

PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

SECTION 7: SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNITS

SUBJECT: 700 K-9

EFFECTIVE: 01/01/2015

1. **POLICY.** The police department equips and maintains a separate unit of officers and dogs known as the canine unit. This unit is a supportive unit in the department with a primary responsibility in patrol. The canine unit is responsible for, but not limited to:

- A. By use of their olfactory abilities, locating lost/missing persons and/or suspects that have fled on foot.
- B. Assisting patrol officers in criminal apprehensions;
- C. Conducting area searches;
- D. Conducting building searches; and
- E. Conducting public relations demonstrations;
- F. Article Searches
- G. Narcotics detection

2. **DEFINITIONS.**

Announcing: A loud verbal warning that a police canine will be deployed in a police application to search a building within one minute and that anyone within the building must immediately show and identify himself.

Application: Using the police dog in any police situation.

Dog handler: Officer regularly assigned to the canine unit.

Canine team: A dog handler and the assigned police dog.

Bureau Commander: department member designated by the administration as the Program manager.

Canine Trainer: Person designated by the department to design and administer on Going training for canine teams.

On Leash: A dog that is attached to and controlled by a leash in the hands of a dog handler.

3. **PHILOSOPHY.** The canine unit is primarily supportive to the patrol function. Arrests made or things found will be considered to have been done by the patrol officer involved, using the canine team as the means to do so, unless canine is the primary response unit. Each "dog handler/police canine" is considered "specialized". Dog handlers will apply the dog with proper restraint. It is recognized that a strong bond between dog and handler is vital to accomplish the goals of the canine unit. The stronger the bond, the greater success can be achieved. To form the strongest possible bond, dog handlers and their families take every opportunity to provide attention and genuine affection for their dog; the assignment is voluntary.

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4. ORGANIZATION. In selecting superior dog handlers, candidates must meet the selection criteria set forth in the job description. In addition, the following will be considered:

- A. Interest in the canine field;
- B. Knowledge of or a willingness to become familiar with canine work and procedures;
- C. Temperament and suitability for dog handler duties;
- D. Have a reputation of excellent initiative and judgment;
- E. Ability to perform duties in stressful situations with limited supervision;
- F. Good physical condition;
- G. Willing to work as part of a team.

5. PUBLIC RELATIONS. To avoid misunderstanding and in furtherance of good public relations, the following rules will be generally adhered to by the dog handlers:

- A. Canine training work will not be photographed, video taped, or publicly exhibited without first obtaining approval from the Chief of police.
- B. All public relations demonstrations must have prior approval by the Chief of Police or his designee.
- C. Public relations demonstrations are to be prepared in a manner that will assure a professional presentation to the audience and shall not include "apprehension" work unless approved by the Bureau Commander.
- D. Apparel worn by the dog handler shall be the assigned canine uniform, neat and clean in appearance.

6. THE DOG AS A MEANS OF "FORCE". Dogs may be used as an instrument of force. Their proper use as a means of force shall be based on the totality of the circumstances present at the time the decision is made

7. GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF THE POLICE CANINE. A police canine may be used to locate and apprehend a suspect if the dog handler reasonably believes that the individual has either committed or is about to commit any offense and if any of the following conditions exist:

- A. There is a reasonable belief that the individual poses an immediate threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any officer, or the handler.
- B. The individual is physically resisting arrest and the use of a police 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 police canine would pose a threat to the safety of officers or the public.

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

Absent the presence of one or more of the above conditions, mere flight from pursuing officer(s) shall not serve as good cause for the use of a police canine to apprehend an individual.

8. APPLICATION OF THE DOG WILL BE GOVERNED BY GENERAL RULES.

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

1. The individual's age or estimate thereof.
2. The nature of the suspected offense.
3. Any potential danger to the public and/or other officers at the scene if the police canine is released.
4. The degree of resistance, if any the subject has shown.
5. The potentials for escape or flight if the police canine is not utilized.
6. The potential for injury to officers or the public caused by the suspect if the police canine is not utilized.

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

C. Response to any request for assistance by another law enforcement agency must first have clearance from a supervisor. An off-duty canine team may be summoned to a police incident with the approval of the duty supervisor or the unit coordinator.

1. The canine team shall not be used outside the city to perform any assignment, which is not consistent with this procedure.
2. Upon arrival at the scene, the handler has the ultimate decision as to whether or not the canine is to be used for a specific assignment.

D. 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 conducting a building search or

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releasing a canine. The dog handler, when practical, shall first advise the supervisor of their decision if a verbal warning is not given prior to releasing the police canine.

E. In those instances when a dog handler responds as a backup unit, he/she will submit a "Utilization Report." The dog handler will complete a Special Report for any person apprehended or evidence located.

F. When a dog handler is dispatched as the primary investigating unit or comes onto a crime on view, he will then be responsible for completing all of the reports normally called for as though he were a regular patrol unit.

G. Canine teams should function primarily as cover units; however; they may be assigned to calls based upon needs by the shift at the time. Canine teams should not be assigned to handle matters that will take them out of service for extended periods of time unless absolutely necessary. Dog handlers will respond (when available) to all calls for service in which the abilities of the canine team may be useful. It is the responsibility of the dog handler to monitor radio traffic in order to maximize the opportunities for application of the dog.

9. DOG BITE PROCEDURES.

A. Whenever a dog, while under command, grabs, bites, nibbles, pinches, or in any other way comes into physical contact by mouth with a suspect, it should have been a bona fide situation such as:

1. The dog finds the suspect hiding before his handler sees the suspect, and the dog grabs and pulls the suspect from hiding.
2. The suspect refuses to come out of hiding when told to do so and the dog must be sent in to locate and/or apprehend the suspect.
3. The suspect, before submission, is acting in a furtive or aggressive manner.
4. The suspect is running from the dog handler and/or dog.
5. To protect the dog and/or the dog handler.
6. Bite on command of the dog handler.

B. In EVERY situation where the dog bites, grabs, nibbles, or pinches anyone, the following procedure will be adhered to:

1. Ask permission to look at the affected area. If a camera is available, take a photograph picture of the area, whether or not there is visible injury. If any injury exists, render first aid before photographing.
 - a. If an adult refuses to allow a dog handler to see the affected bite area, refusal should be witnessed by another officer.

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- b. If a juvenile refuses to allow the dog handler to see the alleged bite area, have another officer witness the refusal. In any situation involving a juvenile, make every reasonable effort to notify the juvenile's parents of the situation and to have them respond for custody release and acceptance of responsibility for treatment.
- c. In all cases of visible injury, the person should be provided medical treatment.

2. Written accounts of all dog bites situations shall be forwarded by the supervisor to the Chief of Police or his designee.

10. HANDLING THE DOG. The following rules shall apply in the dog handler's actual handling of the dog:

A. Under no circumstances should a dog handler allow any other person to handle the dog, UNLESS,

1. Directed to do so by the canine handler. The canine handler is injured and/or unable to command the dog and there is an immediate need for the dog to be handled. The dog must be under the direct control of the dog handler both on and off duty.
2. The handler should not leave the dog unattended under conditions where it could contact the public.

B. An on-going program of maintenance training shall be established to maintain peak dog performance. This is the responsibility of each dog handler. The training will be reviewed periodically by the canine unit supervisor. Canine teams will strive to maintain peak dog performance at all times.

C. No police personnel will feed, harass, tease, or horseplay with the canine unless permission is given.

11. CARE OF THE DOG. The handler shall ensure that the canine receives proper nutrition, grooming, training, medical care, affection, and living conditions. The dog handler will be responsible for the following:

A. Report immediately, any abnormal behavior.

B. Keep the dog's home and kennel clean and sanitary.

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- C. Dog handlers shall permit the Bureau Commander, or their designee, to conduct spontaneous on-site inspections of affected areas of their residence as well as the canine Patrol units, to verify that conditions and equipment conform to this procedure.
- D. Thoroughly groom the dog at least once each working day.
- E. It is the dog handler's responsibility to keep the canine physically fit to perform the tasks expected of a working police dog.
- F. Bureau Commander will be notified when any medical service for a canine is required, and performed by a veterinarian, over \$300, unless it is a life saving emergency.
- G. Any changes in the living status of the dog handler which may affect the lodging or environment of the canine shall be reported to the unit coordinator as soon as possible.
- H. Under no circumstances will the police canine be lodged at a location, other than the handler's residence, without the dog handler being present unless approved by the unit coordinator.
- I. When off-duty, dog handlers shall not involve their canine in any activity or conduct that might cause harm to other persons present unless approved in advance by the unit coordinator.
- J. Whenever a dog handler anticipates taking a vacation or an extended number of days off, it may be necessary to temporarily relocate the canine. In those situations, the handler shall give reasonable notice to the unit coordinator so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
- K. Dog handlers will be allowed two hours leave with pay per shift for the care and training of their assigned k-9. This will be at the discretion of the shift commander and approved by the Patrol Division Commander.

12. USE OF EQUIPMENT.

- A. When reporting on duty for a shift of work, dog handlers will be in possession of appropriate dog-handling gear.
- B. Dog handlers will not search any building or area without having in their possession a portable police radio capable of being used to contact other officers in the immediate area and on their normally assigned frequency.

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When rendering assistance to another agency, the host department will provide at least one cover officer capable of communicating to its dispatch center. Under no circumstances will a canine team track or search alone.

C. Dog handlers will keep their patrol vehicles clean and odor free.

D. A kennel providing proper cover and shelter will be provided by the Police Department.

13. UNIT COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The unit coordinator shall be appointed by the command Staff, and shall manage the canine program. The unit coordinator shall be responsible for, but not limited to the following:

- A. Maintain liaison with Administrative Staff and functional supervisors;
- B. Maintain liaison with other agency canine unit coordinators;
- C. Maintain accurate records to document canine unit activities;
- D. Recommend and oversee the procurement of needed equipment and services for the unit;
- E. Be responsible for scheduling all canine unit related activities; and
- F. Ensure the canine teams are scheduled for continuous training to maximize the capabilities of the teams.
- G. Review all use of canine reports to ensure proper use of the canine.

By order of

Darrell Basco
Chief of Police