



# CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE

## GENERAL POLICE ORDER



EFFECTIVE DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2018	CHAPTER: 4 - Field Operations	PAGE: 1 of 6	NUMBER: 4.02.02
SUBJECT: CANINE UNIT			
CHIEF: <i>R. D. Mc</i> , CHIEF			

**PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines for use of the police canine teams assigned to the Canine Unit within the Cleveland Division of Police.

**POLICY:** The Division shall use canine teams to mitigate risk and effect efficient police operations in the detection, prevention of crime, and service to the community. The canine teams are very effective resources and should be considered when searching for items, people, illegal drugs or other evidence detection.

### DEFINITIONS:

**Canine Apprehension:** When a canine is deployed and plays a clear role in the capture of a person. The mere presence of a canine at the scene of an arrest or use of a canine solely to track a subject will not count as a canine apprehension.

**Canine Handler:** A police officer who has been specifically trained in the care, handling, and training of police service dogs.

**Canine Team:** A police officer and their assigned police service dog.

**Deployment:** Utilizing a police service dog to track, detect and/or search for subject(s) or evidence.

**Dual-Purpose Dog:** A certified police service dog that has been specifically trained to execute a number of specific tasks which make use of the canine's speed, agility, and sense of smell, such as the detection of bombs, narcotics, electronics, money and people.

**Explosive Detection Dog:** A certified police service dog that has been trained to identify certain explosives by smell.

**Narcotic Detection Dog:** A certified police service dog that has been trained to identify certain controlled substances by smell.

**Non-Deployment Bite:** A bite to any person, other than during a deployment, by a police service dog.

### PROCEDURES:

- I. General Guidelines
  - A. Canine handlers are the ultimate authority of tasks performed by the canine.
  - B. Canine handlers decide how to use the canine based on the canine's capabilities, physical surroundings, Canine Unit Manual and General Police Orders (See 2.01.03 Use of Force)

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General).

- C. Canines shall be kept *on leash* at all times unless limited circumstances arise for a need to have the canine off leash. When a canine is let off leash, in circumstances where obstructions make use of the leash unsafe or difficult for the handler, the handler shall remain within a working distance to ensure the canine remains in the handler's sight and obeys the handler's verbal commands.
- D. Requests for Canine Unit assistance from outside agencies require approval from the Canine Unit OIC, or designee. Final authorization from the Commander of Homeland Services, a Deputy Chief, or Chief is required before assistance to outside agencies may be provided.
- E. Canine handlers shall submit and enter detailed reports documenting each canine deployment into the Canine Management Software Program.

## II. Canine Team Duties

- A. Canine team(s) may assist in/with:
  - 1. Narcotics detection;
  - 2. Building searches;
  - 3. Bomb detection/explosive detection of unattended packages;
  - 4. Missing or lost person searches;
  - 5. Tracking criminal suspects or escapees who have fled the scene of a crime;
  - 6. Searching areas for evidence left by suspects;
  - 7. Vehicle searches;
  - 8. Other required incidents requiring the canine's unique scent and tracking abilities.
- B. The following are examples of duties and or assignments where canines shall not be deployed, unless there is a threat of serious physical harm to a person(s) or handler. The handler shall leave the canine in the zone car consistent with the canine safety provisions of the Canine Manual.
  - 1. Against small children, the elderly, individuals who are visibly frail, or women visibly or known to be pregnant;
  - 2. Where it is obvious that a person cannot escape or offer serious resistance;
  - 3. In domestic violence situations;
  - 4. During investigations of motor vehicle accidents;

5. During assignments that involve known mentally ill or intoxicated person(s).

C. Canines shall not be deployed in the following situations:

1. In crowd control situations (protests/riot type situations, labor disputes);
2. Against a person passively resisting;
3. To coerce, frighten or intimidate.

### III. Requesting the Canine Unit

A. Officer(s) requesting a canine team shall:

1. Request the canine team through their sector supervisor;
2. Assist the canine handler as requested;
3. Transport and book prisoners;
4. Process discovered evidence;
5. Complete incident reports generated from the assignment;
6. In addition to the first aid provisions below, officers shall provide medical attention consistent with Procedures, Section V of GPO 2.01.03 Use of Force General;
7. Note any injuries and medical treatment in the incident report if a suspect or prisoner is injured by a canine.

B. Supervisors requesting the Canine Unit shall:

1. Determine if the request for a canine team is appropriate, and if appropriate, request assistance of the Canine Unit via the Communication Control Section (CCS);
2. For preplanned activities, make requests for a canine team through the Canine Unit Officer-in-Charge (OIC).

### IV. Canine Handler Initial on Scene Responsibilities

- A. Conduct a tactical assessment and coordinate available resources.
- B. Determine whether canines are to be deployed consistent with this policy and Canine Unit Manual.
- C. Assemble and direct an appropriate amount of officers to assist in any deployment.

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## V. Canine Apprehensions

### A. Canine Deployments - Contact:

1. All canine apprehensions of a suspect that involve contact (e.g., knocking a suspect down, jumping onto the suspect) by a canine shall be reported and investigated as a Level 2 Use of Force.
2. Canine Handler Responsibilities:
  - a. Request backup, if able;
  - b. Once the suspect is secured, or the deployment is concluded, secure the canine;
  - c. Contact Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and render first aid, if needed;
  - d. Notify the Canine Unit OIC to handle the required investigation of the incident. If the Canine Unit OIC is not available, notify a sector supervisor from the district of occurrence;
  - e. Report the apprehension with contact as a Level 2 use of force consistent with the procedures outlined in Section III. A. of GPO 2.01.05 UOF Reporting.
3. Canine Unit OIC/Sector Supervisor Responsibilities:
  - a. Canine Unit OIC or sector supervisors shall respond to the scene of a Level 2 use of force (contact) caused by a canine;
  - b. Canine Unit OIC shall forward investigations through their chain of command;
  - c. Sector supervisors shall forward all investigations through the Canine Unit OIC;
  - d. Canine Unit OIC shall review and forward investigations done by a sector supervisor through the Canine Unit chain of command.

### B. Canine Deployments - Bites:

1. All canine apprehensions of a suspect that involve a bite by a canine shall be reported and investigated as a Level 3 use of force;
2. Canine Handler Responsibilities:
  - a. Request backup, if able;
  - b. Once the suspect is secured, or the deployment has concluded, secure the canine;

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- c. Contact EMS and render first aid, if needed;
  - d. Notify the sector supervisor and advise the sector supervisor that a Force Investigation Team (FIT) call-up is needed due to a canine bite during an apprehension;
  - e. Notify the Canine Unit OIC;
  - f. Complete any reports as directed by the FIT OIC. (See Section III. B of GPO 2.01.05 UOF Reporting.)
3. Canine Unit OIC/Sector Supervisor Responsibilities:
- a. The Canine Unit OIC or sector supervisor shall respond to the scene of a Level 3 (bite) use of force caused by a canine;
  - b. Ensure a crime scene log has been started by an officer on scene;
  - c. Request through CCS to have FIT respond to the scene;
  - d. Comply with all additional directives from the FIT OIC. (See GPO 2.01.07 Force Investigation Team.)

VI. Non-Deployment - Bites

- A. A non-deployment canine bite is not a use of force and shall be investigated as an Injury to Person Incident Report.
1. Canine handler responsibilities:
- a. Secure the canine;
  - b. Contact EMS and render first aid, if needed;
  - c. Notify the Canine Unit OIC. If the Canine Unit OIC is not available, notify a sector supervisor from the district of occurrence;
  - d. Complete an "Injury to Person/Canine" Incident Report, if a citizen or another officer is accidentally injured or bitten by a canine.
2. Canine Unit OIC/Sector Supervisor Responsibilities:
- a. Investigate all instances of non-deployment canine bites to a citizen or an officer;
  - b. Request Crime Scene and Records (CS&R) Unit to respond for photographs of all injuries, including non-visible injuries.
  - c. Findings of the investigations shall be forwarded through the chain of

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command within seven days:

1. All investigations completed by a sector supervisor shall be forwarded through the Canine Unit OIC who shall review and forward the investigation through the Canine Unit chain of command;
2. All investigations done by the Canine Unit OIC shall be forwarded through the Canine Unit chain of command.

#### VII. Injury to a Canine Handler

- A. When a canine handler is injured and unable to secure their canine:
  1. Officers shall;
    - a. Attempt to secure the canine;
    - b. If a canine is aggressive and cannot be secured, request assistance from:
      1. Another canine handler;
      2. Canine Unit OIC;
      3. A member of the handler's family;
      4. Cleveland Division of Animal Care & Control (Kennels).
    - c. As a last resort, the canine may be destroyed in the event of an imminent fatality or serious physical harm to a canine handler.
  2. Canine Unit OIC/Sector Supervisor shall:
    - a. Investigate the injury and complete an Injury Investigation entry for an injury to an officer;
    - b. Forward reports via injury tracking software through the chain of command.

#### VIII. Aggressive Uncontrollable Canine

- A. If a canine is exhibiting aggressive uncontrollable behavior and causing injury to a canine handler or the public, as a last resort, the canine may be destroyed.
- B. When a canine is destroyed by the handler or another officer, the Canine Unit OIC, designee, or sector supervisor shall respond and have CCS notify FIT.