

CHAPTER 1
DEPARTMENTAL CANINE PROGRAM OVERVIEW
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CHAPTER 1

DEPARTMENTAL CANINE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1. INTRODUCTION.

a. The use of canine teams has long been an accepted practice in law enforcement and has gained widespread public acceptance throughout the United States. The acceptance of canines as a vital law enforcement tool has been primarily due to their effectiveness, convenience, and economics.

b. Canines aid law enforcement by performing a variety of functions, including the detection of human scent, contraband, and explosives. In addition to saving time and money, a properly trained and effectively used canine team can improve the safety and effectiveness of officers, and increase the level of service provided to the public. Canines also enhance security and instill public confidence in the efforts of police.

c. Canines are highly visible tools. Therefore, canine deployments can expect to be closely scrutinized by the press and other interest groups. To avoid drawing unfavorable attention to the program, canine officers (CO) must demonstrate a high level of professionalism and endeavor to promote public trust. Techniques and tactics must not be perceived as discriminatory, racially biased, or deceptive.

2. PURPOSE. The purpose of the Canine Program is to support the Department's mission of providing safety, service, and security to the public and rendering assistance to road patrol officers and allied agencies during emergencies. This includes the use of canines to assist in the protection of the CO and other officers, the apprehension of criminal suspects, and the detection of explosives and drugs.

3. POLICY.

a. The Department may utilize both single-purpose (detection only) and dual-purpose canines (detection and patrol) as necessary to support enforcement efforts.

b. Officers deployed with dual-purpose canines shall have supportive duties and responsibilities to assist other road patrol officers to maximize officer safety. Upon request, and with approval of a supervisor, departmental canines may be used to assist allied agencies in criminal apprehension, locating "at-risk" missing persons, and in explosive or drug detection.

c. The Department may accept requests from allied agencies requesting departmental canine training in drug or explosive detection, patrol, and criminal apprehension. The following procedures shall be adhered to:

(1) Allied agencies requesting departmental canine training shall submit a copy of their canine deployment policy with their written request to Enforcement and Planning Division, Field Support Section

(2) A CHP 75, Reimbursable Training Services Agreement, shall be completed by the allied agency and submitted to Business Services Section prior to training.

4. DEPARTMENTAL CANINES.

a. Dual-Purpose Canines.

(1) A dual-purpose departmental canine, certified in both drug detection and patrol or explosive detection and patrol, may be used to:

(a) Protect the CO and others from an actual or threatened attack that is likely to produce great bodily injury.

(b) Locate, apprehend, or control suspects reasonably believed to be violent, dangerous, or armed.

(c) Locate at-risk missing persons (as defined in Highway Patrol Manual 100.69, General Law Enforcement Manual, Chapter 6, Missing Persons). In such circumstances, it is necessary for the handler to evaluate the conditions and ability of the canine to determine the feasibility of utilizing their canine in such an application. With the approval of the on-duty supervisor, a canine may be utilized to search for at-risk missing persons. In order to minimize the risk of potential injury to the at-risk missing person, the search shall be conducted on leash and the canine shall be muzzled.

(d) Search for evidence, explosives, drugs, or other contraband.

(e) Perform demonstrations at public or private events.

(2) Before utilizing a dual-purpose canine team for vehicle, building, or area searches for criminal suspects, or in foot pursuit of a fleeing suspect, the CO shall, when practical, assure a loud verbal warning is given that a canine will

be released. At a minimum, the warning should be given twice. The decision on whether to provide a verbal warning or not should be based on:

- (a) The urgency of need for canine deployment.
- (b) Any serious compromise to officer safety imposed by providing a warning.

(3) The decision to deploy a canine shall be based upon the concepts of sound judgment, the totality of the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time, and the utilization of only that force reasonable to gain control of the situation. The primary factor to be considered is the safety of the officer or the public.

(4) The CO shall call off the canine at the earliest opportunity. When deciding to call off the canine, particular attention must be given to the perceived threat or actual resistance presented by the suspect. Canine officers will continue to factor safety into their call off decision, recognizing that the average person will likely struggle when seized or confronted by a canine. Without exception, a reference to the duration and location of the canine's contact with a suspect shall be included in the CO's incident or supplemental report, as appropriate.

(5) Searches for known juvenile offenders shall be limited to those instances where the severity of the crime, the subject's age, propensity for violence, possible possession of a weapon, or other critical factors would reasonably justify the use of a canine search team. In these situations, authorization to use a canine shall be obtained from a field supervisor and/or a canine team supervisor.

b. Explosive Detection Canines. A single-purpose departmental canine, trained and certified solely for explosive detection, does not provide an officer with protection against threats made by another person.

- (1) An explosive detection departmental canine may be used to:
 - (a) Search for explosives in conveyances, buildings, or open areas.
 - (b) Perform demonstrations at public and private events.

(2) An explosive detection canine, trained and certified solely for explosive detection, shall not be used to:

- (a) Provide protection to the CO or others.
- (b) Locate, apprehend, or control suspects.

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