

Bowie Police Department - General Orders



TITLE: CANINE PROGRAM	NUMBER: 432
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AUTHORITY Chief John K. Nesky	ACCREDITATIONS STANDARDS 41.1.4, 1.3.5, 1.3.6, 1.3.7	TOTAL PAGES 4
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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 primarily for detection of drugs and contraband. When utilized, Canine Teams will operate in accordance with constitutional provisions and federal, state, and local laws.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the CDS trained Canine Unit is to provide line support to units within the Department with a highly mobile, specially trained drug detection dog. The drug detection canine has particular attributes which can quickly facilitate a search for items of contraband in unseen or otherwise undetectable locations.

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 41.1.4 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.

V. OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT (CALEA 41.1.4)

- 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. The Canine Team shall assist with routine patrol calls.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.