

Canines

318.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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

318.1.1 CANINE UNIT MANAGER AND SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Unit Manager shall be a lieutenant appointed by staff and shall be responsible for overall management of the Canine Program. The Unit Supervisor shall be a sergeant appointed by staff and shall be responsible for the training and supervision of the canine teams. The Unit Manager and Supervisor are directly responsible to the Field Services Division Commander.

In addition to duties outlined elsewhere in this policy, the Canine Unit Manager shall be responsible for maintaining the structure and function of the unit. The Canine Unit Manager is responsible for ensuring the following duties are carried out:

- (a) Review all canine use reports to insure compliance with policy and to identify training issues and other needs of the program.
- (b) Maintain liaison with the vendor kennel.
- (c) Maintain liaison with administrative staff and functional supervisors.
- (d) Ensure liaison with the Fontana Police K9 Pals Association; this function may be performed by the Unit Manager or Supervisor, at the Unit Manager's discretion.
- (e) Approve any donation of equipment in excess of \$500.
- (f) Ensure the canine teams are scheduled for continuous training to maximize the capabilities of the teams.
- (g) Recommend and oversee the procurement of needed equipment, training aids, and services for the unit
- (h) Schedule and coordinate annual certification of all canine teams in all appropriate disciplines
- (i) Attend frequent trainings and work with vendor to ensure all training is consistent with this policy
- (j) Approve demonstration requests as received

In the event the Unit Manager is unavailable, the Unit Supervisor may be responsible for the Unit Manager's duties as designated by the Division Commander.

318.2 GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF CANINES

A canine may be used to locate and apprehend a suspect if the canine handler reasonably believes that the individual has either committed or threatened to commit any serious offense and if any of the following conditions exist:

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- (a) There is a reasonable belief that the individual poses an imminent threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any officer, or the handler.
- (b) The individual is physically resisting or threatening to resist arrest and the use of a canine reasonably appears to be necessary to overcome such resistance.
- (c) The individual(s) is/are believed to be concealed in an area where entry by other than the canine would pose a threat to the safety of officers or the public.

It is recognized that situations may arise that do not fall within the provisions set forth in this policy. In any such case, a standard of objective reasonableness shall be used to review the decision to use a canine in view of the totality of the circumstances.

Absent reasonable belief that an individual has committed or threatened to commit a serious offense, mere flight from pursuing officer(s) shall not serve as good cause for the use of a canine to apprehend the individual.

Once the individual has been located and no longer reasonably appears to represent a threat or risk of escape and no other services are required of the canine, the canine should be secured as soon as it becomes reasonably practical.

318.2.1 PREPARATION FOR UTILIZING A CANINE

Prior to the use of a canine to search for or apprehend any individual, the canine handler and/or the supervisor on scene shall carefully consider all pertinent information that is reasonably available at the time. The information should include, but is not limited to the following:

- (a) The individual's age or estimate thereof.
- (b) The nature of the suspected offense.
- (c) Any potential danger to the public and/or other officers at the scene if the canine is released.
- (d) The degree of resistance or threatened resistance, if any, the subject has shown.
- (e) The potential for escape or flight if the police dog is not utilized.
- (f) The potential for injury to officers or the public caused by the suspect if the canine is not utilized.

As circumstances permit, the canine handler should make every reasonable effort to communicate and coordinate with other involved personnel to minimize the risk of unintended injury.

A canine handler shall have the ultimate authority to deploy the dog. The handler will evaluate each situation and determine if the use of a canine is technically feasible. Generally, the decision whether to deploy the dog shall remain with the handler. However, a supervisor sufficiently apprised of the situation may decide not to deploy the dog.

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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318.2.2 WARNINGS GIVEN TO ANNOUNCE THE USE OF A CANINE

Unless it would otherwise increase the risk of injury or escape, a clearly audible warning to announce that a canine will be released if the person does not come forth, shall be made prior to releasing a canine. The handler should allow a reasonable time for a suspect to surrender prior and when practicable, repeat the warning prior to releasing the canine. If a verbal warning is not given prior to releasing the canine, the canine handler should first advise a supervisor of his/her decision prior to deploying the canine. In the event of an apprehension, the handler shall document in any related report whether or not a verbal warning was given and, if none was given, the reasons to substantiate such decision.

318.2.3 USE OF NARCOTIC-DETECTION CANINES

A narcotic-detection-trained canine may be used in accordance with current law under the following circumstances:

- (a) To assist in the search for narcotics during a search warrant service.
- (b) To obtain a search warrant by using the detection canine in support of probable cause.
- (c) To search vehicles, buildings, bags and any other articles deemed necessary.

A narcotic-detection canine will not be used to search a person for narcotics.

318.2.4 USE OF BOMB/EXPLOSIVE DETECTION DOGS

Because of the high risk of danger to the public and officers when a bomb or other explosive device is suspected, the use of a trained explosive detection dog team may be warranted. When available, a trained explosive detection dog team may be used in accordance with current law and under the following circumstances:

- (a) To assist in the search of a building, structure, area, vehicle or article where an actual or suspected explosive device has been reported or located.
- (b) To conduct preventative searches at locations such as special events, VIP visits, official buildings and other restricted areas. Because a dog sniff may be considered a search, such searches of individuals should remain minimally intrusive and shall be strictly limited to the purpose of detecting explosives.
- (c) To assist with searches at transportation facilities and vehicles (e.g., buses, airplanes and trains).
- (d) To assist in the search of scenes where an explosion has occurred and an explosive device or secondary explosive device is suspected.

At no time will a detection dog be used to render a suspected device safe or clear.

318.2.5 GUIDELINES FOR NON-APPREHENSION USE

Because canines have senses far superior to those of humans, they may often be effectively utilized to track or search for non-criminals (e.g. lost children, individuals who may be disoriented or in need of medical attention) or even suspects wanted for minor criminal offenses. In such circumstances, it will be necessary for the handler to evaluate the conditions and ability of the canine to determine the feasibility of such an application.

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In such non-criminal deployments, the following guidelines will apply:

- (a) Absent a change in circumstances that present an imminent threat to officers, the canine or the public, such applications should be conducted on leash or under such conditions that will minimize the likelihood that the canine will bite or otherwise injure the individual.
- (b) Throughout the deployment of the canine in such circumstances, the handler should consider issuing periodic verbal assurances that the canine will not bite or hurt the person.
- (c) Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, assisting personnel should take direction from the handler in order to minimize interference with the canine.
- (d) Once the individual has been located, the canine should be recalled to the handler and secured as soon as it becomes reasonably practicable.

318.2.6 REPORTING CANINE USE, BITES AND INJURIES

Whenever a canine is deployed and intentionally bites or otherwise causes injury to a suspect, a supervisor shall be promptly notified and the injuries documented. The deployment and injuries should also be included in any related incident or arrest report.

Any unintended bite or injury caused by the canine during deployments, operations, training, presentations or under any other circumstances, either on or off-duty, shall be promptly reported to the supervisor. Unintended bites or injuries caused by the canine should be documented in an administrative report.

If an individual alleges an injury, either visible or non-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 medical needs of the injured party. 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. However, the canine shall be made available for examination at any reasonable time if requested by the local health department. If the canine exhibits any abnormal behavior after a bite, the handler shall notify the Unit Supervisor, who will then notify the local health department (Health and Safety Code 121685).

318.2.7 REPORTING CANINE INJURIES

In the event that a canine is injured, the injury will be immediately reported to the on-duty supervisor or watch commander. When practical the unit supervisor or manager should also be notified.

Medical care for any injured canine shall follow the protocol established in the medical care of the canine section of this policy.

318.3 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 on duty supervisor to other functions, such as routine calls for service, based on the current operational needs.

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Canine teams should generally not be assigned to handle routine matters that will take them out of service for extended periods of time. If such assignment is necessary, it should only be made with the approval of the on duty supervisor.

318.3.1 REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER AGENCIES

The watch commander, unit manager, or unit supervisor must approve all requests for canine assistance from outside agencies, subject to the following provisions:

- (a) Canine teams shall not be used for any assignment that is not consistent with this policy.
- (b) The handler has the ultimate authority to decide whether the canine should be used for any specific assignment.
- (c) Canine teams shall not be called out while off-duty or used outside the boundaries of the City of Fontana unless authorized by the watch commander, the unit manager, or the unit supervisor.
- (d) Any time a canine team is dispatched outside the city limits to assist another agency in a search for a suspect, another Fontana Police Officer should be dispatched and designated as their backing officer during the search.

318.4 CANINE MANAGER

The canine manager shall be appointed by and directly responsible to the Field Services Division Commander or the authorized designee.

The responsibilities of the manager 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.

318.5 REQUESTS FOR CANINE TEAMS

Patrol Division 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 watch commander.

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318.5.1 AVAILABILITY

The handler shall be available for call-out under conditions specified by the Unit Manager.

318.5.2 PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION

All public requests for a canine team shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, approved by the canine supervisor or manager prior to making any resource commitment. The canine supervisor or manager is responsible for obtaining resources and coordinating involvement in the demonstration to include proper safety protocols. Canine handlers shall not demonstrate any apprehension work unless authorized to do so by the canine supervisor or manager.

318.5.3 CANINE IN PUBLIC AREAS

All canines shall be kept on a leash when in areas that allow access to the public. Exceptions would include specific police operations for which the canines are trained.

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

318.5.4 HANDLER COMPENSATION

The canine handler shall be compensated for time spent in the care, feeding, grooming and other needs of the dog as provided in the Fair Labor Standards Act. The compensation shall be prescribed in the employee's Memorandum of Understanding.

318.6 APPREHENSION GUIDELINES

A canine may be used to locate and apprehend a suspect if the canine handler reasonably believes that the individual has committed, is committing, or is threatening to commit any serious offense and if any of the following conditions exist:

- (a) There is a reasonable belief the suspect poses an imminent threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any officer, or the handler.
- (b) The suspect is physically resisting or threatening to resist arrest and the use of a canine reasonably appears to be necessary to overcome such resistance.
- (c) The suspect is believed to be concealed in an area where entry by other than the canine would pose a threat to the safety of officer or the public.

It is recognized that situations may arise that do not fall within the provisions set forth in this policy. Such events require consideration of the totality of the circumstances and the use of an objective reasonableness standard applied to the decision to use a canine.

Absent a reasonable belief that a suspect has committed, is committing, or is threatening to commit a serious offense, mere flight from a pursuing officer, without any of the above conditions, shall not serve as the basis for the use of a canine to apprehend a suspect.

Use of a canine to locate and apprehend a suspect wanted for a lesser criminal offense than those identified above requires approval from the watch commander. Absent a change in circumstances

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that presents an imminent threat to officers, the canine or the public, such canine use should be conducted on-leash or under conditions that minimize the likelihood the canine will bite or otherwise injure the individual.

In all applications, once the suspect has been located and no longer reasonably appears to present a threat or risk of escape, the handler should secure the canine as soon as it becomes reasonably practicable.

If the canine has apprehended the suspect with a secure bite, and the handler believes that the suspect no longer poses a threat, the handler should promptly command the canine to release the suspect.

318.6.1 PREPARATION FOR DEPLOYMENT

Non-emergency medical care will be coordinated through the unit supervisor. Any indication that a canine is not in good physical condition shall be reported to the unit supervisor, unit manager or watch commander as soon as practical. All records of medical treatment shall be maintained in the canine's file.

Prior to the use of a canine to search for or apprehend any suspect, the canine handler and/or the supervisor on-scene should carefully consider all pertinent information reasonably available at the time. The information should include but is not limited to:

- (a) The nature and seriousness of the suspected offense.
- (b) Whether violence or weapons were used or are anticipated.
- (c) The degree of resistance or threatened resistance, if any, the suspect has shown.
- (d) The suspect's known or perceived age.
- (e) The potential for injury to officers or the public caused by the suspect if the canine is not utilized.
- (f) Any potential danger to the public and/or other officers at the scene if the canine is released.
- (g) The potential for the suspect to escape or flee if the canine is not utilized.

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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318.6.2 EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

The designated emergency medical treatment center or canine veterinarian shall render emergency medical treatment. The handler shall notify the unit supervisor or unit manager as soon as practicable when emergency medical care is required.

318.7 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 presents an imminent 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.

318.7.1 CONTINUED TRAINING

Each canine team shall thereafter be recertified to standards that either meet or exceed current POST guidelines and current California Narcotic Canine Association guidelines on an annual basis.

Additional training considerations are as follows:

- (a) Canine teams shall receive training as defined in the current contract with the department's canine training provider.
- (b) Canine handlers shall engage in continuous on-duty training and may engage in additional formalized training with approval of the unit supervisor.
- (c) To ensure that all training is consistent, no handler, trainer, or outside vendor is authorized to train to a standard that is contrary to the policies of the Fontana Police Department.
- (d) All canine training shall be conducted while on-duty unless otherwise approved by the Unit Manager, Unit Supervisor, or watch commander.

318.7.2 NARCOTICS DETECTION

Any dog team failing POST canine certification and, if cross-trained, the California Narcotic Canine Association or other recognized and approved certification standards shall not be deployed in the

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field until certification is achieved. Any team failing certification shall be assigned to a maximum of two (2) weeks of remedial training prior to attempt a re-test. Failure to pass certification a second time may result in the removal of the handler, canine or both from the program. 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.

318.7.3 BOMB/EXPLOSIVE DETECTION

Because of the high risk of danger to the public and officers when a bomb or other explosive device is suspected, the use of a canine team trained in explosive detection may be considered. When available, an explosive-detection canine team may be used in accordance with current law and under certain circumstances, including:

- (a) Assisting in the search of a building, structure, area, vehicle, or article where an actual or suspected explosive device has been reported or located.
- (b) Assisting with searches at transportation facilities and vehicles (e.g., buses, airplanes, trains).
- (c) Preventive searches at special events, VIP visits, official buildings, and other restricted areas. Searches of individuals should remain minimally intrusive and shall be strictly limited to the purpose of detecting explosives.
- (d) Assisting in the search of scenes where an explosion has occurred and an explosive device or secondary explosive device is suspected.

At no time will an explosive-detection trained canine be used to render a suspected device safe or clear.

318.8 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.

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- (c) When not in service, the handler should when practical, maintain the canine vehicle in a locked garage, away from public view.
- (d) When a handler is off-duty for an extended number of days, the assigned canine vehicle should be stored at the Fontana Police Department facility.
- (e) 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.
- (f) 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.
- (g) 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 with a lock. When off-duty, the canine may be let out of the kennel while under the direct control of the handler.
- (h) The canine should be permitted to socialize in the home with the handler's family for short periods of time and under the direct supervision of the handler.
- (i) Under no circumstances will the canine be lodged at another location unless approved by the canine supervisor or manager.
- (j) 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 manager or watch commander.
- (k) 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 manager so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

318.9 NARCOTIC TRAINING AIDS

Controlled substance training aids are required to effectively train and maintain drug detecting dogs. Further, controlled substances can also be an effective training aid during training sessions for law enforcement personnel and the public.

Health & Safety Code § 11367.5 provides that any Sheriff, Chief Of Police, the Chief of the Bureau of Controlled Substance Enforcement, or the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol, or a designee thereof may, in his or her discretion, provide controlled substances in his or her possession for training purposes:

To any duly authorized peace officer canine trainer working under the direction of a law enforcement agency. Provided the controlled substances are no longer needed as criminal evidence. Provided the person receiving the controlled substances, if required by the Drug Enforcement Administration, possesses a current and valid Drug Enforcement Administration registration that specifically authorizes the recipient to possess controlled substances while

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providing substance abuse training to law enforcement or the community or while providing canine drug detection training.

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

- (a) All necessary controlled substance training samples shall be acquired from the Fontana Police Department's evidence personnel or from allied agencies authorized by Health & Safety Code § 11367.5 to provide controlled substance training samples. All controlled substance training samples shall be weighed and tested prior to dispensing to the individual canine handler
- (b) The weight and test results shall be recorded and maintained by this department
- (c) Any person receiving controlled substance training samples pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 11367.5 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 as required by the dispensing agency..
- (e) All controlled substance training samples will be stored in locked metal boxes at all times, except during training. The locked metal boxes shall be secured in the trunk of the canine handler's assigned patrol unit, or stored in a locked evidence locker. There are no exceptions to this procedure
- (f) The Canine Unit Supervisor 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 Fontana Police Department's Property Unit or to the dispensing agency

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.

318.9.1 IMMUNITY

All duly authorized peace officers acting in the performance of their official duties and any person working under their immediate direction, supervision or instruction are immune from prosecution under the Uniform Controlled Substance Act while providing substance abuse training or canine drug detection training (Health & Safety Code § 11367.5(b)).

318.10 EXPLOSIVE TRAINING AIDS

Explosive training aids are required to effectively train and maintain the skills of explosives detection dogs and can also provide effective training for law enforcement personnel and the public. Peace officers are permitted by law to possess, transport, store or use explosives or destructive devices while acting within the scope and course of employment (Penal Code § 18800). Explosive training aids designed specifically for K-9 teams should be used whenever feasible. Due to the safety concerns in the handling and transportation of explosives, inert or

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non-hazardous training aids should be employed whenever feasible. The use of explosives or destructive devices for training aids is subject to the following requirements:

- (a) All explosive training aids, when not in use, shall be properly stored in a secure facility appropriate for the type of materials they contain.
- (b) An inventory ledger shall be maintained to document the type and quantity of explosives training aids held by the Canine Unit.
- (c) The Canine Manager shall be responsible to verify the explosives training aids on hand against the inventory ledger once each quarter.
- (d) Only members of the Canine Unit shall have access to the explosives training aid storage facility.
- (e) A primary and secondary custodian will be designated to minimize the possibility of loss of explosive training aids during and after the training. Generally, the handler will be designated as the primary custodian while the trainer or second person on scene will be designated as the secondary custodian.
- (f) Any lost or damaged explosives training aid shall be promptly reported to the Unit Supervisor in writing who will determine if any further action will be necessary. Any loss of explosives will be reported to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).