the detection canine in support of probable cause.
- To search vehicles, buildings, bags and any other articles as deemed necessary.
- A narcotic 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.

**318.2.4 GUIDELINES FOR NON-APPREHENSION USE**

Because canines have senses far superior to those of humans, they may be effectively utilized to track or search for non-criminals (e.g., lost children, individuals who may be disoriented or in need of medical attention) or even suspects wanted for minor criminal offenses. In such circumstances it will be necessary for the handler to evaluate the conditions and ability of the canine to determine the feasibility of such an application.

- Absent a change in circumstances which presents an immediate threat to officers, the canine or the public, such applications should be conducted on-leash or under such conditions that the canine will not bite or otherwise injure the individual, if located.
- Throughout the deployment of the canine in such non-criminal circumstances, the handler should give periodic verbal assurances that the canine will not bite or hurt the person.
- Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, assisting personnel should take direction from the handler in order to minimize interference with the canine.
- Once the individual has been located, the canine should be secured as soon as it becomes reasonably practicable.

**318.2.5 REPORTING CANINE USE, BITES AND INJURIES**

Whenever the canine is deployed, a K-9 Deployment Report shall be completed before going off-duty.

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Whenever the use of the canine results in a bite or any injury, a K-9 Deployment Report shall be completed and included with any related incident report before going off duty. Canines controlled by peace officers are exempt from regulatory action relating to bites, except that the Canine Unit Coordinator shall notify the Animal Control Department if the canine exhibits any abnormal behavior after a bite incident (ARS § 11-1014(J))

Color photographs shall be taken of the bite or injury as soon as practicable after the suspect has been treated by the fire department and/or medical facility. Photographs shall be retained as evidence in accordance with current department evidence procedures. The injured party should be transported to an appropriate medical facility if the injury requires medical attention beyond first aid. If the injured party is in custody, an officer should remain with the suspect until treatment has been rendered.

If a subject alleges an injury that is not visible, a supervisor shall be notified and the location of the alleged injury should be photographed as described above.

The Canine Unit Coordinator will maintain liaison with the Animal Control Department to ensure that information regarding canine bites is not retained; canines used by law enforcement are exempt from impoundment and reporting requirements to the Animal Control Department.

**318.2.6 REPORTING CANINE INJURIES**

In the event that a canine is injured, the injury will be immediately reported to the Watch Commander.

Depending on the severity of the injury, the canine shall either be treated by the designated veterinarian or transported to a designated emergency medical facility for treatment. If the handler and dog are out of the area, the handler may use the nearest available veterinarian.

The injury will be documented on a K-9 Deployment Report Form.

**318.2.7 ASSIGNMENT OF CANINES**

Canine teams should function primarily as cover units. However, they may be assigned by the Watch Commander to other functions based on the needs of the watch at the time.

Canine teams should not be assigned to handle matters that will take them out of service for extended periods of time unless absolutely necessary and only with the approval of the Patrol Lieutenant.

**318.3 REQUEST FOR USE OF CANINE TEAMS**

Personnel within the Department are encouraged to freely solicit the use of the canines. Requests for a canine team from outside of the Operations Division shall go through the Canine Unit Coordinator or the Patrol Lieutenant.

**318.3.1 REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER AGENCIES**

The Canine Unit Coordinator or on duty supervisor must approve all requests for canine assistance from outside agencies subject to the following provisions:

- Canine teams shall not be used for any assignment that is not consistent with this policy.
- The handler has the ultimate authority to decide whether the canine should be used for any specific assignment.

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- Canine teams shall not be called out while off-duty or used outside the jurisdiction of the Peoria Police Department unless authorized by an on duty supervisor.
- It shall be the responsibility of the canine handler to coordinate with outside agency personnel in order to minimize the risk of unintended injury.

**318.3.2 REQUEST FOR PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS**

All public requests for a canine team shall be approved by the Canine Unit Coordinator prior to making any commitment.

Handlers shall not demonstrate any apprehension work to the public unless authorized to do so by the Canine Unit Coordinator.

**318.4 SELECTION OF CANINE HANDLERS**

The following are the minimum qualifications for the assignment of canine handler:

- The handler is an Peoria Police Department officer currently off probation
- The handler resides in an adequately fenced, single-family residence (minimum 5-foot high fence with locking gates).
- The handler lives within 30 minutes travel time from the Peoria City limits.
- The handler agrees to be assigned to the position for a minimum of three years.

**318.5 CANINE HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES**

**318.5.1 CARE FOR THE CANINE AND EQUIPMENT**

The 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. The handler will be responsible for the following:

- Unless required by a particular application, the handler shall not expose the canine to any foreseeable and unreasonable risk of harm.
- The handler shall maintain all Department equipment under his/her control in a clean and serviceable condition.
- Handlers shall permit the Canine Unit Coordinator to conduct spontaneous on-site inspections of affected areas of their residence, as well as the canine unit, to verify that conditions and equipment conform to this policy.
- 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 Unit Coordinator as soon as possible.
- When off-duty, canines shall be maintained in kennels provided by the City at the homes of their handlers. When a canine is kenneled at the handler's home, the gate shall be secured with a lock. When off-duty, canines may be let out of their kennels while under the direct control of their handlers.
- At the handler's discretion, the canine should be permitted to socialize in the home with the handler's family for short periods of time and under the direct supervision of the handler.
- Under no circumstances will the canine be lodged at another location unless approved by the Canine Unit Coordinator.

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- When off-duty, handlers shall not involve their canines in any activity or conduct unless approved in advance by the Canine Unit Coordinator.
- The police service dog handler shall not take the police service dog on off-duty trips unless approved by the bureau commander, through the chain of command.
- All police service dogs will be micro-chipped in order to assist in their identification. Micro-chips will be read as part of regular routine veterinary care
- Whenever a canine handler anticipates taking a vacation or an extended number of days off, it may be necessary to temporarily relocate the canine. In those situations the handler shall give reasonable notice to the Canine Unit Coordinator so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**318.5.2 CANINES IN PUBLIC AREAS**

All canines shall be kept on a leash when in areas that allow access to the public. Exceptions to this rule would include specific law enforcement operations for which the canines are trained.

- Canines shall not be left unattended in any area to which the public may have access.
- When the canine unit 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 unit remains inhabitable for the canine.

**318.5.3 HANDLER COMPENSATION**

The canine handler shall be compensated for time spent in the care, feeding, grooming and other needs of the dog consistent with the Fair Labor Standards Act. The compensation shall be prescribed in the employee's collective bargaining agreement.

**318.6 MEDICAL CARE OF THE CANINE**

All medical attention shall be rendered by the designated canine veterinarian, except during an emergency as provided within this policy.

**318.6.1 NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE**

Non-emergency medical care will be coordinated through the Canine Unit Coordinator.

Any indication that a canine is not in good physical condition shall be reported to the Canine Unit Coordinator or the Watch Commander as soon as practicable.

All records of medical treatment shall be maintained in the canine handler's personnel file.

**318.6.2 EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE**

The designated emergency medical treatment center or canine veterinarian shall render emergency medical treatment. The handler shall notify the Canine Unit Coordinator as soon as practicable when emergency medical care is required.

**318.7 TRAINING**

Before assignment in the field, each canine team shall be trained and have graduated or be certified to meet current recognized national standards or the vendor's standards in the Department Service Dog Program. Cross trained dog teams or those dog teams trained exclusively for the detection of narcotics and/or explosives shall be trained and have graduated or be certified to meet a nationally recognized standard or vendor standards

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established for such detection dogs. Canine teams may not be used outside the scope of their training or certification.

**318.7.1 CONTINUED TRAINING**

Each canine team shall thereafter be recertified to a current recognized standard on an annual basis. Additional training considerations are as follows:

- Canine teams shall receive training to a current nationally recognized standard or as defined in the current contract with the Department's canine training provider.
- Canine handlers are encouraged to engage in additional training with approval of the Canine Unit Coordinator.
- 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 the Department.
- All canine training shall be conducted while on-duty unless otherwise approved by the Canine Unit Coordinator or Watch Commander.

**318.7.2 FAILURE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE TRAINING**

Any dog 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.

**318.7.3 TRAINING RECORDS**

All canine training records shall be maintained in the canine handler's and the canine's training files.

**318.8 CANINE UNIT COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Canine Unit Coordinator shall be appointed by the staff and shall supervise the Canine Program. The Canine Unit Coordinator is directly responsible to the Patrol Deputy Police Chief of Operations. The Canine Unit Coordinator shall be responsible for, but not limited to, the following:

- Review all Canine Use Reports to ensure compliance with policy and to identify training issues and other needs of the program.
- Maintain liaison with the vendor kennel.
- Maintain liaison with administrative staff and functional supervisors.
- Maintain liaison with other agency canine coordinators.
- Maintain accurate records to document canine activities.
- Recommend and oversee the procurement of needed equipment and services for the unit.
- Be responsible for scheduling all canine-related activities.
- Ensure the canine teams are scheduled for continuous training to maximize the capabilities of the teams.

**318.9 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TRAINING AIDS**

Controlled substance training aids are required to effectively train and maintain drug detecting dogs. Controlled substances can also be an effective training aid during training sessions for law enforcement personnel and the public.

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The Chief of Police or a designee at his/her discretion may authorize an employee to seek a court order to allow controlled substances to be maintained in the employee's possession for training purposes. This applies to any duly authorized peace officer or civilian drug detection canine trainer working under the direction of a law enforcement agency, provided that:

- The controlled substances are no longer needed as criminal evidence.
- The person receiving the controlled substances, if required by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), possesses a current and valid DEA registration that specifically authorizes the recipient to possess controlled substances while providing substance abuse training to law enforcement or the community or while providing canine drug detection training.

As an alternative, the Chief of Police or a designee may request narcotics training aids while providing substance abuse training or canine drug detection training from the DEA by filling out the DEA-225 form at

[http://www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/drugreg/reg\\_apps/225/225\\_form.pdf](http://www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/drugreg/reg_apps/225/225_form.pdf)

**318.9.1 PROCEDURES**

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

- All necessary controlled substance training samples shall be acquired from the Peoria Police Department's evidence personnel or from outside agencies authorized to provide controlled substance training samples. All controlled substance training samples shall be weighed and tested prior to dispensing to the individual canine handler.
- The weight and test results shall be recorded and maintained by this department.
- Any person receiving controlled substance training samples pursuant to court order shall maintain custody and control of the controlled substances and shall keep records regarding any loss of, or damage to, those controlled substances.
- 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.
- All controlled substance training samples will be stored in locked metal boxes at all times, except during training. The locked metal boxes shall be secured in the trunk of the canine handler's assigned patrol unit or stored in a locked evidence locker. There are no exceptions to this procedure.
- The Canine Unit Coordinator shall periodically inspect every controlled substance training sample for damage or tampering and take any appropriate action.
- Any unusable controlled substance training samples shall be returned to the Property and Evidence Unit or to the dispensing agency.
- 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.

**318.9.2 IMMUNITY**

All duly sworn officers acting in the performance of their official duties and any person working under their immediate direction, supervision or instruction are immune from

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Prosecution under the Arizona Uniform Controlled Substance Act while providing substance abuse training or canine drug detection training (ARS § 36-2544(A)(6)).