

Lawrence Police Department
Administrative Policy

SUBJECT Police Service Dogs		APPLIES TO All Personnel	
EFFECTIVE DATE xx, 2015	REVISED DATE None		
APPROVED BY Chief of Police		TOTAL PAGES 4	POLICY NUMBER DRAFT

POLICY

The Lawrence Police Department's Police Service Dog (PSD) Unit is committed to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Operations Bureau through the unique skills and abilities provided by the PSD Unit; additionally, the PSD Unit exists to increase officer safety by allowing canines to perform functions officers would otherwise have to perform.

Lawrence police canines and canine handlers are available to assist officers in tracking, scouting, searching for suspects or missing persons, and building searches. Certain teams are also trained in detection of narcotics.

DEFINITIONS

Canine – Any dog professionally trained for police service.

Handler – Any person trained per department standards in the use of a police canine.

Canine Team – A paired unit consisting of one (1) canine and one (1) handler.

PROCEDURE

A. TRACKING / AREA SEARCHES

- 1) Duties of officer at the scene:
 - a) Secure the scene until Canine arrives.
 - i) If the search conducted is for a suspect, seal the area and avenues of escape as much as possible.
 - b) Avoid contaminating the area in any way (physical presence or chemical).

- i) Keep area clear of foot traffic, the Canine may pick up a trail on the freshest scent.
 - ii) Police vehicles shouldn't be parked with the engine running in the immediate area.
 - iii) If tracking a person who has fled from a vehicle, do not enter the vehicle.
 - iv) If clothing or an article the party touched can be located, it should not be disturbed but pointed out to the Canine handler.
 - c) Officers covering the perimeter coverage should minimize contamination of area.
 - d) Brief the Canine Handler with all the known facts and circumstances of the case.
 - e) Minimize distraction such as lights, noise and radio.
 - f) Do not assist the Canine Team unless requested by the Canine handler.
- 2) Duties of officer assisting canine team on the track:
- a) Stay approximately 15 feet behind the Canine Team while tracking unless otherwise instructed by the Canine Handler.
 - b) Remain behind the handler and dog at all times and keep out of unsearched areas.
 - c) The assisting officer will transmit the canine team's location and direction of travel.
 - d) Keep conversation to a minimum.

D. BUILDING SEARCHES

- 1) Duties of Requesting Officer.
- a) Seal the area and avenues of escape as much as possible.
 - b) Do not enter the building and contaminate the area. Keep unauthorized personnel away from the area.
 - c) Provide the Canine Handler with all available information.
 - d) Do not enter the building while the Canine Team is working unless instructed by the Canine Handler.
 - e) Keep away from all door and windows.
 - f) Minimize distraction such as lights, noise, and radio.

D. NARCOTICS

- 1) Lawrence police service dogs are trained in narcotics detection and may be used to search houses, vehicles, luggage at airports or bus depots, etc. for hidden contraband. All searches must be legally justified.
- 2) Best results are obtained when the Canine searches before officers attempt a search.

E. CROWD CONTROL

- 1) Canines will not normally be used as a deterrent in large crowd situations.
- 2) No single canine team will attempt to quell a large crowd disturbance, unless a life threatening situation exists. This will be at the discretion of the Canine Supervisor or SOD Commander.
 - a) Handlers will justify deployment of canines in these situations.

F. SUPERVISION OF CANINE UNIT

- 1) The direct supervision of Canine handlers is the responsibility of the Canine Sergeant.
- 2) The handler will report to the Canine Sergeant about training or training procedures.
- 3) The supervising captain over the Canine Unit coordinates the Canine Program for the purposes of:
 - a) Selection, training and development of dogs and handlers;
 - b) Acquisition of Canines, equipment, supplies and materials;
 - c) Coordination of schedule coverage among teams; and
 - d) Other issues affecting all handlers and/or all teams.
- 4) Canine handlers will be assigned based these priorities:
 - a) Need for the dog's qualifications;
 - b) Department's need for the Handler to perform normal police duties;
 - c) Handler's shift bid request.
- 5) Canine units should not be assigned to Types of Calls which are likely to require transports or extensive committed time, such as:
 - a) Prisoner transports,
 - b) Found or recovered property
 - c) Sexual assaults,
 - d) Mental health investigations,
 - e) Animal calls,
 - f) Vehicle accident investigations.
- 6) EXCEPTION: Canine units may respond in a life-threatening situation, if no other Unit is available.
- 7) Canine handlers or supervisor may request a particular duty or call be reassigned.
- 8) Canine handlers assigned to track or search on any call for service will not be the officer assigned to the call.

G. SAFETY

- 1) Canines are trained to protect their handler. Extreme caution is to be used when around police canines.

- 2) Canines are not to operate in the field without direct physical control from the handler, unless an immediate, articulable emergency exists that compromises the safety to the canine, handler, or other person to warrant the canine to being freed of direct physical control from the handler.

H. SELECTION CRITERIA

- 1) Any officer interested in applying for a position in the canine unit must:
 - a) have successfully completed probation;
 - b) be able to satisfactorily complete the department-approved police canine handler course;
 - c) have demonstrated the ability to work with limited supervision in past work performance;
 - d) be even-tempered, slow to anger, have unlimited patience, be self-disciplined and assertive;
 - e) have no physical or mental impairments prohibiting the officer from performing canine handler duties;
 - f) reside within Douglas County; and
 - g) own or rent a house with yard suitable for kennel space (*if renting, owner of rental property must agree*).
- 2) If applicant has rank higher than Officer, the applicant must be willing to accept rank reduction to Officer.

I. CANINE UNIT OPERATIONS MANUAL

- 1) The Canine Unit Supervisor will update, if needed, the Canine Unit Operations Manual every two (2) years.
 - a) The Canine Unit Supervisor will notify the Task Force Committee every two (2) years after need for any changes has been assessed.
 - b) The Canine Unit Supervisor will forward a master copy of the revised Operations Manual to the Policy Review Unit for storage and use in accreditation compliance files.