

Bowie Police Department - General Orders



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AUTHORITY Chief John K. Nesky	ACCREDITATIONS STANDARDS 41.1.5, 1.3.5, 1.3.6, 1.3.7	TOTAL PAGES 6
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I. POLICY

The policy of the Bowie Police Department is to utilize Canine Teams to assist officers in the performance of their duties, and to deploy the Canine Unit in a manner consistent with procedures, established training, and deployment methods. The canine will be used in locating people, and forms of contraband. When utilized, Canine Teams will operate in accordance with constitutional provisions and federal, state, and local laws.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Canine Unit is to provide line support to units within the Department with a highly mobile, specially trained drug detection dog, and bloodhound. The drug detection canine has particular attributes which can quickly facilitate a search for items of contraband in unseen or otherwise undetectable locations. Bloodhounds/Trailing have an acute sense of smell and can trail a human scent which is more than 24 hours old and can be used to locate criminal suspects or missing persons.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Canine Handler: An Officer who has been certified by a canine trainer to deploy and control a police Canine.
- B. Canine Coordinator: A commanding officer responsible for the handling of the administrative functions of the canine operations
- C. Canine Team: A canine handler and an assigned police canine.

IV. TRAINING (CALEA 41.1.5 b)

The Bowie Police Department carefully selects, trains, and provides continuing training to its Canine Teams under the guidance of the Prince George's County Police Department's Canine Unit. Each member is certified to a mandated standard of performance, and is recertified annually in detection techniques. Teams that fail re-certification are removed from service until such requirements are fulfilled.

- A. The Prince George's County Police Department will be responsible for conducting and scheduling canine training for the City's Canine Team.
- B. When on-duty Canine training is being conducted, the Canine Handler will notify the affected shift supervisor(s) that the Canine Team is out of service, the hours of the training, and supply a cell phone number if necessary, to allow for notification in the event the Canine Team is needed. If it is the Canine Team's regular training day, this notification is not required.
- C. The shift supervisor must authorize the call-out of the Canine Team from training.
- D. If during canine training the Canine Team is notified that its services are needed, training will be suspended and the Canine Team will respond.
- E. During each training session, a member of the Prince George's County Police Department will document the training objectives covered and provide an evaluation on their departmental form. A copy of the training forms shall be maintained by the Bowie Police Department's Training Section. (CALEA 41.1.5.c)

V. OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT (CALEA 41.1.5.a)

- A. Canine search for controlled dangerous substance:

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

Officer responsibilities and interaction with the drug detection canine

- 1. Areas of potential deployment of the drug detection canine include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Scans of motor vehicles,
 - b. Scans necessary to establish probable cause for search warrants,
 - c. Drug interdiction in public places,
 - d. Scans relative to search warrant execution.
- 2. In incidents involving motor vehicles, such as traffic stops, in which the officer believes the drug detection canine may be needed, the officer should immediately request the Canine Team's response. By doing so, it allows the Canine team to arrive in a timely manner.

3. If the officer requesting a Canine Team determines that there is no longer a need for the team to respond, the officer at the scene shall make the appropriate cancellation.
4. When a motor vehicle is being scanned by a police canine that is trained as a drug detection canine, it is the officer's responsibility to situate and control the vehicle's occupants in a manner that will not jeopardize the canine handler's safety while conducting the scan.

B. Guidelines for Use of Department Bloodhound Trailing Search Teams

1. Bloodhound/Trailing Search Teams are available to any installation or local law enforcement agency. Requests for Bloodhound/Trailing search teams shall be in accordance with provisions outlined in this manual. Bloodhound/Trailing teams offer the Department a unique facet of trailing. Bloodhounds/Trailing teams have an acute sense of smell and can trail a human scent which is more than 24 hours old and can be used to locate criminal suspects or missing persons.

2. Bloodhound/Trailing Search Terms Definitions

a. Scent Transfer Unit (STU) - The Scent Transfer Unit is a device used to collect human scent to be used for Bloodhound tracks. It will be utilized by handlers trained in its use. The unit will be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol prior to and after every use. Once the scent has been collected by the STU, it will be placed in a clean glass jar for use by the Bloodhound team. The STU will not destroy any DNA evidence. Any person that has had contact with the surface being used to obtain the scent article with the STU, will remain at the scene for scent elimination by the Bloodhound.

b. Point Last Seen (PLS) - The location that someone last physically observed the missing person/suspect.

c. Last Known Position (LKP) - the location the missing person/suspect left evidence.

3. Upon Arrival of Responding Officer

a. The responding Officer should determine if a "scent article," is available. The scent article will be a piece of unwashed clothing that the person has recently worn or anything the victim/suspect has recently had physical contact. Any clothing worn close to the body is the most preferred types of scent articles. Sheets, pillowcases, etc. can be considered for use as scent articles.

b. The responding Officer will not let anyone handle the scent article.

c. Once the officer determines that a scent article is available, the Officer will then personally check the house or other locations where the person was last seen. (i.e., under beds, in closets, under stairwells, in attics, in basements, inside wardrobes, and any other conceivable hiding place)

d. When the Officer is satisfied with the house search, the outside of the house will also be searched. (i.e., under porches, stairs, basement and window casements, etc.).

e. Gather all pertinent information about the missing person/suspect to include:

- (1) Full name and date of birth, if available
- (2) Detailed physical description
- (3) PLS or LKP
- (4) Any psychological issues or propensity for violence
- (5) Any known medical conditions.
- (6) Any known weapons

4. Upon Arrival of Bloodhound Teams

- a. When arriving on the scene of a missing person/suspect, the first Officer should determine the point last seen or the last known position.
- b. Obtain the name and detailed description of the missing person/suspect from the on scene Officer.
- c. If a “search party” has been formed, all members will remain on scene until the arrival of the Bloodhound for scent elimination.
- d. Ensure all vehicle motors will be shut off to prevent accumulation of exhaust fumes.
- e. Keep the area free of “contamination” by not letting people into the area that the victim was last seen.
- f. The Scent Transfer Unit will be used by the handler, if available, to obtain scent from the article that has been secured by the responding officer.
- g. Ensure that responding officer has conducted a thorough search of the residence and all out buildings on the property and in the area.

5. Conducting Bloodhound Tracks for Missing Persons

- a. At least one officer should accompany the handler on the search. The Officer should carry the necessary equipment needed to aid in the search, leaving the handler unencumbered to handle the bloodhound.
- b. Personnel assisting the bloodhound team will follow behind at a distance determined by the handler. Under no circumstances should anyone search in front of the bloodhound team unless directed by the handler.
- c. Should the bloodhound stop its forward movement and begin to circle, personnel must stop and remain stationary until the bloodhound has straightened out its course and resumes in a definitive direction.
- d. No attempt should be made to influence the bloodhound team toward a particular direction.

e. Articles located along the trail will be brought to the attention of the handler for evaluation.

6. Conducting Bloodhound Tracks for Criminal Suspects

a. Bloodhound teams are effective tools to utilize for tracking criminal suspects. When responding to a track for a criminal suspect, the procedures outlined in GUIDELINES FOR USE OF DEPARTMENT BLOODHOUND SEARCH TEAMS Section I through III will be followed.

b. When pursuing a suspect, bloodhound teams will be assigned a patrol dog team, if available, to follow behind the bloodhound. In the event a patrol dog team is not available a minimum of two patrol officers will be assigned to follow behind the bloodhound team.

- C. The Canine Team shall assist with routine patrol calls.
- D. While the Canine Team is administratively assigned to a specific squad, the Canine Team will not be limited to patrolling a specific area of the City and will respond to any incident within the City limits where the canine is required or there is the potential for its use.
- E. Canine Teams are required to assist with special details and assignments involving other sections within the Department due to their specialized nature. Whenever the Canine Team is needed to assist with an assignment or detail, the Patrol Commander to whom the Canine Team is assigned shall be notified through the chain of command to ensure that there is no negative operational impact.
- F. The Canine Handler shall have exclusive control over the use of the canine on any scene where the Canine Team may be deployed. The Canine Handler's assessment of the situation as it pertains to the capabilities of the canine will determine how the canine is to be used; however, the canine handler shall coordinate with the on-scene supervisor.
- G. Law enforcement agencies from other jurisdictions may request assistance of a Department Canine Team. When a request is made, an on-duty supervisor's approval is required for a Canine Team response. The Canine Handler is still bound by the Department's canine usage policies and reporting requirements.
- H. If a Canine Team is required, but unavailable due to leave or other circumstances, a supervisor may authorize the use of one from another agency.

VI. OFFICER AND DEPARTMENTAL PERSONNEL INTERACTION WITH POLICE CANINE

1. Department personnel shall not touch, handle or pet any police canine unless given permission by the Canine Handler.
2. Department personnel shall not tease, agitate, or harass any Department canine.
3. Department personnel shall refrain from horseplay with other personnel or the Canine Handler when the canine is present.

4. If a canine is working (such as actively scenting) and approaches a member, that member should stand still and make no overt movements.
5. If a Canine Handler is injured and cannot control his/her canine, officers are directed to call for a supervisor to respond to the scene and ensure care and control of the canine.

VII. BITE / INJURY PROCEDURES

The Bowie Police Department utilizes canines that are primarily non-aggressive. However if an injury occurs as a result of the canine, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. The injured person shall be afforded medical care as soon as practical. (CALEA 1.3.5)
2. The Patrol Commander will be immediately notified.
3. An on duty supervisor shall respond to the scene and personally view the injury, take a statement from the injured person as soon as possible, ensure that the bite or injury is photographed, and document his or her observations.
4. The Canine Handler shall complete and submit to his/her Commander through his/her chain of command the following:
 1. A memorandum which shall be transmitted through channels to the Chief of Police detailing the incident; and
 2. An incident report and supplement detailing the facts regarding the bite or injury; and
 3. A Department Canine Bites form; and
 4. A Prince George's County Health Department Certified Police Canine Bite Report. (CALEA 1.3.6, 1.3.7)
 5. The Commander of Patrol shall be responsible for all investigations related to this section.