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ISSUE: 22-08

TRAINING BULLETIN

DATE: February 24, 2022

Working with Patrol Canines

Working around K-9 handlers with police service dogs can be a stressful experience for both the K-9 team and the deputy (or deputies) assigned to assist them. The stress can be a result of the incident and search itself, or from not being familiar with how to work around the K-9 teams during live deployments and possible apprehensions. Although it is unlikely that all the stress can be eliminated, training and familiarization of the K-9 teams with patrol personnel can greatly reduce the stress of a K-9 deployment for all involved.

Since K-9 teams are based out of Metropolitan Patrol, most of the canine deployments are done in the Metropolitan Patrol response area, using Metropolitan Patrol deputies to assist. For this reason, Metropolitan Patrol deputies are often more familiar than deputies from substations and other outlying areas, with canine-specific search tactics and responsibilities.

Our K-9 teams respond to requests for service in all areas of the county and sometimes for other agencies. It is not practical for Metropolitan Patrol deputies to always be available to respond and assist the K-9 teams on calls for service. For this reason, all personnel working patrol should familiarize themselves with the basic things to be considered when working around the K-9 teams.

If a deputy assigned to work around a K-9 team is not familiar with what to do, they should ask the K-9 handler what is needed of them. Below are responsibilities and tips for patrol personnel, regarding the functions of an officer assisting during K-9 deployments.

STEPS TO TAKE PRIOR TO A SEARCH

- If a residential yard is being searched, contact the residents to request permission to search the yard.
- Inform the residents to stay inside and ask if anything was seen or heard.
- Ask the owner/responsible party if there are any pets in the yard and if there are, have the resident secure them.
- Ask the owner/responsible party if the gates to the yard are locked and obtain keys if possible, to access the yard.

- Ask the owner/responsible party if anyone has permission to be in the yard or on the premises, including any outbuildings.
- Ask if all persons associated with the residence are inside and accounted for.
- Report back to the handler with answers to the questions above, prior to the search.
- If a commercial yard or building is being searched, follow the same instructions with the responsible party.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A COVER OFFICER DURING A SEARCH

- Your main responsibility during a search is to look beyond the dog and act as the handler's lethal cover. The handler will be focused on the dog's behavior. Do not watch the dog perform the search.
 - Do not conduct your own search. Stay with the handler and remain at least six feet behind the handler.
 - Do not give any commands to the dog or make any loud or sudden noises.
 - Do not crouch down or look under vehicles.
 - If you spot a suspect or something suspicious, calmly inform the K-9 handler. Do not yell at the suspect or handler. Yelling will attract the attention of the dog and you will become their point of focus.
 - If the dog focuses on you, do not panic. Stay still, quiet and follow the handler's instructions.
 - When a suspect is located, the K-9 handler will give all commands to the suspect.
 - Do not run in front of the dog or the handler. Doing this will cause the dog to focus in and target-lock on your actions.
 - During an actual K-9 apprehension, the dogs are trained to not release the bite until commanded to do so by the handler. For this reason, it is safe to handcuff a suspect while the dog is biting them. When it is time to handcuff a suspect during an apprehension, think of the "cuffing under power" technique used during a Taser deployment. Deputies should follow the handler's instructions when placing the suspect under arrest. When safe to do so, and once the suspect is sufficiently controlled, the K-9 handler will remove the dog from the apprehension.
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DRUG SEARCHES

- Get all people, food and any potentially hazardous items out of the vehicle or area being searched.
- If possible, close windows and shut the vehicle off.
- Allow the K-9 team to search prior to deputies searching. Deputies searching the vehicle will contaminate the areas with human odor, and possibly cause a false alert.
- Provide traffic control for the K-9 team. If suspects are not in a vehicle, provide scene security for the K-9 team. The K-9 handler will be focused on the dog's search and behavior.
- After the dog completes the search, ask the K-9 handler for instructions and/or findings, prior to conducting a search of the vehicle.
- Leave all items of contraband in place after they are found, for proper documentation.

PERIMETER DEPUTIES

- Stay alert and remain outside of your vehicle.
- Activate your overheard lights and if applicable, your spotlights and takedown lights. Angle the spotlights to illuminate the streets.
- If the suspect breaks the perimeter, put out appropriate radio traffic and begin shifting the perimeter. Do not chase the suspect.

APPREHENSIONS

An apprehension is when a canine physically engages a suspect. This is often simply referred to as a "bite". When an apprehension occurs, several things need to be taken into consideration. Some of these things are:

- If the K-9 handler has not done so, request medical aid for the suspect.
 - The suspect will need to be transported to a hospital once he is medically cleared on-scene. If a deputy transports the suspect, they should take the suspect to the hospital without delay.
 - Do not take any photos of the apprehension or injuries caused by the apprehension. This will be completed by the K-9 handler or a technical investigator.
 - As with all uses of force, each deputy on scene will be required to write a report, describing the things they saw and did.
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- A supervisor needs to respond to the scene, to conduct an initial use of force evaluation.
- Several notifications are required. These should be handled by the supervisor and/or handler.
- The initial report and ALL supplemental reports must be placed into the "Canine" report role. This is achieved by selecting "Canine" for the command field on the report.
- Before clearing the call, the K-9 handler will debrief the incident with all units on scene, to ensure all required steps are taken and any questions about the process are answered.

The K-9 unit exists to enhance the safety and security of the patrol deputies and the community we serve. We are here to help you do your job in a more safe and efficient manner. Deviating from these tips and responsibilities has the potential to hinder the K-9 team's efforts and can place you or other patrol personnel at risk.

The K-9 Unit trains bi-monthly. Patrol personnel are welcome to attend our training, to become more familiar with the team and these tactics. If personnel are interested in attending K-9 training, they should contact the K-9 Unit sergeant, or one of the K-9 handlers for coordination.

IMPORTANT

Please **SIGN IN** to acknowledge your reading after reviewing the Training Bulletin

22-08 Working with Patrol Canines

I have read and understand Training Bulletin 22-08 Working with Patrol Canines dated February 24, 2022.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ CAD ID #: _____
