

Canines

310.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the use of canines to augment law enforcement services to the community including, but not limited to, locating individuals and contraband and apprehending criminal offenders.

310.1.1 OWNERSHIP OF CANINES

All dogs accepted for training and use by the Department are the property of the Department and the City of Urbana. Expenses incurred in the care, feeding, shelter, and transportation of the canines are the responsibility of the Department. Proper care and maintenance of the canine is the responsibility of the handler.

310.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Urbana Police Department that teams of handlers and canines meet and maintain the appropriate proficiency to effectively and reasonably carry out legitimate law enforcement objectives.

310.3 ASSIGNMENT

Canine teams should be assigned to assist and supplement the Patrol Division to function primarily in assist or cover assignments. However, they may be assigned by the Shift Supervisor to other functions, such as routine calls for service, based on the current operational needs.

310.4 CANINE COORDINATOR

The canine coordinator shall be appointed by and directly responsible to the Patrol Division Commander or the authorized designee.

The responsibilities of the coordinator include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Reviewing all canine use reports to ensure compliance with policy and to identify training issues and other needs of the program.
- (b) Maintaining a liaison with the vendor kennel.
- (c) Maintaining a liaison with command staff and functional supervisors.
- (d) Maintaining a liaison with other agency canine coordinators.
- (e) Maintaining accurate records to document canine activities.
- (f) Recommending and overseeing the procurement of equipment and services for the teams of handlers and canines.
- (g) Scheduling all canine-related activities.
- (h) Ensuring the canine teams are scheduled for regular training to maximize their capabilities.

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310.5 REQUESTS FOR CANINE TEAMS

Patrol members are encouraged to request the use of a canine. Requests for a canine team from department units outside of the Patrol Division shall be reviewed by the Shift Supervisor.

310.5.1 OUTSIDE AGENCY REQUEST

All requests for canine assistance from outside agencies must be approved by the Shift Supervisor and are subject to the following:

- (a) Canine teams shall not be used for any assignment that is not consistent with this policy.
- (b) The canine handler shall have the authority to decline a request for any specific assignment that he/she deems unsuitable.
- (c) Calling out off-duty canine teams is discouraged.
- (d) It shall be the responsibility of the canine handler to coordinate operations with agency personnel in order to minimize the risk of unintended injury.
- (e) It shall be the responsibility of the canine handler to complete all necessary reports or as directed.

310.5.2 PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

All public requests for a canine team shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, approved by the canine coordinator prior to making any resource commitment. The canine coordinator is responsible for obtaining resources and coordinating involvement in the demonstration to include proper safety protocols.

310.6 APPREHENSION GUIDELINES

A canine may be used to locate a suspect if the canine handler reasonably believes that the individual has either committed, is committing or threatening to commit an offense. Use of a canine should be conducted on-leash or under conditions that minimize the likelihood the canine will bite or otherwise injure the individual.

310.6.1 PREPARATION FOR DEPLOYMENT

Prior to the use of a canine to search for or apprehend any suspect, the canine handler and/or the supervisor on-scene should consider all pertinent information reasonably available at the time. As circumstances permit, the canine handler should make every reasonable effort to communicate and coordinate with other involved members to minimize the risk of unintended injury. It is the canine handler's responsibility to evaluate each situation and determine whether the use of a canine is appropriate and reasonable. The canine handler shall have the authority to decline the use of the canine whenever he/she deems deployment is unsuitable. A supervisor who is sufficiently apprised of the situation may prohibit deploying the canine. Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, assisting members should take direction from the handler in order to minimize interference with the canine.

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310.6.2 REPORTING DEPLOYMENTS, BITES AND INJURIES

Should a canine deployment result in a bite or cause injury to anyone, a supervisor should be promptly notified, and the injuries documented in a canine use report. The injured person shall be promptly treated by emergency medical services personnel, and, if appropriate, transported to an appropriate medical facility for further treatment. The deployment and injuries should also be included in any related incident or arrest report.

Any unintended bite or injury caused by a canine, whether on- or off-duty, shall be promptly reported to the canine coordinator. Unintended bites or injuries caused by a canine should be documented in a report. The investigation leading to this report shall be done by a supervisor and will be similar to a use of force investigation, including the taking of statements from involved parties, seizing of evidence, and taking of photographs.

If an individual alleges an injury, either visible or not visible, a supervisor shall be notified and both the individual's injured and uninjured areas shall be photographed as soon as practicable after first tending to the immediate needs of the injured party. Photographs shall be retained as evidence in accordance with current department evidence procedures. The photographs shall be retained until the criminal proceeding is completed and the time for any related civil proceeding has expired.

Canines used by law enforcement agencies are generally exempt from impoundment and reporting requirements (510 ILCS 5/13(b)). The canine shall be under observation for 10 days following any bite. The observation shall consist of the canine being locked in a kennel, performing its official duties in a law enforcement vehicle or remaining under the constant supervision of its handler.

310.7 NON-APPREHENSION GUIDELINES

Properly trained canines may be used to track or search for non-criminals (e.g., lost children, individuals who may be disoriented or in need of medical attention). The canine handler is responsible for determining the canine's suitability for such assignments based on the conditions and the particular abilities of the canine. When the canine is deployed in a search or other non-apprehension operation, the following guidelines apply.

- (a) Absent a change in circumstances that present an immediate threat to officers, the canine or the public, such applications should be conducted on-leash or under conditions that minimize the likelihood the canine will bite or otherwise injure the individual, if located.
- (b) Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, assisting members should take direction from the handler in order to minimize interference with the canine.
- (c) Throughout the deployment the handler should periodically give verbal assurances that the canine will not bite or hurt the individual and encourage the individual to make him/herself known.
- (d) Once the individual has been located, the handler should place the canine in a down-stay or otherwise secure it as soon as reasonably practicable.

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310.7.1 ARTICLE DETECTION

A canine trained to find objects or property related to a person or crime may be used to locate or identify articles. A canine search should be conducted in a manner that minimizes the likelihood of unintended bites or injuries.

310.7.2 NARCOTICS DETECTION

A canine trained in narcotics detection may be used in accordance with current law and under certain circumstances, including:

- (a) The search of vehicles, buildings, bags and other articles.
- (b) Assisting in the search for narcotics during a search warrant service.
- (c) Obtaining a search warrant by using the narcotics-detection trained canine in support of probable cause.

A narcotics-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.

At no time will a canine be deployed inside a vehicle in order to prevent exposure of the canine to possible controlled substances that could harm it.

310.8 HANDLER SELECTION

The minimum qualifications for the assignment of canine handler include:

- (a) An officer who is currently off probation at the time of appointment.
- (b) Residing in an adequately fenced, single-family residence (minimum 5-foot high fence with locking gates).
- (c) Living within 30 minutes travel time from the Urbana City limits
- (d) Agreeing to be assigned to the position for a minimum of three years

310.9 HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES

The canine 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 canine handler will be responsible for the following:

- (a) Except as required during appropriate deployment, the handler shall not expose the canine to any foreseeable and unreasonable risk of harm.
- (b) The handler shall maintain all department equipment under his/her control in a clean and serviceable condition.
- (c) When a handler is off-duty for an extended number of days, the assigned canine vehicle should be stored at the Urbana Police Department facility.
- (d) Handlers shall permit the canine coordinator to conduct spontaneous on-site inspections of affected areas of their homes as well as their canine vehicles to verify that conditions and equipment conform to this policy.

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- (e) 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 coordinator as soon as possible.
- (f) When off-duty, the canine shall be in a kennel provided by the City at the home of the handler. When a canine is kenneled at the handler's home, the gate shall be secured. When off-duty, the canine may be let out of the kennel while under the direct control of the handler.
- (g) The canine should be permitted to socialize in the home with the handler's family under the direct supervision of the handler.
- (h) Under no circumstances will the canine be lodged at another location unless approved by the canine coordinator or Shift Supervisor.
- (i) When off-duty, the handler shall not involve the canine in any law enforcement activity or official conduct unless approved in advance by the canine coordinator or Shift Supervisor.
- (j) Whenever a canine handler is off-duty for an extended number of days, it may be necessary to temporarily relocate the canine. In those situations, the handler shall give reasonable notice to the canine coordinator so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If the handler is gone for an extended period of time, the City will be responsible for paying the cost of housing and care. If the canine is kenneled, the handler will use the full amount of benefit time for their assigned shift.

310.9.1 CANINE IN PUBLIC AREAS

The canine should 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 canine is trained.

- (a) A canine shall not be left unattended in any area to which the public may have access.
- (b) When the canine vehicle 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 vehicle remains inhabitable for the canine.

310.10 CANINE INJURY AND MEDICAL CARE

In the event that a canine is injured, or there is an indication that the canine is not in good physical condition, the injury or condition will be reported to the canine coordinator or Shift Supervisor as soon as practicable and appropriately documented.

All medical attention shall be rendered by the designated canine veterinarian, except during an emergency where treatment should be obtained from the nearest available veterinarian. All records of medical treatment shall be maintained in the handler's personnel file.

310.11 TRAINING

Before assignment in the field, each narcotic detection canine team shall be trained and certified to meet current requirements established by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) (50 ILCS 705/10.12).

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The canine coordinator shall be responsible for scheduling periodic training for all department members in order to familiarize them with how to conduct themselves in the presence of department canines.

All canine training should be conducted while on-duty unless otherwise approved by the canine coordinator or Shift Supervisor.

310.11.1 FAILURE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE TRAINING

Any canine 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. When reasonably practicable, pending successful certification, the canine handler shall be temporarily reassigned to regular patrol duties.

310.11.2 TRAINING RECORDS

All canine training records shall be maintained in the canine handler's file as well as the canine's training file.

310.11.3 TRAINING AIDS

Training aids are required to effectively train and maintain the skills of canines. Officers possessing, using or transporting controlled substances or explosives for canine training purposes must comply with federal and state requirements regarding the same. Alternatively, the Urbana Police Department may work with outside trainers with the applicable licenses or permits.

310.11.4 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TRAINING AIDS

Officers acting in the performance of their official duties may possess or transfer controlled substances for the purpose of narcotics-detection canine training in compliance with state and federal laws (21 USC § 823(f); 720 ILCS 570/302).

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee may authorize a member to seek a court order to allow controlled substances seized by the Urbana Police Department to be possessed by the member or a narcotics-detection canine trainer who is working under the direction of this department for training purposes, provided the controlled substances are no longer needed as criminal evidence.

As an alternative, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee may request narcotics training aids from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

These procedures are not required if the canine handler uses commercially available synthetic substances that are not controlled narcotics.

310.11.5 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PROCEDURES

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

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- (a) All controlled substance training samples shall be weighed and tested prior to dispensing to the individual canine handler or trainer.
- (b) The weight and test results shall be recorded and maintained by this department.
- (c) Any person possessing controlled substance training samples pursuant to court order or DEA registration shall maintain custody and control of the controlled substances and shall keep records regarding any loss of, or damage to, those controlled substances.
- (d) All controlled substance training samples will be inspected, weighed and tested periodically. The results of the quarterly testing shall be recorded and maintained by the canine coordinator or by whomever holds the DEA license.
- (e) All controlled substance training samples will be stored in locked, airtight and watertight cases at all times, except during training. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] There are no exceptions to this procedure.
- (f) The canine coordinator shall periodically inspect every controlled substance training sample for damage or tampering and take any appropriate action.
- (g) Any unusable controlled substance training samples shall be returned to the Property and Evidence Division or to the dispensing agency.
- (h) 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.

310.12 CANINE RETIREMENT

When the Patrol Division Commander determines a canine is no longer fit for duty it shall be offered to the handler assigned to the animal during its service. If the handler does not wish to keep the dog, the Patrol Division Commander should offer the canine to another employee of the Urbana Police Department, or to a nonprofit organization or no-kill shelter that may facilitate the dog's adoption (510 ILCS 82/5).