
	MESQUITE POLICE DEPARTMENT
	247.00 POLICE CANINE
	Effective Date: January, 2019
	Approved:  Chief of Police

- I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the management and tactical deployment of canines for a variety of operational purposes.
- II. Policy Statement

The Police Canine Program was established to augment police services to the community. Trained teams of Handlers and Police Canines are used to supplement police operations, to locate and apprehend criminal offenders, track suspects, detect narcotics and search buildings. It is the policy of the department that Police Canine Handlers will employ the Police Canine only as reasonable and necessary to achieve a lawful law enforcement objective. Each use of a canine will be documented and evaluated as to the justification of the level of force used. It is also the policy of this Department that Police Canines will be used in a manner consistent with the provisions of this policy and all Department policies related to use of force.
- III. Definitions

Police Canine Supervisor – A person who holds the rank of at least sergeant and who demonstrates the desire and capacity to oversee and direct the Department’s Police Canine Program in a positive and progressive manner.

Canine Handler (Handler) – A police officer assigned to the Canine Unit

Police Canine (Canine) – A canine owned and operated by the Mesquite Police Department for the purpose of assisting the police.

Police Canine Team – A police officer and their assigned Police Canine.

Canine Unit – A specially equipped patrol car specifically used for the transport of a police canine.

Canine File – A file designated in the Operations Bureau that is reserved to contain documents relating to the Police Canine Program.

Deployment – When a handler makes use of his assigned canine in an official capacity.
- IV. Procedures
 - A. Assignment of Police Canines
 1. The Police Canine Teams shall be assigned to the Operations Bureau to supplement and assist in the patrol function and other Department units as called upon.
 2. Police Canine Teams should not be routinely assigned to calls that will take them out of service for extended periods of time. A Police Canine Team is not unlike any other uniformed beat officer in that they are available to respond to calls, act as back up on calls and accept assignments as determined by the shift supervisors. Canine teams should be utilized to augment service delivery in problem areas, back fill for beat officers who may be otherwise engaged in other police activity, assist and back-up other officers, and utilize the canine when appropriate. Police Canine Teams should be utilized to answer calls that include intrusion alarms, burglary in progress, large disturbances, or other serious incident wherein the service animal could be of significant use. Police Canine Teams should not be utilized for calls for service on highways unless there is an imminent threat to life.
 3. Personnel within the department are encouraged to utilize the Police Canine Teams.

4. The on-duty Watch Commander shall approve all requests for Police Canine assistance from outside agencies subject to the following provisions:
 - a. Police Canine Teams shall not be used outside the City of Mesquite, Texas to perform any assignment, which is not consistent with this policy.
 - b. Upon arrival at the scene, the handler has the ultimate decision as to whether or not the Police Canine is to be used for a specific assignment.
 5. All public requests for a Police Canine Team shall be approved by the Canine Supervisor prior to making any commitment. Handlers shall not demonstrate or randomly display a Police Canine to the public unless authorized to do so by the Canine Supervisor as the animal is a law enforcement tool.
- B. Interaction of Police Canine with Officers/Public
1. No member of the public shall be allowed to “pet” or interact with a Police Canine without the permission of the handler. If the handler allows interaction from the public, they will be in immediate proximity and have the canine short leashed.
 2. Fellow officers are also required to have the handler’s permission to interact with the canine and shall not engage in any type of behavior that would tend to agitate the animal unless directed by the handler during training.
 3. A Police Canine may be brought into the Police Department Building while the handler conducts routine business.
- C. Selection of Police Canine Handlers
- The following are the qualifications for officers who apply for the assignment of Police Canine Handler:
1. Must have a minimum of three (3) years of law enforcement experience with the Mesquite Police Department.
 2. Own their own house (no apartments), with a minimum of a six foot tall fence, within 20 miles of the city limits.
 3. Must not have any sustained use of force complaints in the past three (3) years.
 4. Successful completion of an interview board.
 5. Interview with spouse (if applicable) and officer at home visit.
 6. A recommendation from their current supervisor(s).
 7. Written acceptance from the applicant to stay in the position for a minimum of five (5) years and agreement to not take any promotional exams during that time.
 8. Must be able to lift and carry the weight of the average police service dog (80-100 pounds).
 9. Demonstrate character traits, such as maturity, patience, initiative, flexibility, dependability, enthusiasm and a strong work ethic.
 10. Must have an above average attendance record.
 11. Agree to work flexible hours and be on call.
 12. Ability to successfully complete a prescribed canine handler course.
 13. Compliance with any other requirements set forth by the department for the position.
- D. Police Canine Unit Supervisor Responsibilities
- The Canine Supervisor shall be appointed by the Chief of Police and shall be responsible to the Operations Bureau Captain for the supervision of the Police Canine Program. The Canine Supervisor shall be responsible for, but not limited to, the following:
1. Maintain liaison with the vendor kennel;
 2. Maintain liaison with Administrative Staff and other supervisors;
 3. Maintain liaison with other agency Police Canine Supervisors;

4. Oversee the handler's recording of accurate records to document Police Canine activities, maintain proper record retention and review all Police Canine usage reports.
 5. Recommend and oversee the procurement of needed equipment and services for the unit.
 6. Be responsible for scheduling all Police Canine related activities, review the canine policy annually, and keep abreast of court decisions affecting liability and usage.
 7. Ensure the Police Canine Teams are scheduled for continuous training to maximize the capabilities of the teams.
 8. Make monthly reports, recommendations and evaluations as to the overall status of the canine program to the Division Commander.
 9. Conduct inspections of the Canine Team and its kenneling (at least annually) and evaluate their performance.
 10. Prepare and/or review canine related reports. In the absence of the Canine Supervisor, an on-duty supervisor shall prepare the reports.
- E. Handler Command Responsibility
Only the assigned handler will be allowed to train and command the Police Canine. This includes feeding and basic care of the canine. It should be understood that obeying commands is an essential part of the effectiveness and success of the Canine Team in the field. Additional handlers will only cause confusion that may not be detected or revealed until a stressful situation arises.
In certain circumstances, vacation being one example, the handler may ask another officer familiar with the canine to feed the animal in his/her absence. In lieu of boarding, the officer asked to feed the animal will be given time while on duty or compensated to complete these necessary tasks. The Canine Supervisor should be made aware and approve alternate care plans in advance.
- F. Handler Availability and Compensation
1. The handler shall be available for call-out under conditions specified by this policy or as needed by the Department.
 2. The Police Canine Handler shall be compensated for time spent in the care, feeding, grooming and other needs of the dog as provided by the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- G. Vehicle
1. The Canine Unit will be kept clean, inside and out, and its equipment functioning at all times. Making sure the vehicle is available for routine vehicle maintenance and equipment updates or repairs is the responsibility of the handler.
 2. It will also be the responsibility of the handler to ensure that all equipment, firearms and narcotic drug training aides are removed from the unit prior to extended servicing of the vehicle.
 3. While on duty, the handler will have a supply of fresh water for the dog at all times and will water the animal as needed. The hot dog/bail out system will always be activated and the temperature settings will be adjusted as weather dictates.
 4. At no time will any other animals, other than a Police Canine, be allowed to ride in the Canine Unit. In the event the Canine Unit is out of service for an extended period of time, the handler may use the unit assigned to another handler, if scheduling permits. However, if this is not possible, the handler will drive a regular patrol car on duty and be assigned accordingly by the Shift Watch Commander.
- H. Equipment Maintenance

Maintenance and upkeep of the training equipment will be the responsibility of the handler. When equipment needs to be replaced, the handler will notify the Canine Supervisor in writing. The Canine Supervisor will keep an updated inventory of assigned equipment in the canine file. Each handler is required to bring all assigned equipment to each training day.

I. Training

1. Training will be a minimum of two days per month as scheduled by the Canine Supervisor, and will be a structured event as dictated by the Canine Supervisor.
2. Training will consist of activities that ensure the Canine Team's ability to annually achieve patrol certification and detector canine certification through a police canine training criteria established or recognized by a state or nationally recognized police canine training organization, as well as any other canine certifications that the Department wishes to carry. The specific training guidelines shall be in writing and shall be reviewed at least annually by the Police Canine Supervisor to ensure the guidelines are current and in keeping with recognized best practices. Training will also consist of simulated scenarios that prepare and maintain the animal's ability to function in on duty situations that include, but are not limited to, vehicle and structure narcotic searches, tracking, criminal apprehension, aggression, handler protection, article and building searches, and live gun fire situations. In the absence of decoys, handlers are sometimes required to assist in the training of other Police Canines.
3. All training, whether on specified training days or any other time, will be documented fully and meticulously on the unit's approved training forms. The reports shall include type of training, dates, times, locations, decoys used and the Police Canine Team's performance. All training will be evaluated by the Canine Supervisor.
4. Handlers should not subject the canine to any type of training that could severely injure the animal.
5. Completed monthly training records are due for approval by the Operations Bureau Captain no later than the 5th day of each month. Should the 5th day fall on a Saturday or Sunday, the records are due the following Monday. The original reports will be forwarded to the Operations Bureau Captain, and the Canine Supervisor will place a copy in the canine file. All training records will be securely stored in the Operations Bureau Canine Unit files.
6. If the Police Canine Team fails to certify through an accredited police canine organization, the team will not be deployed in the field until such certification is achieved. A report of this should be generated, investigated and filed with the Operations Bureau Captain.
7. Training may be performed in conjunction with other agencies providing that the guidelines and criteria used to establish the training process are in keeping with I.(3) of this section.
8. A chain of possession record will be maintained for any controlled substance used in the training process. Any controlled substance issued to a Canine Officer for use in training will be weighed by both the Police Property Room Supervisor and Canine Officer at the time the substance is dispensed. When the controlled substance is returned to the Property Room it will again be weighed by the Police Property Room Supervisor and the Canine Officer prior to being returned to the departments secure narcotics storage. Both the Police Property Room Supervisor and the Canine Officer will document and initial the weight of the controlled substance being dispensed or returned. The substance will also be presumptively field tested by the Police Property Room Supervisor (if the field test technology is available for the particular substance) at the time the substance is dispensed to

the Canine Officer for use and again when the substance is returned to the departments secure narcotics storage. If the Police Property Room Supervisor is not available, the on-duty Watch Commander or Canine Supervisor may act in his/her place to certify the weight. Any discrepancies in weight or presumptive field testing will be immediately reported to the Operations Bureau Captain and will be documented in a memorandum to the Chief of Police.

9. Controlled substances used in training will be stored in a locked portion of the Police Canine vehicle when not being used.
10. It is the responsibility of the Police Canine Supervisor to request and file any necessary documentation with the Drug Enforcement Agency to receive and maintain any controlled substance necessary for training. A copy of the records will be stored in the Canine File.

J. Housing, Nutrition and Medical Care of the Canine

1. The Police Canine will be kept at the handler's home at all times unless kenneling at the approved veterinary clinic is required. The animal's home kennel shall be no smaller than 10' wide x 10' long x 6' high and constructed of chain-link or stronger material with a concrete or synthetic floor. It shall be kept clean and in a functional condition by the handler. The canine should only be allowed to run free in the backyard if the handler is present, otherwise, the canine will be secured inside his kennel. The fence surrounding the handler's backyard shall be permanently posted with "Beware of Dog" signs on all sides of the fencing.
2. The canine's at-home kennel will be located so that the canine will be covered by as much shade as possible in the summer months. If no shade is available, shade cloths will be installed. At no time will the canine be allowed to interact with female canines of any breed that have not been spayed. Interaction with other "pets" of any kind should be limited.
3. Each handler is entitled to boarding and kenneling services at any boarding facility that is in compliance with the minimum standard requirements for boarding facilities established by the department. All boarding facilities must be approved by the Canine Captain and inspected by the Canine Supervisor prior to any Police Canine being boarded at the facility. Whenever the handler anticipates taking a vacation or an extended number of days off, it may be necessary to kennel the canine at an approved boarding facility. In those situations, the handler shall give reasonable notice to the Canine Supervisor so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The Canine Sergeant shall maintain a current list of approved boarding facilities and shall approve all boarding requests. The Canine Sergeant shall perform and document an annual inspection of each approved boarding facility to ensure compliance with the current minimum requirements established by the department.
4. Any changes in the living status of the handler which may affect the lodging or environment of the Police Canine shall be reported to the Canine Supervisor immediately and in writing.
5. The Police Canine will only eat the food that is recommended and used by the Canine Vendors Master Handler at the time the canine is initially trained with its handler and placed in the field. This will generally be a high protein, high fat food to accommodate the animal's lifestyle. The Police Canine will only be fed in accordance with veterinarian instructions, and the handler will strictly adhere to the amounts suggested by the food manufacturer. The food rewards will be of the same high quality as the food. The preferred veterinarian via the Canine Supervisor must approve a change in the canine's diet.
6. The handler will keep the Police Canine physically fit and of good hygiene. The canine will be brushed and his eyes cleaned on a daily basis. His teeth will be

brushed and ears cleaned on a weekly basis. He will be bathed at least twice per month and once per week during the summer months. His teeth will be professionally cleaned annually. The handler will inspect the canine regularly for any abnormalities.

7. The handler will ensure that the canine is not unnecessarily subjected to any type of environment that could pose a health risk.
8. The designated Police Canine veterinarian shall render all medical attention, except during an emergency. The handler will be responsible for ensuring that the Police Canine makes his regularly scheduled appointments at the designated veterinarian for routine tests and vaccinations, as well as any needed medical attention. The handler will seek the services of the veterinarian and notify the Canine Supervisor at the onset of any physical behavior change, injury, or external abnormality.
9. The designated veterinarian shall render emergency medical treatment if available. In instances that the Police Canine team is out of town, the closest veterinarian who can adequately perform the services needed shall be used. The handler shall notify the Canine Supervisor as soon as possible when emergency medical care is required. The Canine Supervisor will notify the Operations Bureau Captain in the event of emergencies.

K. Hazardous Situations

1. It is not possible to define all instances that a Police Canine should not be deployed. Therefore, the handler shall ensure that the canine is not unnecessarily utilized in any way that could result in serious injury to the animal or himself. The pros and cons of unusual situations shall be evaluated prior to taking any action. Situations that the handler will not deploy a Police Canine include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Searches of residential/business attics or any attics with false floors.
 - b. Searches of structures that are on fire.
 - c. Searches in areas where the surface is covered in shards of broken glass.
 - d. Off leash searches in areas where domestic pets are known to be running free.
 - e. Instances that would call for the animal to swim in large bodies of water or swift water.
 - f. Deployment from a moving vehicle.
 - g. Deployment across a high traffic roadway.
 - h. Searches of buildings where toxic chemicals are abundant and accessible.
2. Under no circumstances shall the Police Canine Unit be forced to engage in activity that he clearly is not willing to participate in.

L. Police Canines in Public Areas

All Police 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 Police Canines are trained. Police Canines shall not be left unattended in any area to which the public may have access. When the Police Canine Unit is left unattended, all windows and doors shall be secured.

V. Operational and Deployment Procedures

A. Crowd Control

1. Canine Teams may respond as backup but may not deploy the canine for crowd control at peaceful demonstrations.
2. Canine Teams may be used to protect life or property during a riot or other major unlawful assembly after an order to disperse has been made. In these situations, canine shall:
 - a. Be short leashed at all times to protect individuals from serious injury.

- b. Not initiate any offensive action, unless to guard against imminent loss of life, serious bodily injury, or substantial property damage.
- B. **Preparations for Deploying a Police Canine**
 Prior to the use of a Police Canine to search for or apprehend any individual, the Police Canine Handler 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 individual's mental state.
 3. The nature of the suspected offense.
 4. Any potential danger to the public and/or other officers at the scene if the Police Canine is released.
 5. The degree of resistance, actively or if any the subject has shown previously.
 6. The potential for escape or flight if the Police Canine is not utilized.
- C. **Justification for the use of a Police Canine to Apprehend Criminal Suspects**
 Canines are a locating tool and a facet of our response to resistance or aggression continuum, generally recognized as a level of force less than deadly force. The use of Police Canines to apprehend suspects is governed by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Graham v Connor* and must be analyzed under the Fourth Amendment's objective reasonableness test. When deploying the Police Canine Unit the officers should take into consideration the totality of the circumstances, the information available to the officer(s) at the time of the incident, and employ a three-part test:
 1. The severity of the crime.
 2. Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the law enforcement officers or others.
 3. And whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.
- D. **Decision to Deploy for Suspect Apprehension**
 The decision to deploy a Police Canine for use in a suspect apprehension or suspects in hiding as outlined in this policy shall rest with handler unless an on scene supervisor prohibits the use of the canine.
- E. **Apprehension of Suspects in Hiding**
 A primary use of Police Canines is for locating suspects in buildings, structures, or dense wooded areas. These searches should be governed by the following:
 1. A perimeter shall be secured by police personnel.
 2. Whenever possible, the building's owner should be contacted to determine whether there may be tenants or others in the building, and to ascertain the building's layout.
 3. When a canine building search is anticipated, a preliminary search by officers should not be conducted as this will interfere with the canine's ability to discriminate scents.
 4. The on-scene supervisor shall also take the following steps in preparation for the canine search:
 - a. Evacuate all workers or others from the facility during the business' operating hours.
 - b. Request that all air conditioning, heating or other air-blowing systems be shut off so as not to interfere with the canine's scent.
 - c. Upon entrance to the building, all exits should be secured, and communications limited to that of a tactical nature.
 5. The canine may be unleashed during a building search unless there is an imminent risk of injury to innocent persons within the facility.

6. Generally, the canine should be released once a backup officer is available to work with the canine team.
 7. Except in exigent circumstances or where there is an imminent danger of death or serious injury, the canine should be kept in visual contact by the canine handler.
 8. Before commencing the search, the handler or other appropriate personnel shall make an announcement, unless such announcement would place an officer or citizens in danger. The announcement shall be said in a loud and distinct voice and state that police officers are present and the police canine will be released if the suspect does not surrender.
 9. A reasonable amount of time shall be allowed for the suspect to respond. This warning shall be repeated on each level of all multi-level structures.
 10. Where there is a reasonable belief that the suspect speaks a language other than English, an officer or other individual fluent in that language should be summoned to the scene if available and exigency of the situation permits.
 11. A Police Canine will not be utilized to search a residence for a suspect unless the following conditions are met:
 - a. The owner/occupant who currently resides there can say without a doubt that no one has permission to be inside at the time of the search.
 - b. Police personnel have reason to believe that a criminal suspect is inside at the time of the search.
- F. Apprehension of Fleeing or Resisting Suspects
A handler may use canines to apprehend suspects when it is objectively reasonable to believe that:
1. The suspect has committed a felony, or a class B and above misdemeanor that involves a violent act and/or a weapon.
 2. The suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.
 3. There is a reasonable belief that the individual poses an immediate threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any officer, the handler or the canine.
 4. When possible, warnings will be given to the suspect that the canine is or will be released.
- G. Drug Searches
1. Police Canine drug sniffs of motor vehicles may be conducted under certain circumstances:
 - a. A reasonable suspicion exists to believe that the operator or passengers are in possession of illegal narcotics.
 - b. The canine sniff is limited to the exterior of the vehicle.
 - c. Consent searches.
 2. A Police Canine may be used to sniff personal effects of an individual on either a random or selective basis if the items are not in the possession of the owner (for example, on conveyor belts, in the possession of baggage handlers, etc.).
 3. A Police Canine may not be used to sniff luggage or related personal items in the physical possession of (i.e. control of or close proximity to) an individual in a public facility or place unless:
 - a. There is reasonable suspicion that the personal possession contains illegal drugs or evidence of a crime.
 - b. The time required to conduct the sniff is limited in duration.
 - c. Consent searches.
 4. Under no circumstance may a Police Canine be utilized to search persons.
 5. Canine drug searches of the exterior of residences, either individual dwellings or the common areas of multiple dwellings, are not permitted without a search warrant.

6. The use of a Police Canine in schools is limited to situations where there is reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal drugs are being sold, possessed and/or consumed on the premises. Where reasonably possible, the school's principal or designated authority should be contacted in advance of the search, and the canine search should be limited to inanimate objects where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. Searches may be conducted at the request of school officials. The Canine Supervisor will review all requests prior to making final approval of the search.
- H. Tracking
1. When a Police Canine is available for tracking, it may be used with supervisory approval to track missing persons, criminal suspects, or to locate evidence that the supervisor has reason to believe has been abandoned or hidden in a specified open area. Such searches are subject to the following conditions and limitations:
 - a. When officers are pursuing suspects and contact with the suspect is lost, the officer, prior to summoning a canine team, shall:
 - (1) Stop and pinpoint the location where the suspect was last seen.
 - (2) Shut off engines of vehicles in the area if possible.
 - (3) Avoid vehicle or foot movement in the area where the suspect or subject was last seen.
 - (4) On-scene supervisory personnel shall: Secure the perimeter of the area to be searched.
 - (5) Secure the integrity of the area to be searched by keeping all personnel out of the area.
 - (6) Protect all items of clothing that will be used for scent from being handled.
 - b. While it is understood that scenarios exist in which the canine will come in contact with a hiding subject, the canine should remain on a leash of sufficient length to provide a reasonable measure of safety to the subject of the search without compromising the animal's tracking abilities.
- I. Vehicle Pursuits Involving a Canine Unit
- A Police Canine Officer shall refrain from being involved as a support unit in vehicle pursuits when the canine is in the vehicle. The Police Canine Team may immediately respond to the location where the pursuit ends to assist in the apprehension of the suspect. If a pursuit is initiated by the Police Canine Officer while the canine is in the vehicle, the officer is permitted to temporarily pursue the suspect vehicle until such time that a second unit joins the pursuit, at which time the Police Canine Officer will terminate participation in the pursuit. Deviations from this policy must be supported by specific facts and circumstances which indicate an immediate and compelling need to apprehend an offender who is an imminent threat to the safety of the community.
- J. Police Canines Used for Breeding
- Under no circumstance will a Police Canine of this department be allowed to take part in any breeding purposes while in service or without permission from the Chief of Police.
- K. Canine Call-Outs / Requests
- Mesquite Police Canine Teams will normally be available for off-duty callouts when no Mesquite Canine Team is on-duty. Canine Officers will be scheduled for on-call according to procedures set by the Canine Supervisor. If it is known beforehand that no Mesquite Canine Teams will be available for off-duty callouts for a specific period of time (due to training, illness, injury, etc.), the Canine Supervisor should attempt to check the availability of canine teams from neighboring agencies and provide that information to dispatch and the Watch Commanders in advance.
1. Requests For Canine

- a. Mesquite Police Canine Team On-Duty: Any Mesquite police officer may request the assistance of a Mesquite Canine Team on a call or a traffic stop when a Mesquite Canine Team is on-duty.
- b. No Mesquite Police Canine Team On-Duty
 - (1) When there is not a Mesquite Police Canine Team on-duty, a police supervisor will contact the canine unit per the canine call-out schedule. This does not prevent the supervisor from contacting an on-duty canine unit from a neighboring agency that may respond quicker.
 - (2) As a general rule, an off-duty Canine Team will not be called out for narcotics searches, building searches (unless officers have confirmed a burglary or other felony has occurred and there are felony suspects still inside), or misdemeanor offenses. Non-violent felony offenses will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- c. Outside Agency Requests for a Mesquite Canine Team
 - (1) Mesquite Canine Team On-Duty: Any outside agency requests for an on-duty Mesquite Police Canine Team should go through the Watch Commander. At least one on-duty Mesquite police officer shall accompany our canine team to track / search for another agency.
- d. No Mesquite Canine Team On-Duty: If an outside agency requests the callout of an off-duty Mesquite Canine Team, dispatch or a police supervisor should contact the Watch Commander to request the callout. As a general rule, Mesquite Canine Teams will not respond to outside agencies requests for off-duty callouts unless a violent felony has occurred, a perimeter has been established, and there is an exact starting point for a track.
- e. When requesting a canine team callout, the police supervisor will ensure the following information is relayed to the canine team:
 - (1) What type of offense has been committed (is it a felony)?
 - (2) Has a perimeter been established or is one being established?
 - (3) Do we have an exact starting point for a track (has a police officer seen the suspect)?
 - (4) How much time has elapsed since the suspect was last seen?
 - (5) What is the age / approximate age of the suspect(s)?
- L. Deployment Reports and Notifications
 - 1. Each time the Police Canine Team is utilized for any situation, the handler will complete a Canine Usage Report detailing the team's use and involvement in the incident. If the utilization results in contact between the canine and a citizen, a Use of Force Report will also be created.
 - 2. Whenever a canine has bitten or scratched an individual or has alleged to have done so, whether or not in the line of duty; the handler shall perform the following:
 - a. Notify the supervisor/unit coordinator.
 - b. If the individual is not in-custody at the time of the bite or scratch and no arrest is made, an ambulance will be summoned to treat/evaluate the individual. Persons who are not under arrest can decide if they want to go to a hospital for further treatment.
 - c. If the individual is arrested:
 - (1) An ambulance will be summoned, regardless of the severity of the injury.

- (2) The prisoner shall be transported to a hospital for treatment for any puncture wound that breaks the skin or if the prisoner requests transport. If the injury is very minor or superficial, the paramedics clear them, and the prisoner refuses transport a supervisor can clear them to be transported directly to jail.
 - (3) If the prisoner will require or requests treatment at a hospital, they may be transported by ambulance or police squad car (if they are cleared by paramedics to do so).
 - d. The officer shall take color photographs of the affected area after the wounds have been cleaned but prior to actual medical treatment, as well as after medical treatment.
 - e. Prepare and submit a Use of Force Report.
- M. Use of the E-Collar Device
 - 1. The E-collar is designed to be a communication and behavior shaping device to enhance the off-leash working relationship between the canine and the handler. The E-collar is not designed and not meant to be used as a punishment device for disobedience.
 - 2. All police canine teams shall receive training in the use of the E-Collar prior to its use.
 - 3. The E-Collar should be fully charged and checked for function prior to each use. The only acceptable placement of an E-collar on a canine is on the neck in accordance with the manufactures recommendations and best practices.
 - 4. The E-collar will not be worn when the canine is off-duty.
- N. Responsibility
 - 1. All members of the Department shall know and comply with all aspects of this directive.
 - 2. All Division Commanders and supervisory personnel are responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions and intent of this directive.

EFFECTIVE: May, 2017; REVISED: January, 2019

