



CANINE PROCEDURES GENERAL ORDER #19.01

Adopted: 08/04/2006

Replaces: Sheriff's G.O. #5712, 5712b

POLICY

When properly used, a *Stanford University Department of Public Safety or Sheriff's Office* canine increases the degree of safety to persons within a contained search area, enhances officer safety, significantly increases the likelihood of apprehension of a suspect, and reduces the amount of time necessary to conduct a search. Deployment of a canine when a bite occurs constitutes a use of force. **Canine units shall only deploy the canine as a use of force when it is reasonably necessary to utilize that level of force to apprehend or secure a suspect or to prevent escape, or as an alternative to the use of a higher level of force.**

PROCEDURE

A. CANINE HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All canine handlers and dogs shall meet training and certification requirements as determined by the *Stanford University Department of Public Safety as well as the Sheriff's Office* canine sergeant, the Sheriff's Office Field Operations Bureau commander, and the Sheriff's Office Technical Services Division commander. All canine handlers and dogs will participate in continuing training as directed by the *Stanford University Department of Public Safety as well as the Sheriff's Office* canine sergeant, the Sheriff's Office Field Operations Bureau commander, and the Sheriff's Office Technical Services Division commander.
2. A canine and handler team may engage in the following activities as permitted by this General Order:
 - a. Conducting searches for suspects in hiding or flight;

- b. Assisting in the arrest or preventing the escape of potentially violent suspects;
 - c. Protecting deputies or others from death or injury;
 - d. Tracking suspects;
 - e. Locating lost or missing persons, hidden instrumentalities or evidence of crime;
 - f. Detecting the presence of hidden narcotics or destructive devices;
 - g. Crowd control.
 - h. Building searches
3. The decision to use a canine to a specific *SUDPS* operation shall be made with the dog handler concerned. When requested to apply his or her dog to a specific problem, the handler shall first evaluate the situation to determine if the use of the dog is appropriate and feasible. In those cases where the decision is not to use the canine, the handler will stand by, if requested, to provide assistance to other deputies as required.
4. All canine handlers and deputy personnel assisting in canine searches shall follow the General Order dealing with Use of Force. Deputies shall evaluate each situation requiring the application of force in light of the seriousness of the facts and circumstances. **Canine units shall only deploy the canine as a use of force when it is reasonably necessary to utilize that level of force to apprehend or secure a suspect or to prevent escape.** When apprehending a suspect with a bite, a canine shall be commanded to release the bite as soon as the suspect is subdued or complies with the deputy's direction. When the resistance has been overcome or the threat abated, the de-escalation of force is the appropriate response.
5. Canines shall not be used for controlling crowds, demonstrations, and riots *on the University campus* unless authorized by the *Director of Public Safety and the Sheriff or Undersheriff*. Only those canine handlers who have received training in the use of canines for crowd control as approved by the *Stanford University Department of Public Safety as well as the Sheriff's Office Field Operations Bureau commander, the Sheriff's Office Technical Services Division commander, and the Sheriff's Office canine sergeant* may use their canines for that purpose. Canine units should not be used for crowd control at peaceful demonstrations unless the canine is on a leash.

6. When using a canine to search the interior of a building for a suspect, the following procedures shall be followed:
 - a. All reasonable efforts will be made to evacuate occupants from the building before the search.
 - b. Before commencing the search, unless there are reasonable concerns that officer safety will be jeopardized if an announcement is given, an announcement shall be made and repeated stating that there are deputies on the premises and that a trained police dog will be released into the building if the suspect does not surrender. Where possible, such announcement should be communicated to all areas and levels of the building. Where possible, deputies should be stationed on the far side of the premises in a position to state whether or not they could overhear the warning. Where it is known to the deputy that the suspect or suspects are not English speaking, the warning should be given in language that would be understood, if possible. A reasonable amount of time shall be allowed for the suspect to respond.
7. Canines used for tracking persons should remain on a leash of sufficient length to provide a reasonable measure of safety to the suspect of the search and to the deputy without compromising the canine team's tracking abilities.
8. It is the responsibility of the canine handler to keep his or her dog in such physical condition that the canine is able to perform the duties required.

B. PROCEDURE WHEN A BITE OCCURS

In all instances in which a canine bites an individual, whether or not in the line of duty:

1. The handler shall summon a supervisor to the scene. The supervisor shall observe the injuries caused by the bite and shall prepare an ER detailing his or her observations.
2. The handler shall examine the affected area to determine the seriousness of the bite or injury.
3. The handler shall provide immediate first aid. It is the handler's responsibility to see that this is done.
4. The handler shall transport or arrange to transport the individual to a medical facility for evaluation and treatment. A medical clearance shall be obtained prior to booking. In the event of an accidental bite, on or off duty, the handler will advise the individual that he or she may be transported to a medical facility or may go to his or her own physician.

5. The supervisor shall take color photographs of the affected area.
6. The handler shall prepare a Bite Report form as well as an Incident Report/Use of Force form and shall submit it to the supervisor present at the scene and to the canine sergeant, who will review it and forward copies to the *Sheriff's Office* Patrol Division commander. A copy of this report will also be sent to the SUDPS Chief.

C. PATROL DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Safety is a paramount concern. Canines are trained to protect their handlers and may react to perceived threats. Personnel should not enter or reach inside canine vehicles when the dog is inside, nor approach canine handlers abruptly. During search operations, personnel should follow the instructions of the canine handler and avoid any action which might jeopardize the safety of those involved in the operation. When a suspect is located, the handler will advise when it is safe to approach and take a suspect into custody.
2. A deputy who believes that a canine team is warranted for use in an enforcement action will notify the patrol supervisor via *Palo Alto* Communications.


LAURA WILSON
DIRECTOR

