



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: POLICE SERVICE DOG DEPLOYMENT		NO: Q-100	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

The Police Service Dog Program mission is to provide a reliable patrol dog capability through the deployment of trained officer-dog teams to aid in law enforcement. The primary task of the canine team is to search and locate criminal suspect(s), and at times, apprehend criminal suspect(s). The use of a Sheriff's Office canine to physically apprehend a person is a use of force and as such, is subject to the requirements and provisions of Sheriff's Office Policy and Procedure Manual Section F-100 as well as applicable state and federal law.

All field supervisors and watch commanders shall be familiar with KCSO's canine policy and use of force reporting requirements. A canine handler shall have approval from a canine supervisor, field supervisor, or watch commander (sergeant or higher) prior to deployment, unless the canine handler must react immediately in the apprehension of an escaping felon or when protecting themselves or others from assault. If the handler is unable to contact a canine-unit supervisor, the handler shall seek approval from the watch commander before the canine can be deployed. The approving supervisor shall not serve as a canine handler in the deployment.

If a canine bites any individual, the handler or an on-scene deputy shall immediately contact a KCSO dispatcher to request Emergency Medical Services response. If additional medical attention is required for a suspect who has been bitten, the individual shall be transported to a County approved medical facility for treatment. In the event a suspect is bitten while assisting another law enforcement agency, the handler will ensure the agency taking custody of the suspect, provides appropriate medical aid.

For each canine apprehension, the involved handler, as well as all other deputies who used or observed force, shall complete a use of force report before the end of shift. In addition to the information that must be included in all use of force reports, a canine handler's use of force report documenting a canine apprehension shall include the following: (1) whether there was contact between the canine and the subject, including contact with the subject's clothing; (2) documentation of the duration of the canine's contact with a subject; and (3) the approximate distance of the canine from the handler at time of apprehension.

Unless personally involved in the incident, the canine supervisor shall evaluate each canine deployment for compliance with KCSO policy, state and federal law, and provide written

documentation of this evaluation. If the canine supervisor is unavailable or was directly involved in the incident, this evaluation will be completed by a staff member of higher rank.

No handler or canine will be deployed unless the handler and canine are current on all training requirements and the canine is fully controllable during exercises.

A Sheriff's Office canine may be used to apprehend an individual if the following exist and taking into consideration the factors outlined in the Graham V. Connor decision, which defines the reasonableness of force used based on the severity of the crime, if the suspect(s) is resisting by fleeing or fighting, and if the suspect(s) poses an immediate threat to the safety of officers or others:

- The suspect(s) have either committed any offense or is about to commit any offense and there is a reasonable belief that the suspect(s) poses an immediate threat of violence or serious harm to the public, or any officer.
- The suspect(s) have either committed any offense or is about to commit any offense and the suspect(s) is/are **violently resisting** arrest and the use of the police service dog appears necessary to overcome such resistance;
- The suspect(s) is/are **actively resisting**, and the deputy has probable cause to believe the suspect is wanted for a serious or violent felony.
- The suspect(s) either committed a serious or violent crime or is about to commit a serious or violent crime, and are believed to be concealed in an area where entry by other than the canine would pose a threat to the safety of officers or the public;
- It is recognized that a situation 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 decision to use a police service dog in view of the totality of the circumstances;
- Absent the presence of one or more of the above conditions, mere flight from pursuing officer(s) shall not serve as good cause for a canine apprehension.
- **Passively resisting** suspect(s) wanted for and/or suspected of committing non-violent and/or non-serious offenses, are not grounds for a canine apprehension.

SWAT DEPLOYMENT/APPREHENSION TACTICS

Utilization of a canine during Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) deployments is a beneficial tool to the Kern County Sheriff's Office. Canine handlers train in special techniques with the Kern County Sheriff's Office SWAT team in order to safely resolve situations where SWAT is needed. Canine handlers who are deploying with the SWAT team are expected to follow the canine use of force policy (Q-100) as well as all applicable Sheriff's Office policies regarding using force.

There are special deployment techniques canine handlers train their canine partners to incorporate with the SWAT team tactics. One such technique is the use of a muzzled canine for

Q-100-2

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------

Hostage Rescue Team (HRT) tactics. During a deployment under these circumstances, the canine is used as an impact weapon and diversionary device when a suspect poses a threat to human life and/or is utilizing a hostage/victim as a means of escape or to prevent their capture.

Due to the unpredictable nature of SWAT incidents, there may be other extraordinary situations where a canine could be utilized, which is not outlined in the canine policy. When this occurs, the canine handler will make every attempt to get approval from the SWAT Commander prior to the deployment of the canine. If not feasible to wait for approval, the canine handler will make the decision to use the canine based on a totality of the circumstances.

DEFINITIONS

PASSIVELY RESISTING

Not submitting to arrest by not following commands with no physically evasive acts.

ACTIVELY RESISTING

Not submitting to arrest by not following commands **AND** running, jogging, fleeing from a deputy or hiding and/or lying in wait. Resisting the application of handcuffs by moving or manipulating the body in a way that will not allow the handcuffs to be applied.

***Suspect(s) who have committed a serious or violent crime (i.e. a P.C. 664/187 or a PC 245) and are refusing verbal commands to surrender, are verbally non-compliant, refusing to take their hands out of their pockets or refusing to surrender to deputies are considered to be **Actively Resisting** for purpose of this section, even if they are not running, jogging, fleeing, hiding and/or lying in wait.

VIOLENTLY RESISTING

1. Not submitting to arrest by not following commands **AND** violent acts such as punching, striking, kicking, biting or any other act that is likely to produce bodily injury.
2. The suspect(s) are threatening violence coupled with the ability to carry out said act.
3. Deputy has probable cause to believe the suspect is wanted for a serious or violent felony and meets the criteria for “**Actively Resisting.**”

DIRECT APPREHENSIONS

A direct apprehension, for the purposes of this policy, is defined as the act of the handler physically placing a Sheriff’s canine on a suspect with the intention to have the canine bite the suspect **OR** the handler commanding the Sheriff’s canine to apprehend the suspect(s) by releasing the canine, as the suspect(s) are in close proximity and the canine handler believes the suspect(s) are visible to the canine.

Q-100-3

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------

Sheriff's Office Canine Handlers shall not deploy a direct apprehension unless the suspect(s) actions meet the criteria of **Violently Resisting** (as defined above).

DIRECTIVE 1. DEPLOYMENT FACTORS

Prior to the use of a police service dog to search for, or to apprehend any individual, the canine handler shall carefully consider all pertinent information reasonably available at the time. This information shall include, but is not limited to:

- The seriousness of the crime;
- The suspect(s) age or estimate thereof;
- Any potential danger to any other officer(s) who may attempt to intervene or assist with the apprehension;
- Other use of force options available in compliance with Sheriff's Office policy;
- Any potential danger to the public, which may result from the deployment of the police service dog.

DIRECTIVE 2. CANINE DEPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prior to canine deployment, canine handlers shall issue three, loud and clear warnings that a canine will be deployed and advise the suspect to surrender, unless such warnings impose an imminent threat of danger to other deputies on scene, the canine handler, or a member of the public. The canine handler shall ensure the warnings are capable of being heard throughout the area of the deployment and will allow a sufficient period of time between each warning to provide a suspect an opportunity to surrender. These warnings shall be given in Spanish and English if the suspect is reasonably believed to be a Spanish-speaking Limited English Proficient (LEP) individual. If a canine handler deploys his canine without making an announcement, the factors justifying this decision will be thoroughly outlined in the incident report.

The announcement may consist of the following, depending on the type of deployment:

Area/Building searches:

- The initial announcement shall at a minimum include;
 1. Identification: "Kern County Sheriff's Office"
 2. Canine: "I have a police dog"
 3. Instruction: "Identify yourself now"
 4. Direction: "Walk to the (front, side, rear, etc.) of the (building, vehicle, park, etc.) now!"
 5. Warning: "If my dog finds you, he may bite you!"

Q-100-4

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------

- After giving a reasonable amount of time, the initial announcement may be repeated. At a minimum the second announcement should include;
 1. Identification: “Kern County Sheriff’s Office”;
 2. Warning: “If you do not identify yourself, I will send in my police dog”
- Again, give a reasonable amount of time for person(s) to comply with the warning. If still no response, the canine may then be deployed by the handler

Fleeing/escaping or resisting suspect(s):

- The initial announcement shall at a minimum include:
 1. Identification: “Kern County Sheriff’s Office”;
 2. Canine: “I have a police dog”;
 3. Instruction: “Stop (running, fighting, resisting, etc.)”;
 4. Warning: “My dog will bite you”
- After giving a reasonable amount of time for the suspect(s) to comply, the initial announcement may be repeated, if it does not increase the risk to officer(s) or allow the suspect(s) time to escape. If, after the second announcement is given (if given) and the suspect(s) does not comply, the handler may then deploy the canine.

DIRECTIVE 3. NOTIFICATION

After any police service dog apprehension, the canine handler will notify the Canine Section Coordinator and the on-duty command/ranking officer, as soon as practicable.

DIRECTIVE 4. REPORTING

Prior to going off duty, the canine handler shall complete all necessary reports associated with the use of their police service dog in an apprehension.

DIRECTIVE 5. REVIEW

After each canine apprehension, as soon as practical the Canine Unit Manager and the Metropolitan Patrol Commander will meet to review the facts of the incident. The purpose of this review is to determine whether the use of the Sheriff’s canine was appropriate and within policy.

Q-100-5

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: SHERIFF'S CANINE SECTION ADMINISTRATION NO: Q-200			
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

The Sheriff's Canine Section operates under the Metropolitan Patrol Division. A canine team consists of one handler and one canine. The canine teams are cross-trained and serve in both patrol and narcotic or explosive detection roles. The canine teams are functionally assigned to the Metropolitan Patrol Division. Shift assignments will be based on canine-related workload requirements.

A Law Enforcement Bureau Watch Lieutenant serves as the Canine Section Manager and will be responsible for the overall management of the section. The Canine Section Manager will select a Metropolitan Patrol Division Sergeant, or a sergeant who is willing to transfer to Metropolitan Patrol, to act as the section coordinator. This selection will be made through the special selection process and in accordance with the current KLEA MOU. Once selected as the canine section coordinator, he or she will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the section.

The Canine Section exists to assist the Sheriff in facilitating the functions of the Sheriff's Office. This assistance is not limited to the division deploying such teams but exists to serve the needs of the Sheriff's Office as a whole.

DIRECTIVE 1. CANINE FUNCTIONS

The canine teams are line units and due to the nature of their training, they are particularly suited to the following functions:

- Crime prevention via visible patrol and proactive enforcement;
- Building and area searches for suspects and/or evidence
- Apprehension of fleeing criminal suspects when less aggressive alternatives are impractical;
- Tracking of suspects who have fled the scene of criminal activity;
- Tracking of citizens who have become lost;
- Crowd control (only as directed by policy);
- Detection/seizure of narcotics and the searching/locating of explosive materials/precursors;
- Public appearances and demonstrations.

DIRECTIVE 2. RELATED POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Canine teams will perform their duties in accordance with all laws, the Sheriff's Office Policy & Procedures Manual, the Sheriff's Office Report Writing Manual and the Metropolitan Patrol Division Operational Manual.

Q-200-2

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: SHERIFF'S CANINE SECTION DEPLOYMENTS		NO: Q-300	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

Due to their unique capabilities and training, Sheriff's canines are ideally suited for searching and locating suspect(s). They should not be considered as a **"last resort"** but should be considered as a **primary** resource for this type of activity. In addition to their ability to search and locate suspect(s), Sheriff's canines also possess the capability and training to physically seize suspect(s) who are violently resisting or have committed a serious or violent felony and are actively resisting and/or hiding or lying in wait. In this capacity, the deployment of the Sheriff's canine becomes a use of force, subject to the use of force policy contained in the Sheriff's Office Policies and Procedures Manual, Section F-100. For all intents and purposes, due to the training of Sheriff's canine teams, such deployments are considered a **less lethal** use of force. As a use of force, Sheriff's canine handlers alone will make the decision to deploy their canines in this capacity, based on the totality of the facts they possess and current use of force policy considerations.

All Sheriff's canines shall be trained in the "Guard and Bark" (also called the "Bark and Hold" or "Find and Bark") technique. The "Guard and Bark" is not a deployment term. The term is a training method the Sheriff's Office Canine Unit utilizes, and under this method, a properly trained and maintained canine may provide stronger alerts on inaccessible suspects, thus increasing officer safety, public safety and afford the suspect an opportunity to surrender. Sheriff's canines will only be deployed off lead/leash in situations where a bite or other physical contact is reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances and our deployment policy.

Based on "Guard and Bark" training techniques, it is possible that if a suspect(s) are accessible during an off lead/leash deployment and the suspect(s) do not move, attempt to escape, or take an aggressive action toward the canine, the canine handler, or others, that the canine may contain (by guarding) the suspect(s) and barking. The barking will alert the handler and potentially provide the canine handler the opportunity to recall the canine, thus preventing physical contact by the canine with the suspect(s), and give the suspect(s) an opportunity to comply with deputies and be taken into custody without further incident. The "Guard and Bark" training technique does not guarantee that the suspect(s) will not be bitten by the canine, as deployments are often dynamic and may rapidly change.

Sheriff's Office Canines shall be deployed on lead/leash for all searches, unless a specific circumstance makes the utilization of the canine on lead/leash a threat to the handler, other

deputies, or the public. Canine handlers shall limit off-leash canine deployments, searches, and other instances where there is an increased risk of a canine bite to a suspect to instances in which the suspect is wanted for a serious felony or is reasonably suspected to be armed based upon individualized information specific to the subject, based on the totality of the circumstances, the Sheriff's Office Deployment Policy (Q-100) and applicable case law.

A canine handler shall keep his or her canine within visual and auditory range during deployments at all times, except when a canine clears a threshold (e.g., rounding a corner, entering a room, ascending/descending a stairwell, or entering a confined space, such as a crawl-space), or when canine deployment beyond the handler's visual and auditory range is necessary to ensure the immediate safety of others.

All Sheriff's canines are also trained in the detection of either controlled substances or explosives. As such, they are extremely useful in searching buildings, rooms, containers, vehicles, etc., for controlled substances or explosives. Sheriff's canines will not conduct searches of person(s) for controlled substances or explosive materials/precursor chemicals.

Sheriff's canines can sometimes be successful in crowd control situations. Due to variable conditions involved in these situations, Sheriff's canines will only be deployed for crowd control as directed by a command/ranking officer.

Sheriff's canine teams also serve a significant public relations role. Public demonstrations by the Sheriff's canine teams are a highly visible way to show the public the high level of training, control, and overall quality of the teams that serve within their community.

DIRECTIVE 1. TYPES OF CALLS SUITED FOR CANINES

Sheriff's canine teams should be primarily dispatched to the types of calls which best suit their abilities. These calls include, but are not limited to:

- Prowlers
- Controlled substance searches/explosive material/precursor searches
- Burglaries/alarms in progress
- Calls involving tracks
- Building/area searches
- Violent or resisting suspects
- Warrant service (arrest, bench, search)
- Back up unit
- Crowd control (with approval of a command/ranking officer)
- Searches for non-criminal person(s) (i.e.; missing/lost person)

Q-300-2

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------

- Assisting other departments (with approval of a command/ranking officer)
- Canine teams should not be dispatched to report calls or other routine assignments, which would cause them to be unavailable for extended periods of time. See **Directive 2** for exceptions.

DIRECTIVE 2. CANINE ASSIGNMENTS/PRIORITY 3 CALLS

Sheriff’s canine teams should not normally be used as primary, investigative units. Extensive investigative calls for service and the requisite reporting, is best suited to patrol units. Due to their limited numbers and special skills, canine units should remain available for canine support activity.

Canine teams can assist when calls for service are backlogged, and patrol units are unavailable for assignments. One manner of assistance is in the handling of minor, non-complex, Priority 3 calls under the following circumstances:

- Communication Center supervisor contacts and obtains approval from the on-duty command/ranking officer
- Assigned patrol units are unavailable due to assignments
- Priority 3 call is non-complex and does not involve arrest situations (canine unit cannot transport), or does not involve extended down time
- A canine unit assigned to a Priority 3 call, will listen to their portable radio for possible re-assignments to a canine-related call. Should a canine unit be re-assigned to another call, the handler will advise the reporting party that either he/she will return later to complete the report/investigation, or another unit will be dispatched. In the event the canine unit is unable to return to the report/investigation call, the handler will notify the Communications Center that a patrol unit needs to be dispatched.

DIRECTIVE 3. DEPLOYMENT BY SUPERVISORS

Command/ranking officers may direct that a Sheriff canine team be utilized on any given situation, bearing in mind:

- Officer safety
- Canine team safety
- Sheriff’s Office use of force policy
- Canine handlers may use their canines to protect themselves, other officers, and citizens from death and/or serious injury

Q-300-3

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------

- Tactical considerations. The actual tactics to be utilized by the canine team will be determined by the handler based on his/her training and knowledge of the canine's training, characteristics and capabilities
- Attempts should be made to control contamination of the search area(s) as such contamination severely reduces the team's effectiveness. Rapid containment of the search area is the key to successful canine searches
- Utilization of canine teams for primary reports/investigations is an inefficient use of the team and should be avoided. See **Directive 2** for exceptions
- Canine teams shall never be used to satisfy a civil process without prior approval from the Sheriff
- Canine teams shall not be used to transport prisoners except in severe emergencies

DIRECTIVE 4. DEPLOYMENT BY HANDLERS

The primary mission of the Sheriff's canine teams is to serve as a support function to line operations. Their focus will be to provide canine assistance where appropriate. The secondary mission will be to provide uniform law enforcement service as required. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Building/area searches for suspect(s)
- Backup assistance to other officer(s)
- Tracking, both for criminal suspect(s) and non-criminal person(s)
- Apprehension of violent or resisting suspect(s), within Use of Force Policy (KCSOPPM, F-100)
- Warrant service (arrest, bench, search)
- Narcotic searches (See section Q-600)/Explosive Material/Precursor Searches (See section Q-700)
- Respond to canine related calls for service in the Substation response areas. Handlers will notify the on-duty patrol sergeant and/or watch lieutenant when leaving the Metropolitan Patrol area
- Assisting other departments (with approval). Sheriff's office policies and procedures will be followed when assisting other departments. In addition, canine teams shall be apprised of all relevant information on the incident, prior to deploying their canine
- Public demonstrations (with approval of the Canine Section Manager/Coordinator)
- Canine handlers may use their canines to protect themselves, other officers, and citizens from death or serious injury

Q-300-4

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------

- Canine teams shall never be used to satisfy a civil process without prior approval from the Sheriff
- Canine teams shall not transport prisoners except in severe emergencies
- Crowd control: Canine handlers shall avoid use of the canine in crowd control situations, due to the variables involved in each circumstance, without a supervisor. Canine teams shall only be deployed in crowd control situations at the direction of a command/ranking officer and only after a review of the situation and development of a tactical plan with input from the handler. Canine teams may become involved without a supervisor if non-intervention would endanger officers or innocent person(s). **Crowd control will only be done “on leash” (6’ or less).**

DIRECTIVE 5. CANINE TEAM CALL-OUTS

Since there are a limited number of canine teams, we are unable to provide 24-hour coverage. Also, since the canine teams are assigned to the Metropolitan Patrol Division and their primary work activity takes place within those boundaries, there may be occasions when a canine team is not available for other Sheriff’s Office work units. On these occasions where a canine team is needed, but one on-duty is not available, the call-out of a canine team may be required. The on-duty command/ranking officer has the authority to authorize a canine team call-out.

The command/ranking officer should contact the Communications Center and request the next on-duty canine team be called out. The Communications Center has a copy of the Metropolitan Patrol Division schedule for identifying this unit. When a canine team is called out, the Communication Center should attempt to notify the Canine Coordinator of the call-out. If there is a problem with the team being called out, the Canine Coordinator will have final say in the authorization of the call-out. Because of canine fatigue and feeding schedules, calling out a canine unit who has just ended a shift should be avoided. After the canine has been fed, the team will be unavailable for a minimum of three (3) hours.

Q-300-5

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: SHERIFF'S CANINE UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES		NO: Q-400	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

Due to the special relationship that is inherent in a canine team, the specialized training, and unique work environment that canine teams operate in, Sheriff's canine handlers have a very important responsibility for the care, training, and proper deployment of their canine partners. In most cases, it is only the Sheriff's canine handler who can and must control the actions of their respective canines. It is a violation of policy for any person to purposely agitate, tease, or distract a Sheriff's canine, without the express permission of the assigned canine handler. Only the trained Sheriff's canine handlers should attempt to command a Sheriff's canine, except for canine staff for training purposes or an exigent circumstance such as a handler becoming incapacitated. Safety and control of the canine are priority responsibilities for the handlers.

DIRECTIVE 1. CANINE HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES-GENERAL

The Sheriff's canine handler responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Remaining alert to and avoiding unsafe situations with the canine. Handlers should never allow their canines into an unsafe situation where person(s) or the canine could be unnecessarily injured. This includes the handler's residence, vehicle(s), or any such place where the canine may be present
- Maintaining command and control over their assigned canine at all times. This includes the handler's residence, vehicle(s), or any such place where the canine may be present
- Never allowing any other person to purposely agitate, tease, or distract a Sheriff's canine, except during training exercises and with the express permission of the assigned canine handler. Handlers will immediately notify their immediate supervisor of such incidents and will forward a detailed memorandum to the Canine Section Coordinator as soon as possible
- Ensuring that their residence is kept in such a condition to not bring discredit to the Sheriff's Office or the Sheriff's Canine Program. The outside areas housing the Sheriff's Office canine are subject to inspection by the Canine Unit Coordinator or Manager to assess suitability with reasonable notice, prior to inspection, given to the handler
- Ensuring that the canine's kennel, five (5) foot fence, and all gates are secure

- Providing their assigned canine with proper grooming, medical care, and proper feeding/watering
- Ensuring that all assigned equipment is kept clean, neat and functioning
- Providing and ensuring adequate training is administered. Continued training deficiencies or deficiencies which affect the ability to perform, will be immediately reported to the Canine Coordinator. The Canine Coordinator will confer with the Sheriff’s Office Trainer for determination of further action, including remedial training and/or if warranted, suspension from work until such time as the performance is acceptable
- Promptly preparing and submitting all reports as may be required
- Accurate and timely reporting of monthly training and stats

DIRECTIVE 2. CANINE HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES-INJURY

Whenever a Sheriff’s canine injures any person(s), including an officer, the assigned canine handler shall:

- Immediately notify the on-duty Command/Ranking Officer and provide the details surrounding the injury. This information will be included in a C.I. report
- If the injury is to a person(s) arrested, the involved canine handler shall **require** that the arrested person(s) be taken to Kern Medical (or local hospital if in the outlying areas) and that treatment is either obtained or refused
- If the injury is to any other person(s), the involved canine handler shall **request** that the injured person(s) seek medical treatment
- Conduct an investigation into the injury, seeking statements (audio and video record if possible) from any witness(es) and the person(s) injured
- Photograph, or request Technical Investigations respond and photograph the injury (after the wound(s) is cleaned, prior to bandaging) and any other relevant evidence
- Ensure that a C.I. report is completed; pulling a new case number if one does not already exist. If a case number already exists, the involved canine handler will complete a supplemental report containing detailed information. The information shall include at a minimum:
 1. Date/time of injury
 2. Location injury occurred
 3. Personal information on injured party (age/DOB, home address, phone number, etc.)
 4. Type and extent of injury
 5. Hospital where treatment was sought
 6. Person providing treatment

Q-400-2

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------

7. Witness(es) and statements
8. Circumstances surrounding the injury
9. Deployment/tactics used
10. Involved canine handler/canine
11. Which supervisor was notified
12. Who took photographs or which Technical Investigator responded

Such reports shall be completed by the end of the shift, unless approved by the Canine Manager or Canine Coordinator. The report will be processed as a priority, with a copy requested for the Canine Manager and Canine Coordinator. The canine handler shall:

- Ensure that the Canine Coordinator is advised and briefed on the incident as soon as possible, either by phone, or in person.

DIRECTIVE 3. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES-INJURY

Upon notification by a canine handler of an injury, the on-duty Command/Ranking Officer shall:

- Ensure a supervisor-level investigation is completed
- Review the incident and offer assistance where needed
- Ensure that all reports are completed
- Ensure all reports are placed into the “Canine” role in LERMS, so they can be reviewed and approved by the Canine Coordinator.

DIRECTIVE 4. CANINE COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES-INJURY

Upon notification of an injury, the Canine Coordinator will:

- Ensure a supervisor-level investigation is completed
- Review all reports to ensure policies and procedures were followed and take corrective action where required
- Complete the use of force reporting procedure and document on the approved checklist
- Brief the Canine Manager of the circumstances and outcome of all injury incidents

Q-400-3

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: SHERIFF'S CANINE SEARCHES		NO: Q-500	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

Canine teams are one of the most valuable resources we have available for searches. Canine team searches can take less time to complete, are usually more thorough, but most importantly can be done with fewer officers, while still providing for safety. Whenever practical, canine teams should be dispatched and deployed on the types of calls identified in Section Q-300.

Upon arrival, canine teams must consider a number of factors prior to deploying their canine on a search. Each search will be different, and the circumstances will dictate how the search is conducted. Some such considerations are:

- What is the chance of an innocent person(s) being in the area to be searched?
- Should the search be conducted on or off leash?
- Are additional canine teams needed to assist in the search?
- Should an announcement be made prior to deployment?

DIRECTIVE 1. BUILDING SEARCHES

- Entrances/exits should be covered by officers prior to a canine search
- Upon arrival canine handlers should attempt to obtain as much information surrounding the call as possible (i.e.; type of call, reason to believe innocent person may or may not be inside, reason to believe suspect may be inside)
- Request additional canine/patrol units as may be necessary
- Request at least one cover officer to assist during the search
- Give announcement (Section Q-100, Directive 2)
- Generally, building searches will be conducted on leash, but at the canine handler's discretion, an off-leash search can be done if deemed appropriate after considering Section Q-300. Off leash searches should only be performed after careful consideration of any innocent person(s) who may be inside
- Conducting the search. The canine handler's focus will be on the canine; the cover officer(s) focus is on protecting the handler. Cover officer should stay with the canine team unless directed otherwise by the canine handler
- Whenever a suspect is located hiding, every attempt should be made to talk him/her to a position of officer advantage. If the suspect refuses, cover officer(s),

if available, should extract the suspect(s) from the hiding place. If this would create an unnecessary danger to the cover officer, the canine handler, or other person(s), the canine handler may decide to use his/her canine to extract the suspect. This decision rests with the canine handler and must comply with KCSOPPM Section F-100

- The cover officer(s) should take custody of the suspect.

DIRECTIVE 2. AREA SEARCHES

- A perimeter should be established as soon as possible
- Upon arrival, canine handlers should attempt to obtain as much information surrounding the call as possible (i.e.; type of call, reason to believe innocent person(s) may or may not be in the area, reason to believe suspect(s) may be in the area)
- Request additional canine/patrol units as may be needed
- Request at least one cover officer to assist during the search
- Give announcement (Section Q-100, Directive 2)
- Generally, area searches will be conducted on leash, but at the handler's discretion, an off-leash search can be done if deemed appropriate after considering Section Q-300. Off leash searches should only be performed after careful consideration of any innocent person(s) who may be in the search area.
- Conducting the search. The Canine handler's focus will be on the canine; the cover officer(s) focus is on protecting the handler. Cover officer(s) should stay with the canine team unless directed otherwise by the canine handler
- Whenever a suspect is located hiding, every attempt should be made to talk him/her to a position of officer advantage. If the suspect refuses, cover officer(s), if available, should extract the suspect(s) from the hiding place. If this would create an unnecessary danger to the cover officer, the canine handler, or other person(s), the canine handler may decide to use his/her canine to extract the suspect. This decision rests with the canine handler and must comply with KCSOPPM Section F-100.
- The cover officer(s) should take the suspect into custody.

Q-500-2

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: DRUG DETECTION DOG DEPLOYMENT		NO: Q-600	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

The canine drug detection program mission is to provide a practical and credible drug detection capability through the employment of trained officer-dog teams to aid in the investigation, apprehension, and prosecution of person(s) engaged in illegal drug activities. The primary task of the canine team is to locate drugs (controlled substances, narcotics).

DIRECTIVE 1. DEPLOYMENTS

The decision to use the drug detection dog rests solely with the canine handler. The handler is responsible for the deployment of the dog as a method of investigation. The drug detection dog may be used to:

- Search vehicles, buildings, parcels, areas or other items deemed necessary;
- Obtain a search warrant by using the dog in support of probable cause;
- Assist in the search for drugs during a search warrant service;
- Assist in drug education programs and public demonstrations for the Sheriff's Office.

DIRECTIVE 2. SEARCHING PERSON(S)

The drug detection dog will not be used to search a person for drugs. If a drug dog alert causes the officer to believe that a person may be in possession of drugs, the officer in charge of the investigation will determine how to proceed. Personal possessions may be searched by the dog only if removed from the person.

DIRECTIVE 3. ASSISTING OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The drug detection dog team may be available for use by other law enforcement agencies. Requests by other agencies must be approved by the Canine Coordinator, or a Command/Ranking Officer in his/her absence. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

DIRECTIVE 4. DRUG DETECTION DOG TRAINING

Training of the drug detection dogs will be conducted by the Sheriff's Office designated trainer using actual controlled substances as training aids.



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL/PRECURSOR DETECTION DOG DEPLOYMENT		NO: Q-700	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

Because of the high risk of danger to the public and deputies when a bomb or other explosive device is suspected, the use of a canine team trained in Explosive Ordinance Detection (EOD) may be considered. The primary task of the canine team is to conduct searches for explosive materials/devices in designated areas and to assist the Kern County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad.

DIRECTIVE 1. DEPLOYMENTS

The decision to use the EOD dog rests solely with the canine handler. The handler is responsible for the deployment of the dog during the course of the search. In the event a device is located during a search, the handler will summon and be accompanied by, a certified bomb technician. In the event the bomb technician deems it is unsafe for the EOD dog to be utilized for a further search, the bomb technician can halt the use of the EOD dog for safety reasons. The EOD dog may be used to:

- Assist in the search of a building, structure, area, vehicle or article where a suspected explosive device has been reported
- Assist with searches at transportation facilities and vehicles (e.g., buses, airplanes, trains)
- Preventative searches at special events, VIP visits, official buildings and other restricted areas
- To assist in the search of a command post location for secondary explosive devices
- Assisting in the search of a scene where an explosion has occurred, and an explosive device or secondary explosive device is suspected.

DIRECTIVE 2. SEARCHING PERSON(S)

The EOD dog will not be used to search a person for explosive materials/precursor chemicals. Personal possessions may be searched by the dog only if removed from the person.

DIRECTIVE 3. ASSISTING OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The EOD dog team may be available for use by other law enforcement agencies. Requests by other agencies must be approved by the Canine Coordinator, or a Command/Ranking Officer in his/her absence. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In the event a request is approved, Directive 4 shall still be followed.

DIRECTIVE 4. EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS DETECTION TRAINING

Training of the EOD dogs will be conducted by the Sheriff's Office designated trainer, and alongside the Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad using actual explosive material as training aids.

Q-700-2

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: SHERIFF'S CANINE SELECTION		NO: Q-800	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

The Sheriff's Office Trainer will accomplish selection of a canine service dog, with final approval coming from the Canine Coordinator.

DIRECTIVE 1. CANINE REQUIREMENTS

Canines utilized by the Kern County Sheriff's Office will meet the following requirements:

- The service dog must be a minimum of Schutzhund I or equivalent
- Breed of the service dog will be German Shepherd, OR Belgian Malinois.
- The service dog shall be a minimum of 18 months and no more than 3 years old at the time of purchase



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: SHERIFF'S CANINE HANDLER SELECTION		NO: Q-900	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

Selection of canine handlers will be accomplished from a list of deputy sheriff volunteers, after having shown the skills, abilities and qualifications for such a position. Canine Handler selection will be in accordance with the Sheriff's Office Policies and Procedures Manual and K.L.E.A. M.O.U.

DIRECTIVE 1. CANINE HANDLER QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants for the position of Canine Handler must:

- Have a minimum of two (2) years experience in field patrol immediately prior to application
- Have a residence where a large dog can be housed and a yard with at least a five (5) foot fence.
 1. In the event of a rental or lease, be able to provide written authorization from the property owner to kennel the canine at the residence
- Post selection, successfully complete the Basic Handler and Explosive Material Detection OR Narcotic Detector Canine Course
- Be physically and emotionally prepared to perform the duties of a canine handler
- Be willing to devote the time necessary, in addition to regularly assigned duties to perform canine specific duties including, but not limited to:
 1. Call outs
 2. Canine training
 3. Canine demonstrations
 4. Routine care, grooming and medical checkups as required
- Maintain their residence in a manner, which does not bring discredit to the Sheriff's Office or the Canine Section. Agree to inspection for suitability with reasonable prior notice
- Maintain their canine and canine related equipment in a neat, clean, and functioning condition
- If currently in a Sheriff's Program (i.e. FTO, SID, etc.), request that the respective Program Manager forward a letter to the Canine Program Manager, stating that they

have fulfilled their obligation to the respective program and are leaving in good standing

DIRECTIVE 2. SELECTION PROCESS

Those interested in becoming a canine handler will be asked to complete the application process, which will consist of:

- Completion and submission of the Special Assignment Application within the time limits specified on the Special Assignment Announcement
- Preparation and submission of a resume, which should include:
 1. Experience
 2. Related training
 3. Prior assignments
 4. Interest in program
 5. Number and ages of children
 6. Number and types of other pets
- Completion of an oral assessment process, designed to examine the applicant's ability to handle a canine, knowledge of canine subject matter and overall qualifications for the position. The oral assessment panel will review Sheriff's Office files including, but not limited to:
 1. Personnel files
 2. Internal Affairs Files
 3. Employee Performance Reports
 4. Time sheets
 5. Traffic accident reports
 6. A sampling of Crime or Incident Reports prepared by the applicant
- Though not required for final selection, it is recommended the applicant participate in several formal Canine Training Exercises prior to the oral assessment
- Successful completion of a physical agility performance test which is designed to assess the candidate's physical abilities to perform work required of a canine handler.
- The applicant will need to be prepared for scenario-based testing with the approval of the Canine Coordinator.
- From the oral assessment process/review of files, physical agility test and scenario performance, applicants will be ranked for selection.
- If selected for canine training, the applicant must successfully complete the Basic Handler School and Explosive Detection or Narcotic Detector Canine Training Course. Failure to successfully complete the required training will result in de-selection as a canine handler.

Q-900-2

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------

DIRECTIVE 3. SHIFT ASSIGNMENT

Canine team assignments will be made based on the Sheriff’s Office need for a canine. Available shifts will be filled based on seniority. Seniority is determined by time in rank, as described in the K.L.E.A. M.O.U., Article X-Shift Bids/Schedules.

Q-900-3

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: SHERIFF'S CANINE SECTION TRAINING		NO: Q-1000	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

Periodic training is necessary to maintain an optimal level of performance by the canine teams. This training is just as important for the handler as it is for the canine. The training schedule calls for a minimum of twenty (20) hours of group canine training per month (usually conducted in 10-hour blocks, twice per month). During this group training, training topics will vary depending on needs. In addition to group training, canine handlers are expected to train together in small blocks during their regular shifts. In the event a canine handler is experiencing a training deficiency, which is not being corrected by either group or individual training, the canine handler may contact the Sheriff's Office Trainer for specific training.

DIRECTIVE 1. SHERIFF'S OFFICE CANINE TRAINER

The Kern County Sheriff's Office contracts with:

Mr. Dave Reaver
Adlerhorst International Inc.
3951 Vernon Avenue
Jurupa Valley, CA. 92509
(951)685-2430

Adlerhorst serves as the Sheriff's Office Canine Trainer. Adlerhorst is responsible for:

- The Basic Canine Handler Course
- Narcotic Detection Course/Explosive Detection Course
- Group training and specific individual training, as needs require.

DIRECTIVE 2. CANINE SECTION TRAINING OFFICER

The Canine Coordinator will be responsible for selecting a monthly Canine Section Training Officer. The Canine Section Training Officer will be responsible for:

- Establishing training sites and times
- Notification of canine handlers of training events
- In conjunction with the Sheriff's Office Canine Trainer, identifying training needs
- In conjunction with the Sheriff's Office Canine Trainer, assisting in group training
- Documenting monthly training (attendance/topic)



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: SHERIFF'S CANINE SECTION STATISTICS		NO: Q-1300	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

Documentation of Canine Section activity is necessary for the proper management of the section. The Canine Section utilizes the web-based KATS K9 Activity Tracking System to organize the information. Canine handlers submit a Weekly Canine Activity Report at the end of each week. These Weekly Canine Activity Reports are maintained both by the canine handler and the Canine Section Coordinator. At the end of the month, these reports are compiled in a Monthly Activity Report. At the end of the calendar year, these monthly reports are compiled into a Yearly Canine Activity Report. Another document used for the recording of training activity, is the Canine Narcotic/Explosive Detection Training Record. This record is maintained by each handler and is periodically reviewed by the Canine Section Coordinator.

Both the Monthly Canine Activity Reports and the Yearly Canine Activity Reports are maintained in a permanent file for each handler.

DIRECTIVE 1. WEEKLY CANINE ACTIVITY REPORT

This document is used to record weekly individual activity by canine teams:

Calls for Service: This is the total number of calls canine units handled or assisted. This number includes all the categories listed below. It includes calls the handlers processed with or without the use of their canine.

Canine Deployed: This is the total number of times the canine was used on a call. It includes every manner of deployment (all searches/tracks, handler protection/back-ups, etc.).

Arrests: This is the total number of arrests the canine team was involved in. It includes arrests made by other officers/agencies.

Apprehensions: Number of times a canine was used to physically seize a person.

Surrender: Any time a canine warning was given to a suspect, and he gives up and is taken into custody.

Building Search: Self-explanatory

Area Search: Self-explanatory

Non-Criminal: Self-explanatory

Call-Out: Self-explanatory

Training: Total hours of canine hours trained on any given shift or training day.

Demonstrations: Number of demonstrations given.

Narcotics/EOD Searches: Includes date, type of search, type of aid, and general comments regarding the find.

Voluntary Compliance: Any time the canine is deployed and the suspect(s) surrender to law enforcement.

Q-1300-2

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: SHERIFF'S CANINE INJURY PROCEDURE		NO: Q-1400	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

Infrequently, police dogs may become injured either on or off duty. Medical treatment of the Sheriff's canines should be considered a priority. The assigned canine handler will be responsible for ensuring the injured canine receives qualified medical treatment. Currently, we have a contract for such medical treatment with a local veterinarian. In the event this contract is made with a different veterinarian, this procedure will be modified to reflect the change.

DIRECTIVE 1. INJURY NOTIFICATIONS

Any time a Sheriff's canine receives injuries which require immediate medical treatment, either on duty or off duty, the assigned canine handler shall make notification to the Communications Center, advising the nature and extent of injuries, and estimated time of arrival to the medical treatment facility. The Communications Center will in turn make necessary notifications as prescribed by this procedure.

PROCEDURE A. EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT – Monday through Friday (0800-1700)

The assigned handler will:

- Immediately contact the Communications Center and report the nature and extent of the injuries, and estimated time of arrival to:
 1. Stiern Veterinary Hospital
 17 Monterey St., Bakersfield, California
 Office (661) 327-5571
- Request the Communications Center advise the Sheriff's Office Watch Lieutenant of the incident
- If needed, request the Communications Center also call the current or next working canine handler and have him/her respond to assist in securing the injured canine
- Safely transport the injured canine to the medical treatment facility and ensure the canine is secured during the medical procedure;
- Follow any post treatment recommendations provided by the treating veterinarian

- As soon as practical, personally contact and brief the following on the circumstances surrounding the injury:
 1. Canine Manager
 2. Canine Coordinator
 3. Sheriff's Office Trainer, Adlerhorst LLC.
- Prepare a C.I. report detailing the incident.

PROCEDURE B. EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT - Weekends/Holidays/Other hours

The assigned canine handler will:

- Immediately contact the Communications Center and report the nature and extent of the injuries, and estimated time of arrival to:
 1. Kern Animal Emergency Clinic
4300 Easton Drive
Bakersfield, California
(661) 322-6019
- Request the Communications Center advise the Sheriff's Office Watch Lieutenant of the incident
- If needed, request the Communications Center also call the current or next working canine handler and have him/her respond to assist in securing the injured canine
- Safely transport the injured canine to the medical treatment facility and ensure the canine is secured during the medical procedure
- Follow any post treatment recommendations provided by the treating veterinarian
- As soon as practical, personally contact and brief the following on the circumstances surrounding the injury:
 1. Canine Manager
 2. Canine Coordinator
 3. Sheriff's Office Trainer, Adlerhorst LLC.
- Prepare a C.I. report detailing the incident.
- In the event emergency medical treatment is required from a veterinary hospital or clinic not listed above, the Canine Coordinator will evaluate the need and make an approval decision prior to the canine receiving treatment

Q-1400-2

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
------------------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: SHERIFF'S RETIREMENT OF CANINE		NO: Q-1500	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE:			
EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2021	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:

POLICY

The ultimate determination of the suitability for service of a canine shall be made by the Canine Manager. The Canine Manager may seek input from the Canine Coordinator, Sheriff's Office Trainer, and Sheriff's Office Veterinarian. Some factors to be considered, but not limited to, will be:

- The present performance level of the canine
- The length of time the canine can be expected to remain serviceable
- The canine's overall health
- Suitability of the K-9

CANINE RETIREMENT PROCEDURES

If the determination has been made to retire a canine from service, the handler presently assigned the canine will be given the opportunity to assume ownership of the canine. If the present handler does not desire to assume ownership of the canine, a former Kern County Sheriff's Office canine handler who has received training in the handling of a dual-purpose police service dog, will be given the opportunity to assume ownership.

In the event the current or a former canine handler does not desire to assume ownership of the canine, the Canine Coordinator will work with the Sheriff's Office Canine Trainer to locate and transfer ownership to a properly trained Sheriff's Office or person.

- The Canine Coordinator will complete a Hold Harmless, Indemnification, and Transfer Agreement.
- The transfer of ownership of the canine will include the kennel and all related accessories, which was installed at the handler's residence.
- The Kern County Sheriff's Office will no longer have responsibility for the care and maintenance of the canine once ownership has transferred.