



PORT ORCHARD POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER: 1120
TOPIC: CANINE UNIT
ISSUED BY: ALAN L. TOWNSEND, CHIEF OF POLICE
DATE: 7-15-2011
SUPERCEDES: 9-1-00; 1-31-05
REFERENCE:

I. POLICY

The Port Orchard Police Department canine and canine handler are available to assist officers in detection of drugs. In addition, this policy spells out the procedures to follow when using a tracking canine from another jurisdiction.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Narcotics

1. POPD dogs are trained to detect marijuana and hashish, heroin, methamphetamine and its derivatives, cocaine and its derivatives.
2. The K-9 may be used to search houses, vehicles, luggage, etc. for hidden contraband. All searches must be legally justified.
3. Best results are obtained when the K-9 is allowed to search prior to officers attempting to search.
4. The assisting officer's duties will be directed by the K-9 team.

B. Narcotics Searches for Outside Institutions

1. On occasion, facilities such as schools or detention facilities may request the use of our canine.
2. Prior to use, the supervisor of the canine unit must receive a written request from the institution that includes the following:
 - a. Date and time of search
 - b. Location of the search
 - c. Reason for the search
 - d. Contact person and person in charge at the time of the search
3. After the canine supervisor has approved the plan, he/she will forward the request to the chief of police for final approval.

C. Outside Police Agency requests

1. On occasion outside police agencies will request use of our canine.

2. If the POPD canine officer is on duty, the on-duty supervisor will determine if the officer can be spared from the city to assist. In doing so, the supervisor will weigh the needs of the outside agency with the needs of our department. If no supervisor is on duty, the canine officer will follow the same criteria.
3. If the POPD canine officer is not on duty, the on-duty supervisor will determine the level of the search from the outside agency and whether it outweighs the cost of overtime for the canine officer. While it is our position to assist outside agencies whenever possible, we must first consider our own needs and costs.
 - a. Supervisors shall determine if there are other drug dogs on duty in the county, and;
 - b. Whether the requesting agency has its own drug dog that could be called out.
 - c. If either a or b above is applicable, then the POPD canine will not be used.
 - d. Supervisors shall also consider whether the outside agency could delay their search until the POPD canine officer comes on duty.

D. The Canine Officer shall maintain the following information.

1. Logs of canine activity
2. Canine training records
3. Any other information or reports necessary.

III. PROCEDURE FOR OUTSIDE CANINES

A. When canines are needed from outside agencies for such things as tracking or crowd control, the following should be followed.

B. Call Out

1. When officers are at a crime scene and have determined that an outside agency canine may be necessary they should contact CENCOM to determine if a canine unit can come to the call.

2. If an outside canine is responding, the on scene officer should communicate with the responding canine any information about the scene and the type of crime.

C. Tracking

1. Officer Duties at the Scene
 - a. Secure the scene until K-9 arrives.
Avoid contaminating the area in any way (physical presence or chemical). Do not allow engines on vehicles to run in the immediate area of the scene.
 - b. Keep area clear of foot traffic. In most instances the K-9 will pick up and trail the freshest scent.
 - c. Officers assigned to perimeter coverage should attempt to minimize contamination of area.
 - d. Assist K-9 Team only as requested by the K-9 officer.
 - e. Brief K-9 officer with all known facts concerning the circumstances of the case.
 - f. If clothing or an article the party touched can be located, it should not be disturbed, but pointed out to the K-9 handler.
 - g. When tracking from a vehicle, do not enter the vehicle if possible. If vehicle must be checked, check from passenger side to avoid contaminating exit path of driver.
2. The assisting officer's duties will be directed by the K-9 team.

D. Building Searches

1. Duties of Requesting Officer
 - a. Seal the area and avenues of escape as much as possible.
 - b. Do not enter the building and contaminate the area. Keep unauthorized personnel away from the area.
 - c. Provide the K-9 handler with all available information.
 - d. Do not enter the building while the K-9 Team is working unless instructed by the K-9 handler.
 - e. Keep away from all doors and windows.
 - f. Minimize distraction such as lights, noise and radio.

2. The assisting officer's duties will be directed by the k-9 team.

E. Scouting

1. Scouting refers to open field searches where the origin of the trail is unknown, but the subject is thought to be hiding in the field.
2. Duties of Officers at Scene:
 - a. Identify and secure perimeter.
 - b. Minimize contamination of the area while awaiting further instructions from the K-9 handler or supervisor.
 - c. Brief K-9 handler upon arrival.

F. Crowd Control

1. K-9's may be requested as deterrent in large crowd situations.
2. The K-9 will be deployed only as directed by a POPD supervisor.