

**CITY OF FERGUSON
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE****Index as:**

Assistance to other agencies
Canine
Off-duty Call-ins
Search, Canine

CANINE UNIT**498.00 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this General Order is to establish the policy and procedures for the effective use of trained canine (K-9) unit (s). The primary objective of the canine team(s) is to enhance the capabilities of all commissioned members of this department and to increase the probability of locating and apprehending dangerous offenders, by increasing the ability to locate persons during a building search, locating lost children or adults, and improve the ability to identify and locate narcotics and paraphernalia.

498.01 POLICY

This department recognizes the value and special qualities of a well-trained canine unit that will tend to improve the overall effectiveness of police operations. While the use of the K-9 unit is primarily used in the apprehension of criminals, lost persons, crime prevention, building searches and narcotic detection, we also recognize the special contribution of a K-9 Unit in enhancing the image of the Ferguson Police Department while simultaneously ensuring that the quality of life and public safety issues are improved by the deployment of this unique police tool.

498.02 DEFINITIONS

- A. ***Area Search:*** A systematic search of an area (internal or exterior) by the K-9 Unit in an attempt to locate a suspect (s) or missing person (s) utilizing the special tracking qualities of the K-9 Unit.
- B. ***Article Search:*** Utilizing the “scent tracking” capabilities of a K-9 Unit to locate an item, or article that may be evidence such as personal belongings, firearms, knife or any other article capable of leaving a human scent detectible by a K-9.
- C. ***Building Search:*** The utilization of the K-9 Unit to locate suspect (s) believed to be or known to be hiding in a building or structure.

- D. ***Criminal Apprehension:*** Utilizing the special capabilities of the K-9 Unit to chase, locate, and apprehend a fleeing criminal suspect based on the commands of the K-9 Officer.
- E. ***Handler/Officer Protection:*** Specialized training of a K-9 Unit to offer protection to the handler and other Officer(s) to prevent or stop a physical attack against them.
- F. ***K-9:*** A highly trained dog which has been taught a wide variety of police-related duties, such as tracking, building searching, article searching, and area protection, all of which make use of the K-9's speed, agility, and scenting abilities.
- G. ***K-9 Officer:*** A police officer specially trained in the care, handling, and utilization of a police K-9.
- H. ***Narcotic Detection:*** Locating or attempting to locate various narcotics, which may be hidden in vessels, aircraft, vehicles, buildings, or on a person?
- I. ***Obedience Training:*** Special training the K-9 receives which conditions him to respond to voice or hand signals given by the K-9 officer.
- J. ***Tracking:*** Following a person by means of the unique scent left by that person in the area where that individual has walked.

498.03 SELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with General Order 111.00 *Personnel Responsibilities*, candidates for the K-9 Officer position must meet the following criteria. Those interested officers shall submit in writing a request through their respective watch commander who will then forward that request on to the Commander of the Bureau of Field Operations. The Chief of Police will make the final selection of the handler.

A. Qualifications

- 1. The K-9 Officer will be a sworn police officer below the rank of sergeant, who has successfully completed his/her probationary period and has a satisfactory performance and disciplinary record.
- 2. The officer assigned as the K-9 Officer must be willing to make a minimum commitment of six years to the position.
- 3. Adult members of the officer's household must consent to the officer's participation in the program and must be willing to assist in the care of the K-9. The officer must also have a suitable residence that will allow for the care and control of the K-9 during off duty hours

4. The officer must be willing to participate in an intensive initial training period followed by weekly training to ensure the canine team maintains its skills and meets its objectives.
5. The officer must be willing to respond at any time, day or night, on or off duty to a call requesting their presence.

B. Assignment

The Canine Officer will be assigned to the Division of Field Operations under the direct supervision of a Squad Supervisor.

498.04 SELECTION OF K-9

The acquisition of a K-9 may be through donation or the purchase from asset forfeiture funds. The day to day operation of the K-9 unit is funded through the general revenue fund.

498.05 USE AND DEPLOYMENT. -

- A. During normal duty hours, the K-9 unit will perform routine sector patrol. They are available to provide assistance to other patrol units of this department and other agencies requesting assistance for help at a crime scene where tracking, narcotics detection, or building searches may be required.
- B. The K-9 unit is subject to off-duty call out, the officer (s) are assigned a department issued pager to carry at all times, to include all on-duty and off-duty and times when they are away from their residence.
- C. Whenever this department or any other police agency requests the K-9 unit, the on-duty Shift Commander approving the use of the K-9 unit will contact the communications section and cause the K-9 officer to be contacted by furnished communications. The K-9 unit will respond to the scene as soon as possible.
- D. It is the responsibility of the K-9 officer to keep the dispatcher apprised of how he/she can be contacted due to issues as diverse as off site training, temporary assignments or assistance to other police departments, to include DEA or other government agencies.
- E. The Division of Field Operations Commander or the Chief of Police must approve requests for public relations demonstrations by the K-9 unit.
- F. The use of the K-9 for tracking, or locating of suspects is subject to the following rules;
 1. If the use of a K-9 Unit is anticipated, on scene officers should attempt to

secure a perimeter and make every effort to avoid contaminating the scene with the scent of officers or bystanders.

2. The K-9 Officer will evaluate each situation and determine if the use of a K-9 is technically feasible. If the officer determines that the K-9 should not be deployed due to technical reasons, he will advise the onsite supervisor.
3. A verbal warning or announcement will be made prior to initiating all building searches, the K-9 officer will identify that this department will utilize and release a trained police dog to search the area in question. The K-9 Officer shall also verbally advise the person(s) suspected of being in the building that failure to surrender in a reasonable amount of time will result in a search by the K-9 Unit.
4. Searches for lost or missing persons will be subject to the approval of the on-duty supervisor.
5. The K-9 shall not be deployed to detain a suspect unless a crime has occurred.
6. Department employees will heed the directions of the K-9 Officer when they are involved in a specific situation relating to the deployment of the unit.

F. Department owned K-9 shall not be used in secondary employment.

G. Department K-9 shall not be bred.

H. Use of the K-9 to unlawfully intimidate or threaten subjects is strictly forbidden.

498.06 USE OF FORCE:

- A. The Department considers a bite by a canine to be a use of less-than-lethal force.
- B. The K-9 Officer will only allow their K-9s to engage a suspect by biting if the suspect poses a risk of imminent danger to the handler or others or is actively resisting or escaping. In the case of concealment, consistent with the use of force policy, handlers will not allow their K-9 to engage a suspect by biting if a lower level of force could reasonably be expected to control the suspect or allow for the apprehension. Imminent danger means a suspect is armed with a weapon or other instrumentality capable of producing significant bodily injury.
- C. In instances where the use of force by the K-9 is justified under this policy, the K-9 Officer will first verbally warn the suspect that the K-9 is about to be deployed. This mandate does not mean a verbal warning should be given if this would endanger the officer by giving away his position. The K-9 Officer should issue the verbal warning when it can be done safely.

- D. When a K-9 apprehends a suspect by biting, the officer will call the dog off at the first moment it can be safely released.
- E. Should a department K-9 bite a person, whether accidental or consistent with training, and whether on or off duty, the following procedures will be followed:
 - 1. The K-9 Officer will ensure that the appropriate medical care is rendered to anyone in need of treatment.
 - 2. The K-9 Officer shall immediately notify the on-duty supervisor; and then shall notify the Division of Field Operations Commander as soon as practical. The supervisor will review the report and complete the Use of Force Report Form.
 - 3. The investigating supervisor shall ensure that an officer other than the K-9 Officer prepares a police report or supplemental report of the incident. The supervisor will review the report and complete the Use of Force Report Form.
 - 4. If the bite occurs while the K-9 unit is assisting another jurisdiction, the officer will immediately notify the supervisor of that jurisdiction. He/she will then notify the on-duty Ferguson Commander and the Division of Field Operations Commander as soon as is practical. A Ferguson on-duty supervisor will respond and gather necessary information so that a Use of Force Report can be completed. The K-9 Officer will cooperate fully with the local jurisdiction in the preparation of any applicable reports.

498.07 ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to his/her routine patrol responsibilities, K-9 Officers will:

- A. Provide for the care, control, training, and re-certification of the K-9. Re-certification and health-related care shall be conducted at facilities selected by the department as needed. All requests for professional grooming and boarding must receive prior authorization from his immediate squad supervisor.
- B. Maintain, care for, and clean all specialized equipment, training aids, supplies, kennel, and vehicles related to the canine handler assignment and are subject to inspection by his supervisor.
- C. Remain current on recent court rulings pertaining to canine use.
- D. Maintain accurate records regarding training and certification of the canine and provide copies of all listing dates and times to the squad supervisor in a **quarterly report**. The supervisor will forward copies of the report to the division commander.
- E. Maintain detailed records of all calls for service involving the use of the K-9 including the date, time, and location of search/activity, results of the search, bites and/or injuries, and complaint number if applicable. A **quarterly report** of

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these records will be submitted to the k-9 Officer's immediate supervisor. The report will then be forwarded to the Division of Field Operations Commander. The report will include

1. Time and date of call out.
2. Nature of call out.
3. Results of call out.
4. Report number if applicable.

F. Care of the K-9 - The K-9 Officer is afforded one hour of paid duty time per each working day for the care of the canine and maintenance of the vehicle and equipment.

G. The officer should inspect the canine daily for signs of illness, injury, insects, and cleanliness.

H. The K-9 kennel and exercise area should be cleaned and stools removed daily. When weather permits, the kennel should be hosed daily to eliminate urine and odors. During the summer, the kennel should be disinfected weekly. During the winter months, ice and snow should be removed from the kennel as soon as possible.

498.08 K-9 OFFICER VACATION

At times when the K-9 Officer will be on vacation or otherwise absent from the city and therefore unavailable to care for the K-9, it is the responsibility of the officer to arrange for the care of the K-9. Arrangements should be made to kennel the K-9 at an approved facility. Approved kennels will be coordinated through the Division Commander. Alternative arrangements may be made with the approval of the Commander of the Division of Field Operations.

498.09 K-9 Vehicles

In addition to the regularly approved usage of the Department vehicle, the K-9 vehicle, which is assigned to the K-9 officer as a take home vehicle, may be used:

- A. To transport the K-9 to and from off-duty training sessions in or out of the City of Ferguson.
- B. To and from veterinary clinics for the purpose of annual medical checkups, routine medical care, and emergency care.
- C. To and from dog supply businesses for the purpose of purchasing and transporting dog food and other dog supplies.
- D. The K-9 Officer may utilize the K-9 vehicle for transportation to and from secondary employment within the City of Ferguson. The vehicle may not, however, be utilized

to patrol, conduct surveillances, or transport other people/equipment as part of secondary employment.

- E. A sufficient amount of fuel will be maintained in the K-9 vehicle during off-duty status to enable the team to respond to an off-duty call out without having to refuel while enroute.
- F. K-9 vehicles may be left with the engine running and the air conditioner unit on when the K-9 officer is out of the vehicle and the outside temperature is such that the K-9's health may be in danger.
- G. The exterior of the K-9 vehicle will be kept as clean as possible. The interior will be cleaned and vacuumed as needed to maintain a presentable and sanitary condition.
- H. The K-9 Officer will not permit anyone to pet the K-9 while the animal is in the vehicle.
- I. When the K-9 vehicle is left unattended with the K-9 inside, the vehicle will be locked and secured, however, the screened windows may be left open for ventilation. The driver and passenger windows may be partially rolled down only if the sliding door on the cage is closed.

498.10 INTERACTION BETWEEN OFFICERS AND K-9 UNITS

- A. Officers must refrain from approaching, petting, or agitating the K-9.
- B. Officers should not approach the K-9 Officer in a hurried or aggressive fashion when the K-9 is present. If the K-9 perceives your actions as threat to the officer's safety, it will react accordingly.
- C. Do not make physical contact with the K-9 Officer when the K-9 is present. A friendly slap on the back may be perceived as a threat.
- D. Do not reach in the K-9 vehicle when the K-9 is present unless directed to do so by the K-9 Officer.
- E. There will be times when the K-9 may be kept in a portable kennel in the police department when the K-9 Officer is not present. Do not pet the K-9 while he is confined. Do not feed the K-9 anything without permission of the officer. Some food products are harmful, and a full stomach while working, may be fatal to the K-9.
- F. If a K-9 Officer is injured, the K-9 may become aggressive toward anyone approaching. Anyone attempting to assist the officer should not approach the K-9 or the officer until directed to do so by the officer. If the officer is unconscious and/or cannot maintain control of the K-9, alternate action such as contacting the humane society department may be necessary.

GENERAL ORDER 498.00

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G. Department employees should not approach a department K-9 without the permission of the handler.

By order of:



COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON
Chief of Police

Distribution

All Department Personnel