

	ANDOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER		Number: O2406
			Page: 1 of 8
			Distribution: All
Title: CANINE TEAMS		Section: Field Situations	
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Review: Annual	Authority: Chief Michael A. Keller 		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the management and tactical deployment of canines for a variety of operational purposes.

II. Policy

Because of their superior senses of smell and hearing and physical capabilities, the trained law enforcement canine is a valuable supplement to police personnel. However, utilization of canines requires adherence to procedures that properly control their use-of-force potential and that channel their specialized capabilities into legally acceptable crime prevention and control activities.

III. Definitions

- A. Handler:** A sworn Andover Police Department employee who is trained to handle police canines and has been assigned a police canine.
- B. Trainer:** An approved canine officer from the Andover Police Department or another agency who has obtained the proper training and certification, whose duties include training police dogs and their handlers.
- C. Canine:** A dog that has successfully completed canine training and has been assigned to an Andover Police Department handler.
- D. Canine team:** A canine and the assigned handler.

IV. Regulations

- A.** Canines will not be deployed to apprehend a person unless it is objectively reasonable to use that level of force [C].
- B.** Department members who are not handlers will not give commands to a department canine unless the assigned handler is incapacitated [B].
- C.** Handlers will complete a detailed written report and a Use of Force Form following any use of force incident involving a canine [A].
- D.** The procedures listed under section "J. Canine Use and Care" in this General Order shall be strictly followed [B].
- E.** The procedures for checking out training aids in General Order O2110 Property Management shall be strictly followed [C].



ANDOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER

Title: CANINE TEAMS

Number: O2406

Page: 2 of 8

Section: Field Situations

V. Procedures

A. Team Qualifications and Training

- Rev. 10112012
1. Should a canine team position become available the procedures in General Order M1222 Specialized Assignments shall be followed. (16.2.2).
 2. Applicants for police canine teams must have:
 - a. At least two years of uniform patrol experience, a satisfactory rating or higher on the last performance evaluation, and satisfactory disciplinary and medical leave records;
 - b. A willingness to remain a canine team member for a minimum of three years.
 - c. A willingness and ability (together with other family members) to care for and house the canine at the officer's residence with a secure outdoor area for the canine.
 - d. A strong desire to work with canines and a willingness to care for and train the animal; and
 - e. The ability to successfully complete a department approved canine training course.
- Rev. 10162013
3. In addition to the procedures in General Order M1222, an interview board will be convened to consider requests for canine team assignments. The board will consist of the Operations Commander and at least two officers, from this agency or another, with experience handling canines. The interview board will consider all eligible applicants and make a recommendation to the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police will make the final selection.
 4. All departmental canines must meet established department certification requirements. Untrained canines may not be used for canine duty.
 5. New canine handlers must complete the prescribed canine handler training course and successfully meet all course requirements.
- Rev. 10162013
6. It is the duty of the Operations Commander to ensure that basic and in-service training and certification is conducted on a regular basis.
- Rev. 10162013
7. Each canine team shall maintain a current "handler's log" that contains information on the training, certification, awards, deployments, bite data and other information designated by the Operations Commander.
 8. Failure to participate in or qualify under established training standards will result in de-certification of the team. The team may not be deployed until re-certified.

	<p style="text-align: center;">ANDOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Title: CANINE TEAMS</p>	Number: O2406
		Page: 3 of 8
		Section: Field Situations

B. Training Aids

In order to maintain the canine’s proficiency and certification in drug detection, it is necessary for the handlers to have access to controlled substances training aids. In accordance with State law, canine handlers will be permitted to possess controlled substances pursuant to General Order O2110 Property Management (84.1.4).

C. Canine Vehicles & Equipment

Rev. 10112012

1. This agency will furnish specialized equipment, including a police vehicle, necessary for the proper care, use and training of the canine. The equipment will be maintained by the handler.
2. The following list includes, but is not limited to, the equipment issued to a canine team:
 - a. 46” lead;
 - b. Leather collar;
 - c. Tracking harness;
 - d. 15’ lead;
 - e. Grooming tools;
 - f. Water/food bowl;
 - g. Muzzle;
 - h. Training sleeve; and
 - i. Electronic Collar (E-Collar.)

Rev. 10162013

D. Canine Team Utilization for Location/Apprehension of Suspects

1. The deployment of a police canine for the location and apprehension of a suspect is a use of force that must be consistent with this agency’s guidelines regarding the use of force.
2. Decision to deploy a canine shall be based upon the following:
 - a. The severity of the crime;
 - b. Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others; and
 - c. Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest at the time.
3. Canine teams are available on a 24-hour, on-call basis and are subject to overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Their use includes but may not be limited to:
 - a. Conducting building searches for what are believed to be serious felony or armed misdemeanor suspects in hiding;
 - b. Assisting in the arrest or prevention of the escape of serious or violent offenders;
 - c. Protecting the officers or others from death or serious injury; and



ANDOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER

Title: CANINE TEAMS

Number: O2406

Page: 4 of 8

Section: Field Situations

- d. Engaging in assignments not listed here with the approval of a sworn member of the command staff.
4. Canine officers may use canines to apprehend fleeing suspects when it is objectively reasonable to believe that:
 - a. The suspect has committed a felony or misdemeanor involving personal injury;
 - b. If allowed to escape the suspect would likely cause injury to another person; and
 - c. The suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.
5. A canine team may be used to respond to minor complaint situations but the canine should not be deployed.
6. Canine team assistance may be requested from any officer through an immediate supervisor.
7. Outside agency requests for canine assistance must be approved by a supervisor from this agency, and canine assistance provided to outside agencies must be consistent with this General Order.
8. The canine handler has the authority to decline an assignment if the handler reasonably believes the assignment is not operationally sound and is contrary to the team's training and experience, however, this does not permit the handler to decline an assignment that does not involve the use of the canine itself.
9. Canine teams should not be used to apprehend anyone suspected to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol if no other crime is involved, nor the mentally disturbed if no other crime is involved.
10. Extra care should be taken and alternatives to the deployment of a canine should be considered in the case of juvenile suspects.
11. Where a tactical deployment is justified by agency policy, the tactical measures used shall be at the discretion of the canine handler and must be objectively reasonable.
12. Police canines shall not normally be handled or given commands by anyone other than the assigned handler. Only under emergency conditions shall another handler command the canine.

E. Building Searches for Suspects in Hiding

A primary use of departmental canines is for locating suspects in buildings or related structures. These searches should be governed by the following:

1. The building perimeter shall be secured by police personnel.
2. Whenever possible, the building's owner should be contacted to determine whether there may be tenants or others in the building and to ascertain the building's layout.



ANDOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER

Title: CANINE TEAMS

Number: O2406

Page: 5 of 8

Section: Field Situations

3. When a canine building search is anticipated, a preliminary search by officers should not be conducted as this will interfere with the canine's ability to discriminate scents.
4. The on-scene supervisor shall also take the following steps in preparation for the canine search:
 - a. Evacuate all tenants, workers, or others from the facility.
 - b. If possible, request that all air conditioning, heating, or other air blowing systems be shut off so as not to interfere with the canine's ability to discriminate scents.
5. Upon entrance to the building, all exits should be secured and communications limited to that of a tactical nature.
6. The canine may be unleashed during a building search unless there is an imminent risk of injury to innocent persons within the facility.
 - a. Generally, the canine should be released once a backup officer is available to work with the canine team.
 - b. Except in exigent circumstances or where there is an imminent danger of death or serious injury, the canine should be kept in visual contact by the canine handler when possible.
7. The canine should not be used to search facilities that contain substances potentially harmful to the animal unless overriding risk to human life is present.
8. Before commencing the search, except in situations where it would increase the risk to the canine team or other officers, the handler or other appropriate personnel shall make at least two loud announcements, amplified and recorded if possible. The announcement shall say that there are police officers on the premises and that a trained police canine will be released and may bite you if you do not surrender.
 - a. A reasonable amount of time shall be allowed for the suspect to respond. At a minimum, this warning shall be repeated on each level of all multilevel structures.
 - b. Where there is a reasonable belief that the suspect speaks a language other than English, an officer or other individual fluent in that language should be summoned to the scene if available and if the exigency of the situation permits.
9. When apprehending suspects, the canine shall be commanded to disengage as soon as the suspect is subdued or readily complies with officer direction.
10. Arrestee(s) shall not be transported in the same vehicle with a police canine unless alternative transportation is not available and immediate transport is essential for safety or security reasons.

F. Crowd Control

1. Canine teams may respond as backup but may not deploy the dog for crowd control at peaceful demonstrations.

	ANDOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER Title: CANINE TEAMS	Number: O2406
		Page: 6 of 8
		Section: Field Situations

2. Canine teams may be used upon approval of the Chief of Police or designee to protect life or property during a riot or other major unlawful assembly after an order to disperse has been made. In these situations, canines shall:
 - a. Be short leashed at all times to protect individuals from serious injury; and
 - b. Not initiate any offensive action, unless to guard against imminent loss of life, serious bodily injury, or substantial property damage.

G. Canine Searches for Drugs

Without consent, canine searches (sniffs) for drugs are authorized only when there is no reasonable expectation of privacy in the item(s) to be searched. If not specifically addressed in the following guidelines, officers shall use the foregoing principle and the direction of their supervisor to determine the permissible scope of canine searches.

1. Public Facilities and Places
 - a. Police canines may not be used to sniff luggage or related personal items in the physical possession of (i.e. control of or close proximity to) an individual in a public facility or place unless there is reasonable suspicion that the personal possession contains illegal drugs or evidence of a crime, and the time required to conduct the sniff is limited in duration.
 - b. Police canines may be used to sniff luggage or other personal effects of an individual on either a random or selective basis if the items are not in the possession of the owner (e.g. on conveyor belts, in the possession of bag handlers, etc.).
 - c. Whenever possible, exploratory sniffing in public facilities should be conducted with the advance knowledge of the facility manager. It should be conducted without interference or annoyance to the public or interruption of facility operations.
2. Canine searches of the exterior of residences – either individual dwellings or the common areas of multiple dwellings – are not permitted without a search warrant or as otherwise permitted by state or federal law.
3. The use of drug detection canines in schools is limited to situations where there is reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal drugs are being sold, possessed, and or consumed on the premises; or when the use of drug detection canine is specifically requested by school officials. Where reasonably possible, the school's principal or designated authority should be contacted in advance of the search, and the canine search should be limited to inanimate objects and areas where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy.
4. Canine drug sniffs of motor vehicles may be conducted when:
 - a. There is reasonable suspicion to believe that the operator or passengers are in possession of illegal narcotics.
 - b. The canine sniff is limited to the exterior of the vehicle, unless otherwise legally permitted to be inside the vehicle.

	ANDOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER	Number: O2406
	Title: CANINE TEAMS	Page: 7 of 8
		Section: Field Situations

H. Tracking

Where trained police canines are available for tracking, they may be used with supervisory approval to track missing persons or criminal suspects or to locate evidence that the supervisor has reason to believe has been abandoned or hidden in a specified open area. Such searches are subject to the following conditions and limitations:

1. When officers are pursuing suspects and contact with the suspect is lost, the officer, prior to summoning a canine team, shall
 - a. Stop and pinpoint the location where the suspect was last seen;
 - b. Shut off engines of vehicles in the area if possible; and
 - c. Avoid vehicle or foot movements in the area where the suspect or subject was last seen.
2. Canines used for tracking persons should remain on a leash of sufficient length to provide a reasonable measure of safety to the subject of the search without compromising the canine's tracking abilities.
3. On-scene supervisory personnel shall:
 - a. Secure the perimeter of the area to be searched;
 - b. Secure the integrity of the area to be searched by keeping all personnel out of the area; and
 - c. Protect all items of clothing that will be used for scent from being handled.

I. Canine Bites and Injuries

Use of specially trained police canines for law enforcement responsibilities constitutes a real or implied use of force. In this as in other cases, officers may only use that degree of force that reasonably appears necessary to apprehend or secure a suspect as governed by the department's use-of-force policy.

1. Whenever a canine has bitten or scratched an individual or has alleged to have done so, whether or not in the line of duty, the handler shall notify a supervisor and perform the following:
 - a. If no arrest is made, an offer will be made to the individual to provide medical care and treatment by a qualified medical professional.
 - b. If an arrest is made, the individual will be provided with medical attention in accordance with agency policy on transporting and booking prisoners.
 - c. The officer shall take color photographs of the affected area if possible prior to and following medical treatment.
 - d. Prepare and submit a written report, and a use of force report if necessary.
2. Whenever a canine is deployed or a person is injured, a written report shall be made detailing the circumstances surrounding the incident, the identity of the individual involved and any witnesses, whether the canine located the suspect, the extent of any injuries if known, and measures taken in response to the incident.



ANDOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER

Title: CANINE TEAMS

Number: O2406

Page: 8 of 8

Section: Field Situations

J. Canine Use and Care

1. Police canines shall not be used for breeding, participation in shows, field trials, exhibitions or other demonstrations, or on- or off-duty employment unless authorized by the Chief of Police.
2. Officers shall maintain their canine both on and off duty in a safe and controlled manner. Police canines shall never be allowed to run loose unless engaged in agency-authorized activities.
3. This agency shall provide canine officers with proper housing for their dog and the Operations Commander or designee will conduct quarterly inspections to ensure that the housing is properly maintained.
4. Canine handlers are personally responsible for the daily care and feeding of their animal to include:
 - a. Maintenance and cleaning of the kennel and yard area where the canine is housed.
 - b. Provision of food, water, and general diet maintenance as prescribed by the department's authorized veterinarian.
 - c. Grooming on a daily basis or more often as required by weather, working conditions, or other factors;
 - d. Daily exercise, and
 - e. General medical attention and maintenance of health care records.
5. Canine handlers shall immediately notify the Operations Commander of any changes that would affect the care and housing conditions of their dog.
6. Where the handler is unable to perform these and related duties due to illness, injury, or leave:
 - a. Another canine handler or department member may be assigned to temporarily care for the dog; or
 - b. The canine may be housed in a departmentally approved kennel.
7. Teasing, agitating, or roughhousing with a police canine is strictly prohibited unless performed as part of a training exercise.
8. Handlers shall not permit anyone to pet or hug their canine without their prior permission and immediate supervision. Should a civilian express a desire to do so, he or she should be informed that police canines are serious working dogs and that they can be dangerous if improperly approached.
9. A canine handler may apply to take possession of their dog when:
 - a. The dog is retired from duty or relieved due to injury; or
 - b. The handler is transferred or promoted or retires and a decision is made not to retrain the dog for another handler.