

WINONA POLICE DEPARTMENT

NUMBER: 101-09 PAGES: 6

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 2009

REVISED DATE: June 1, 2009

SUBJECT: CANINE TEAM OPERATIONS

1.0 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this General Order is to establish departmental procedures for the operation and deployment of the Winona Police Department Canine (K9) team.

2.0 POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Winona Police Department, that the K9 team be used within guidelines, to prevent, control and detect criminal activity.

3.0 DEFINITIONS:

3.1 Handler: An officer of the Winona Police Department who is regularly assigned to the K9 Team and is qualified and trained in the use, handling, training and care of a police service dog for law enforcement use.

3.2 Canine/Patrol Dog: A police service dog which has been procured, specially trained and qualified by recognized standards, to perform and execute a number of specific law enforcement and public service tasks which make use of the canine's speed, agility, and sense of smell, (e.g, patrol, tracking, evidence recovery, suspect searches and suspect apprehensions etc.)

3.3 K9 team: An officer/ handler of the Winona Police Department and his/her assigned police service dog.

3.4 Deployment: The handler making use of his/her assigned dog in an official capacity.

3.5 Apprehension: A physical engagement between the dog and offender in an attempt to effect an arrest of a suspect who is resisting or fleeing from officers.

4.0 HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES:

4.1 The handler will perform all patrol related functions as directed by his/her supervisor.

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- 4.2** It is estimated that the handler will spend 30 minutes per day caring for the assigned dog. Daily care and maintenance of the assigned dog may include but is not limited to the following; maintenance and cleaning of the kennel and yard area where the canine is housed; daily provision of food, water and general diet maintenance; grooming; exercise (police canines are not permitted to run at large unsupervised by the handler); and medical care. Should a major medical issue arise, the handler will immediately notify the Police Chief or his/her designee. Time spent at a veterinary clinic or dealing with a major medical issue, including transportation to and from the clinic, will be submitted as hours worked. A canine officer shall use his/her best efforts to arrange for veterinary care during his/her scheduled duty time. Time spent administering medication, changing dressings or other minor medical related tasks will be considered part of the thirty (30) minutes daily maintenance.
- 4.3** Handlers who wish to keep the canine after it has been retired may submit a request to the Chief of Police. In all cases, the Chief of Police will handle the disposition of the canine in accordance with Minnesota Statutes or City Ordinances governing the handling of City property.
- 4.4** Canine handler(s) must have at a minimum the following facilities at their residence to house the canine:
- 4.4.1** A shelter within the yard that will protect the canine from the elements.
- 4.5** Any deviation from the above requirements must be accompanied by written permission from the Chief of Police or his/her designee: Canines shall not be used for breeding, participation in shows, exhibitions or other off-duty employment unless authorized by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
- 4.6** Handlers will maintain a current record of canine training, tactical operations and medical check-ups.

5.0 PROCEDURES

- 5.1** Deployment

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- 5.1.1** The decision to deploy the patrol dog in a given situation shall be solely that of the dog handler, however, a supervisor sufficiently apprised of the situation may decide not to deploy the dog. A handler will be responsible for the dog's actions and tactical use. A handler must ensure that a request for canine tactical use does not violate department policy.
- 5.1.2** If the patrol dog is requested to respond to assist an outside agency, it must first be cleared with the on-duty supervisor for the Winona Police Department.
- 5.1.3** The deployment of a patrol dog in an apprehension generally involves felony suspects but it is the circumstances of the event that determine the use of the dog and not the classification of the crime involved.
- 5.1.4** In all instances where the patrol dog is deployed, it shall comply with departmental guidelines including Winona PD Policy 101-01 (Use of Force) and Federal, State and local laws. Further, the following should be taken into consideration:

 - 5.1.4.1** If the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of officers or others.
 - 5.1.4.2** If the suspect is actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest by flight.
 - 5.1.4.3** If the severity of the crime or reason for arrest warrants the use of a patrol dog.
- 5.1.5** Before deploying the patrol dog off lead, a loud verbal warning shall be given by the handler. The warning shall be repeated allowing sufficient time for a response.
- 5.1.6** Officer safety or other concerns may negate the necessity for giving a verbal warning.

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5.1.7 When the patrol dog is deployed in a building search, an area search or any other search for a suspect, there shall be a minimum of one backup officer accompanying the handler and the police service dog.

5.2 K9 APPREHENSIONS

5.2.1 When a situation arises where a patrol dog of the Winona Police Department injures a person, the following procedures will be followed:

5.2.1.1 Administer First Aid

5.2.1.2 A supervisor will be notified immediately.

5.2.1.3 Medical attention shall be offered by the Police Department or the appropriate Ambulance Service will be summoned.

5.2.1.4 Photographs will be taken of the injuries.

5.2.1.5 A written report, along with a use of force report will be completed by the handler.

5.3 INJURED HANDLER:

If the handler is down or injured, the assisting officer(s) will follow these procedures:

5.3.1 Call to the handler. If possible, the handler will call the dog.

5.3.2 If possible, try to call the dog into the rear of an open K9 vehicle or other open squad.

5.3.3 Attempt to get another handler at the scene as soon as possible as he/she has received instructions on handling this type of situation.

5.3.4 If all of the above have failed, notify one of the handler's family members or someone the dog knows very well.

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5.3.5 If a family member or another canine handler cannot respond in a timely manner and the injured officer's life is in jeopardy, officers on the scene should attempt to divert the dog's attention in order to reach the injured officer and move him/her to safety if possible.

5.3.6 The canine's training and dedication to its handler may make diversion extremely difficult. An officer "taking a bite" may be the only successful way of diverting the K-9's attention. When an officer on the scene: "takes a bite" he/she should follow these guidelines:

5.3.6.1 Use a bite sleeve or pad the arm to reduce the chance of injury.

5.3.6.2 Have other officers standing by with a rope, leash or chain, that can be quickly attached to the canine's choker collar after the officer "takes a bite".

5.3.7 As a last resort, the canine can be destroyed but only in the event of a pending fatality to the handler.

6.0 UNIFORM:

The uniform of the handler shall be determined by the Chief of Police.

7.0 CONDUCT OF OFFICERS:

7.1 Do not make aggressive gestures towards the handler or tease or antagonize his/her dog even when the dog is in the patrol vehicle.

7.2 Do not give the dog commands, except when authorized by the handler.

7.3 Do not feed the dog or offer any substance to the dog, except when authorized by the handler.

7.4 Do not run in front of the dog when it is responding to an assignment.

7.5 Do not deploy the Taser while the dog is on an apprehension.

7.6 Do not run after a handler if the dog is not with her/him.

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- 7.7** Do not attempt to enter or retrieve anything from within a canine vehicle that is unattended, even if the dog looks friendly.

- 7.8** Do not run in front of or away from a Police K-9. If a K-9 pursues you, stop, put your hands over your head and remain motionless until the handler arrives and has called the dog.