



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.