

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Sheriff's Detentions Canine Program
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: DETENTIONS CANINE UNIT CANINE DEPLOYMENTS R-100

EFFECTIVE: April 1, 2023	REVIEWED: 07-11-24	REVISED: 	UPDATED: 07-11-24
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APPROVED BY: Detentions Bureau Chief Deputy Cindy Cisneros

REFERENCE:

POLICY

This purpose and scope of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of narcotic detection canines to reduce the amount of illegal drugs and other contraband from entering and circulating within our jail facilities.

Canine handlers shall operate in accordance with existing Kern County Sheriff's Office Policies.

No canine team will be serviceable unless the handler and canine are current on all training requirements set forth by the Kern County Sheriff's Office. This includes monthly training hour requirements and annual certifications for detection.

Canine teams should generally not be assigned to handle routine matters that will take them out of service for an extended period of time. Canine teams should be primarily assigned to assist and supplement the Detentions Bureau. If any deviation from this responsibility is necessary, it should only be made with the approval of the Detentions Canine Coordinator, Canine Manager, or the Division Commander.

DIRECTIVE 1: DETENTIONS CANINE FUNCTIONS

A canine team consists of one handler and one single purpose narcotics detection canine. The canine teams are trained for narcotic detection.

Detentions canines are not used for apprehension or handler protection but are trained to conduct searches of people, places, and items. Canine teams shall be used to search incarcerated persons and jail facilities (interior and exterior). Canine teams shall also be used to search transportation vehicles, delivery vehicles, and mail.

Canine teams can be used to assist in searches for contraband in secured and unsecured areas under the control of the Kern County Sheriff's Office. Unsecured areas include, but are not limited to,

parking lots, visiting areas, lobbies, and other “public” areas. Searches will be conducted on a pre-scheduled and random basis.

DIRECTIVE 2. DEPLOYMENTS

The canine handler has the authority to decline the use of the canine whenever they determine a deployment is not appropriate. It is the canine handler’s responsibility to evaluate each situation and determine whether the use of a canine is appropriate, reasonable, and falls within the provisions set forth in this policy.

The handler is responsible for the deployment of the canine as a method of investigation. The Detentions Canine may be used to:

- Search inside any jail facilities (including, but not limited to modules, pods, dorms, tiers, day rooms, recreation yards, cells, offices, etc.)
- Search the exterior of any jail facility;
- Search vehicles, buildings, parcels, areas or other items deemed necessary;
- Obtain a search warrant by using the dog in support of probable cause when applicable;
- Assist in the search for drugs during a search warrant service;
- Assist in drug education programs and public demonstrations for the Sheriff’s Office.
- **NOTE:** The Lerdo Facilities Division Commander must approve the use of a Detentions canine outside the Detentions Bureau.

Upon arrival at a facility for a search, the canine handler shall notify the shift supervisor of their arrival and obtain input regarding the area intended for search. It shall be the on-duty supervisor’s responsibility to make chain of command notification, if needed.

Prior to a canine entering any facility, movement of incarcerated persons may be restricted in the search area. Incarcerated persons housed in the areas directly affected by a search may be removed from or secured in their cells.

The Detentions Canine should remain on lead when moving in a facility; however, the lead may be removed by the handler during searches of secured areas or areas with sufficient containment. Unless permitted by the exceptions outlined in DPPM J-3600, the handler’s body worn camera shall be activated for all canine deployments.

The canine handler shall keep the 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), or when canine deployment beyond the handler’s visual and auditory range is necessary to ensure the immediate safety of others.

Excepting exigent circumstances, a supervisor shall be present during all searches within a facility. The supervisor will be responsible for making notifications that are appropriate for the circumstances prompting the deployment.

DIRECTIVE 3. REQUESTING A DETENTIONS CANINE TEAM

A Detentions Canine Team can be requested during the team's normal working hours, via the Chain of Command, if they can be of assistance to something going on within a facility. The Detentions Canine Coordinator will consider these requests on a case-by-case basis.

Scheduled events that may require the use of the canine should be coordinated with the Detentions Canine Coordinator or Canine Manager.

DIRECTIVE 4. ASSISTING OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Detentions Canine Teams may be available for use by other law enforcement agencies. Requests by other agencies must be approved by Lerdo Facilities Division Commander, or his/her designee. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.