

Faribault Police Department

Policy #: 313	Subject: Police Canine Unit
Issued by: Chief Andy Bohlen	
Personnel: All Personnel	Date Issued: December 12, 2018

Purpose

Police Canine Units are a legitimate tool in law enforcement. It is necessary that the department control the use, maintenance and training of its Canine Unit. This policy will be used to delineate responsibilities and to establish general guidelines for the use of the Faribault Police Department's Canine Unit.

Policy

It is the policy of the Faribault Police Department that all Canine Units be appropriately trained and they perform at acceptable levels in the areas they have been trained.

Procedure

I. Organizational Structure:

1. The overall administration of the Canine Unit shall be the responsibility of the Patrol Captain under the direction of the Chief of Police.
2. The Canine Unit shall be operationally subordinate to the on-duty Sergeant or OIC when engaged in normal duty assignments.
3. The overall tactical use of the Canine shall be at the discretion of the individual Canine Officer.
4. The supervisor on duty shall have the discretion to call out the Canine Units when an on-duty Canine Unit is not available.

B. Supervision

1. A Patrol Sergeant, under the Division Captain, shall oversee the operations of the Canine Unit, including:
 - a. Overall Canine supervision.
 - b. Coordinating activities with other divisions and other law enforcement agencies.
 - c. Public relations.
 - d. Veterinary service.
 - e. Equipment and supplies for the Canine Unit.
2. The supervisor on duty shall be responsible for the normal duty activities of the Canine Unit, to include:

- a. Consultation, when practical, with the Canine Officer prior to the tactical use of the Canine Unit.
- b. Whenever the police canine causes injury to any person, including members of the department, the supervisor on duty shall evaluate the need for medical attention and ensure the required incident reports are submitted.

C. Use of force

1. The deployment of a police canine is a use of force that must follow the Police Departments use of force police, principles of escalation and de-escalation and the objective reasonableness standard.
2. Decisions to deploy a police canine should be guided by the following factors:
 - a. The severity of the crime.
 - b. Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of officers or others.
 - c. Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest or capture at the time.
 - d. The probability that the suspect will escape if a police service dog is not deployed.

D. Canine Utilization: The Canine Unit may be used for the following purposes:

1. Building searches where the search of such by officers would create unnecessary risk, provided that:
 - a. The canine officer and/or an assisting officer has made reasonable efforts to determine if innocent people are present.
 - b. The canine officer and/or an assisting officer has given at least two verbal warnings that a canine will be released into the area, unless tactically unsound to do so. The announcement should include that there are Officers on scene and that a trained Police canine will be released and may bite any person in the building if he/she does not surrender immediately.
 - c. Adequate time is given to respond to that warning when given.
 - d. Subsequent warnings should be issued for each floor or section of a multi-level building, unless tactically unsound.
 - e. If circumstances dictate that a verbal warning would be tactically unsound, no warnings need be given. In such cases the canine handler shall document the reason(s) for omitting the police service dog warnings.
 - f. The canine may be unleashed during a building search unless there is an imminent risk of injury to innocent persons within the facility.
 - g. The police canine should not be used to search facilities that contain substances potentially harmful to the animal unless overriding risk to human life is present.

- h. When apprehending suspects the police service canine shall be commanded to disengage as soon as the suspect is subdued or readily complies with the handler's direction
- 2. Tracking and area searches for suspects that have fled from the scene of a crime and/or are actively engaged in efforts to elude capture can be used with supervisory approval. Such searches are subject to the following conditions and limitations:
 - a. Notice should be given at least twice advising of the pending and intended use of the canine prior to deployment, unless tactically unsound. Additional warnings should be given during long tracks unless tactically unsound.
 - b. When officers are pursuing a suspect and contact with the suspect is lost, officers should, prior to summoning a police service canine.
 - 1. Stop and pinpoint the location where suspect was last seen.
 - 2. Avoid vehicle or foot movement in the area where the suspect was last seen.
 - c. Police canine units used for tracking persons should remain on leash of sufficient length to provide a reasonable measure of safety to the subject of the search without compromising the dog's tracking abilities.
 - d. On scene supervisory personnel should:
 - 1. Secure the perimeter of the area to be searched if possible.
 - 2. Secure the integrity of the area to be searched by keeping all personnel out of the area.
- 3. Canines are also available to search for other individuals such as lost or missing children or adults. The canine should remain on leash during searches of this type.
- 4. Apprehension of Fleeing or Resisting Subjects.
 - a. This apprehension refers to a canine officer intentionally releasing or directing a canine to apprehend a criminal suspect.
 - b. This type of apprehension is considered a use of force and the decision to utilize the canine for this type of apprehension shall be based on MSS 609.06 which authorizes the use of force.
 - c. Canine physical apprehensions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and not as a percentage.
 - d. Canine officers utilizing a canine to apprehend a criminal suspect should give a warning of the intention to use the canine when possible, unless tactically unsound.
- 5. Protecting police officers and others from injury or death
- 6. Utilization for crowd control is authorized in the following circumstances:

- a. To prevent injury to any person or police officer.
 - b. To prevent a criminal act.
 - c. When specifically requested by a supervisor.
7. General rules for deployment for the purpose of crowd control are:
- a. The on-scene supervisor shall assume authority and responsibility for all canine teams deployed.
 - b. Canines shall be leashed at all times unless no other means are available to protect an individual from serious bodily harm.
 - c. Canines should be used in conjunction with other department members in a coordinated effort.
 - d. Prior to deployment, notice should be given advising the pending and intended use of the canine, unless tactically unsound.
8. Public relations oriented demonstrations, provided that the Patrol Captain has given department approval prior to the demonstration.
9. Search and recovery of evidence discarded by fleeing suspects.
10. Narcotics detection
- a. If the police canine is to be used for narcotics detection all attempts should be made to minimize human contamination. Keep people out of the area or vehicle to be searched.
 - b. If possible control the airflow to the area. In indoor, keep windows and doors closed, including those of a vehicle.
 - c. Officers requesting the police canine should be able to articulate clearly their probable cause or reasonable suspicion to the canine handler upon their arrival.

E. Taser/Canine Deployment

1. Officers should not deploy a Taser while a police canine is engaged in the apprehension or attempted apprehension of a suspect.

F. Training

1. Canine and canine officer training will be in conformance with the standards set forth by a nationally recognized police dog certification.
2. Each canine Unit shall be certified each year by successful completion in a nationally recognized police dog certification trials.

3. If narcotic detector trained, the canine unit shall be certified each year by successful completion in a nationally recognized police dog narcotics trial.
4. Canine training records shall be maintained under the control of the Patrol Sergeant assigned to supervise the program.
5. Canine officers shall report to the assigned Patrol Sergeant the training needs of the canine and canine officer, and any deficiencies or areas of concern. After all available input has been considered, the Patrol Sergeant will forward the information to the Patrol Captain who will authorize a training approach that meets his/her approval and department capabilities.

G. Canine officer shall be responsible for:

1. The tactical use of their assigned canine, unless acting upon the direction of a supervisor.
2. Immediately notifying the on-duty supervisor when their canine bites, or causes any injury to any person whether on or off duty, regardless of the location of the incident. If such injury requires treatment at a medical facility, the Canine Program Patrol Sergeant supervisor shall also be immediately notified. Any injuries shall be photographed whenever possible.
3. Reporting any injuries, illnesses, or death suffered by their assigned canine to the Canine Supervising Patrol Sergeant.
4. Reporting to departments approved veterinarian any injuries, illnesses, or death of an emergency nature of their canine.
5. Submitting written reports of canine bites and any other injury or damage to a person's clothing or personal effects as a result of any action on the part of the canine.
6. Maintaining a kennel and environment that meets or exceeds the requirements found in the department's policy, city ordinance, and Minnesota State Statute. The kennel and living environment of the canine are subject to periodic inspection by the Canine Supervising Sergeant or his/her designee without notice.
7. The handler shall maintain all department equipment under his/her control in a clean and serviceable condition when on and off duty.
8. The handler shall be available for phone calls and consultations with the on duty Sergeant or OIC while off-duty.
9. K-9 squad is to be kept inside a secure building/structure.

H. Mutual Aid

1. The use of the Canine Unit to assist another agency or community shall require prior authorization from the on-duty supervisor or the Patrol Captain. The decision

to permit the Canine Unit to provide assistance outside the City of Faribault may be based on, but not limited to the following:

- a. The availability of the Canine Unit. Whether the Canine Unit can be spared depending on personnel levels and calls for service.
- b. Seriousness of the crime, location or call, and time elapsed.
- c. Safety concerns for the Canine Unit (dog or officer).

I. Selection of Police Canine Handlers

1. The following are the minimum qualifications for the assignment of a Police Canine Handler:
 - a. Full-time Faribault Police Officer that has successfully completed the Field Training Program and has completed probation.
 - b. Live within a 30 minute response time.
 - c. Agree to be assigned to the position for the working life of the Canine.
 - d. Agree to not seek other employment for the duration of the assignment.

J. Canine Handler Compensation

1. Canine Handler compensation shall meet or exceeded the minimum compensation of 3.5 hours per week determined by FLSA.
2. Hours for scheduled events, including but not limited to, demonstrations, Veterinary care, training, etc., shall be compensated as straight compensatory time.
3. The canine handler shall be available for phone calls and consultations with the Sergeant or OIC while off-duty. These phone calls and consultations are not eligible for compensation unless the determination is made to call out the canine team. In the event of a call-out while off duty, the handler shall be compensated at an overtime rate.

K. Miscellaneous Provisions:

1. Canine officer shall not enter their canine in any show, trial, exhibition, or demonstration without the prior approval of the Patrol Captain.
2. Canine officers shall not use their canine for breeding purposes without the prior approval of the Patrol Captain.
3. All canine inoculations shall be kept current.
4. All canines shall be assigned a permanent number to be used for identification purposes.
5. Children shall not be allowed to exercise the canine unless the handler is present.

6. Each canine officer shall be a member in good standing of a nationally recognized police dog organization. The department will be responsible for all dues associated with this membership.
7. Canines working within the Faribault Police Department are the property of the City of Faribault. All dog food and medical care will be financed by the by the Police Department. Canines will be retired and/or replaced at such time as the dog, due to physical condition, can no longer perform the police duties required. The canine officer at the time of the canine's retirement will have the opportunity to purchase the dog from the city at the cost of one dollar. At that time, the canine officer will then assume all further responsibility for care of the dog. Should the canine officer not choose to obtain the dog, the Chief of Police may dispose of the dog as he/she deems appropriate.
8. The canine is to be transported to, from, and during work in the squad specifically assigned for that purpose. Only in emergency cases when the canine squad is out-of-service, may the dog be transported in a regular squad and then only at the direction of a supervisor. Additionally, if the canine officer becomes separated from the canine squad due to the nature of an assignment, they may be transported back to the canine squad in a regular patrol vehicle.
9. Under no circumstances will an arrested person be transported in the rear of the canine squad with the dog. Any transported person, is, however, allowed to be transported in a canine squad if equipment with a prisoner transport seat separating the party physically from the canine. When reasonable, the canine officer will first seek the assistance of other patrol officers for transportation.
10. The canine handlers schedule shall be determined by the Department in order to best serve the interests of the Department. The Handlers shift may be altered temporarily to satisfy needs specifically related to the use of the canine.
11. Officers should not make aggressive gestures towards a handler or tease the police.
12. Officers should not attempt to enter or retrieve anything from within a canine vehicle that is left unattended without the handler being present.