

GENERAL ORDER, OPERATIONS, NUMBER 26
APRIL 3, 2001
WATERLOO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A. SUBJECT:

Canine Unit Operations.

B. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide the Waterloo Police Department with an internal set of guidelines for the use of Police Service Dogs.

The decision to deploy a police service dog in accordance with this policy shall be deemed an act of discretion and shall be reviewed in light of information reasonably available to the officer(s) at the time that the deployment was made.

C. POLICY:

All canine teams shall be deployed and used in compliance with the following policies and procedures.

D. PROCEDURES:

1. Definitions.

- a. Police Canine refers to a Police Service Dog trained to a set of nationally accepted standards adopted by the Waterloo Police Department.
- b. Canine Handler refers to a Police Officer trained in Canine Operations and Police Service Dog Handling to a set of nationally accepted standards adopted by the Waterloo Police Department.
- c. Canine Team refers to a Police Officer/Handler and a Police Service dog that have completed the Departmental required training for Basic Canine Handler.
- d. Trainer/Canine Unit Supervisor refers to the personnel within the Waterloo Police Department responsible for the training and supervision of Waterloo Police Canine Teams.

2. The canine teams will be assigned to the Patrol Division with the duty hours determined by the Patrol Division Commander.

3. Requests for the use of canine teams at times other than the normally

assigned duty hours shall be with prior approval of the on-duty Watch Commander.

4. Requests for the use of the canine teams by other law enforcement agencies shall require the review and approval of the on-duty Watch Commander.
5. In addition to regularly assigned patrol duties, the canine team may be assigned to respond to and/or assist with calls utilizing their specialized training including but not limited to:
 - a. Burglary/Robbery-in-progress calls
 - b. Open Door/unsecured building calls
 - c. Felony/Misdemeanor crimes where the suspect has fled and the canine can be deployed to track the suspect
 - d. Assist with lost or missing persons
 - e. Search for controlled substances
 - f. Assist in Tactical Unit Operations in a perimeter function
 - g. Crowd Control
6. The use of the canine team in a crowd control deployment shall require the authorization of the Chief of Police or designee.
7. When a canine team deploys to any assignment, it shall be the handler's determination, once on the scene, how the police dog may be utilized. This shall be based on the handler's assessment of the situation and the knowledge of the dog's capabilities.
8. A police service dog may be used to apprehend an individual if the canine handler reasonably believes that the individual has 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 suspect themselves.
 - b. The individual is physically resisting arrest and the use of a police service dog reasonably appears necessary to overcome such resistance.
 - c. The individual(s) is believed to be concealed in an area where entry

by other than the canine would pose a threat to the safety officers or the public.

- d. It is recognized that situations may arise which do not fall within the provisions set forth in this policy. In any such case, a standard of reasonableness shall be used to review the deployment of the police service dog in view of the totality of the circumstances.
9. Prior to the deployment of a police service dog to search for or apprehend any individual, the canine handler or supervisor at the scene shall carefully consider all information reasonably available to them at the time. This information shall include, but is not limited to:
 - a. The individual's age, or an estimate thereof
 - b. The nature of the suspect offense involved
 - c. Any potential danger to any other police officers who may attempt to intervene or assist with the apprehension
 - d. Any potential danger to the public that may result from the release of a police service dog
 10. Unless it would otherwise increase the risk of injury and/or escape, a verbal warning followed by a reasonable period of compliance shall precede the release of any police service dog.
 11. The Watch Commander and Canine Unit Supervisor shall be notified as soon as is practical following a police service dog apprehension.
 - a. Medical care shall be assured by the canine handler and the on-duty street supervisor.
 - b. All injuries and/or damage shall be photographed in color regardless of the suspected nature of the injuries.
 - c. Prior to completion of the canine handler's tour of duty, the handler shall complete all required reports associated with the use of a police service dog in an apprehension.
 12. The following guidelines shall be utilized once a canine unit is requested and deployed for building searches:
 - a. Responding officers shall secure the exterior and await the arrival of a canine team. Entry shall not be made prior to the arrival of the canine team unless such action is deemed necessary by the on-scene

supervisor.

- b. The on-scene supervisor or officer shall brief the canine handler upon their arrival.
 - c. The handler shall advise all officers on the scene as well as transmitting on the radio, that the police service dog is going to deploy.
 - d. During the course of the search, no person shall enter the building except the handler and any assistant chosen by the handler unless requested to do so by the handler.
13. The following guidelines shall be utilized once a canine unit is requested and deployed for the search of controlled substances:
- a. The area to be searched must be properly preserved by the requesting officers to avoid contamination. Officers shall refrain from searching for controlled substance prior to the arrival and survey by the canine handler.
 - b. Without the handler's permission, officers shall not move, remove, or touch any controlled substance in the area to be searched.
 - c. The on-scene supervisor shall brief the canine handler prior to the search.
 - d. During the course of the search, no person shall enter in the search area except the handler, unless requested to do so by the handler.
 - e. Any and all controlled substance located shall be the responsibility of the requesting officers and shall be collected and preserved as outlined by General Order.
14. The following guidelines shall be utilized when deploying a police service dog in tracking lost persons or suspects:
- a. The area where the person was last observed shall be preserved to avoid contamination. Officers shall refrain from entering the area unless circumstances dictate otherwise or they are directed to do so by an on-scene supervisor or canine handler.
 - b. Officers shall not touch any articles that may have been dropped by the person to be tracked. The exception to this would be to control a weapon.

15. The following guidelines shall be followed when in the presence of canine teams:
 - a. Officers shall be observant not to engage in any activity that may agitate the police service dog whether with the handler or in the vehicle.
 - b. Physical contact or horseplay between anyone and the canine handler may be perceived by the police service dog as an attack on the handler and should be avoided.
 - c. When arriving on any scene where a police service dog has been or is about to be deployed, officers shall not take any action without prior checking with the canine handler.
16. Canine team action reports shall be completed after any and all police service dog deployment, including but not limited to, narcotics search, building search, area search, tracking, officer protection, crowd control, and public appearances.
17. In the event that a canine handler is injured and is unable to exercise control over the police service dog, the following suggested guidelines that may be followed:
 - a. Call for another canine handler and the Canine Unit Supervisor.
 - b. Officers may attempt to divert the service dog's attention.
 - c. Notify the Humane Society and advise them of the situation.
 - d. The use of deadly force in controlling a police service dog may be used when other methods of control have failed, and the life of the injured officer(s) is jeopardized.
18. Training.
 - a. All departmental canine teams shall take part in regular training sessions aimed at building and maintaining proficiency in the abilities and expertise of the given canine team.
 - b. All training shall be documented on the departmental approved canine training form.
 - c. The Training Unit shall maintain all records of training as well as ongoing training.

19. Veterinary Service.

- a. All police service dogs will be cared for by a veterinarian assigned by the Waterloo Police Department.
- b. Any and all medical treatment for each dog will be administered through departmental approved veterinarian orders.
- c. The canine handler will arrange routine medical care for police service dogs.
- d. Non-routine care shall be requested through the canine unit supervisor, who will seek authorization from the Chief of Police or designee.
- e. In extreme emergency situations, the handler may utilize the nearest available veterinarian. The handler shall, as soon as possible, notify the Watch Commander and canine unit supervisor of the emergency and the treatment necessary.

BY ORDER OF:

Thomas J. Jennings
Chief of Police