

SUNRISE POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL CHAPTER 76 USE OF POLICE CANINES	Effective Date	05/01/87
	Revision Date	05/01/08
	Revision No.	1.2
	Page No.	1 of 13
	Approval:	

76. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the effective use and tactical deployment of police canines by Department personnel for a variety of operational purposes.

76.1. REVISION HISTORY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Rev. No.</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Reference Section</u>
05/01/87	1.0	New Policy	N/A
08/05/91	1.1	Use of Force	76.2.6.2. thru 76.2.7.4.1.
05/01/08	1.2	New Format and procedures	All sections

76.2. PERSONS AFFECTED

All Police Personnel

76.3. POLICY

It is the policy of the Sunrise Police Department to provide trained law enforcement canines as a valuable supplement to the Department’s workforce due to the canine’s superior senses of smell, hearing and physical capabilities. However, utilization of canines requires adherence to procedures that properly control their use of force potential and that channel their specialized capabilities into legally acceptable crime prevention and control activities.

76.4. DEFINITIONS

76.4.1. Canine Team – An officer/handler and their assigned police canine.

76.4.2. Handler – A sworn police officer, who has received the requisite training and is assigned a police canine.

76.5. RESPONSIBILITIES

76.5.1. All police personnel are responsible for complying with this policy. Supervisory Personnel are responsible for the enforcement of this policy. Unjustified violations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

76.5.2. This Policy is not intended to be all-inclusive. It is intended to be a general guideline to be read in conjunction with all other Department rules, regulations, policies and procedures, as well as other City rules and ordinances.

76.6. PROCEDURES

76.6.1.1. Canine Teams should be used primarily on calls where the specialized training of the canine handler and the canine will prove beneficial to road patrol officers and other specialized units of the Department when the need arises. (CALEA: 41.1.4[a])

76.6.1.2. Canine Teams can provide superior search capability while increasing the safety of officers and decreasing the time expended in tracking, building searches, or open area searches. (CALEA: 41.1.4[a])

76.6.1.3. Canine Teams can also prove beneficial as backup units on potentially violent calls such as disturbances, fights, or other such calls where the officer handling the situation may need assistance. (CALEA: 41.1.4[a])

76.6.1.4. Canine Teams should respond to all in-progress crimes or disturbances, such as, alarms, open doors, and prowlers where the use of a dog could provide a wide range of coverage. (CALEA: 41.1.4[a])

76.6.1.5. Canine Teams should provide routine, when available, and requested back-ups, assist in apprehending in-progress criminal offenders; provide proactive patrol and increased officer safety. (CALEA: 41.1.4[a])

76.6.1.6. Canine Teams should answer priority calls for service when no other patrol unit is available. (CALEA: 41.1.4[a])

76.6.1.7. Canine Teams should refrain from getting involved in lengthy investigations or arrests in order to remain available to provide specialized services and ensure a rapid response. (CALEA: 41.1.4[a])

76.6.1.8. Canine Teams should utilize their specialized training to locate/track suspects, victims, missing persons, evidence, and contraband. (CALEA: 41.1.4[a])

76.6.1.9. Canine Teams may be used to respond to minor calls for service, if no other units are available, but the canine should not be deployed on such calls. (CALEA: 41.1.4[a])

76.6.2. Specific Canine Uses: (CFA: 17.11; CALEA: 41.1.4[c])

76.6.2.1. Area Search:

76.6.2.1.1. The Area Search will be conducted after a perimeter has been established and following a standard canine warning/announcement, “Sunrise Police Canine, surrender yourself now or the dog will be released and you will be bitten”, when feasible. It is advisable that this warning/announcement be repeated, when feasible.

76.6.2.1.1.1. A reasonable amount of time shall be allowed for a suspect to comply.

76.6.2.1.1.2. Where there is a reasonable belief that the suspect speaks a language other than English, an officer or other individual fluent in that language should be summoned to the scene if available and the exigency of the situation permits.

76.6.2.1.1.3. The Area Search will utilize a systematic pattern based on wind direction.

76.6.2.1.2. The Area Search will be conducted on lead, which can be 6 feet, 15 feet, or 30 feet in length, unless the search area is fenced in or thick underbrush would dictate an off-lead search.

76.6.2.1.2.1. If the search is to be conducted off-lead the handler must maintain verbal control over their canine at all times.

76.6.2.1.3. Care should be taken during an Area Search to avoid a canine contact with unrelated subjects who might possibly be sleeping or loitering in the area being searched.

76.6.2.1.4. In areas that are known to have a large number of unrelated persons within the perimeter the handler shall maintain leash control and shorten their leash length when approaching corners and blind spots.

76.6.2.1.5. The handler will maintain radio contact with Dispatch during the Area Search ensuring that all personnel are advised of updates throughout the duration of the search; however the radio channel should be reserved for emergency traffic.

76.6.2.1.6. It will be each perimeter officer’s responsibility to prevent any other persons from entering the area once the Canine Team is deployed. Additionally, perimeter officers should also be alert for persons leaving the area while the Canine search is being conducted.

76.6.2.2. Building Search:

76.6.2.2.1. The Canine Team may be utilized to conduct a Building Search for suspects or officer safety.

76.6.2.2.1.1. When a canine building search is anticipated, a preliminary search by officers should not be conducted, absent exigent, life saving circumstances or as deemed necessary by a Supervisor.

76.6.2.2.2. The Building Search will be conducted after a perimeter has been established and following a standard canine warning/announcement, “Sunrise Police Canine, surrender yourself now or the dog will be released and you will be bitten”. The warning/announcement should be repeated at least twice at the entry point, and will be repeated on each level of all multilevel structures searched.

76.6.2.2.2.1. A reasonable amount of time shall be allowed for a suspect to comply.

76.6.2.2.2.2. Where there is a reasonable belief that the suspect speaks a language other than English, an officer or other individual fluent in that language should be summoned to the scene if available and the exigency of the situation permits.

76.6.2.2.3. The handler should gather all possible information concerning the nature of the incident, such as: Alarm type, Forced entry, Alarm code, Authorized persons on scene (citizen, sworn, civilian) that may be present inside, or other Safety Hazards within. This information should be obtained prior to deployment for the search, if possible.

76.6.2.2.3.1. Canines should not be used to search facilities that contain substances potentially harmful to the animal unless overriding risk to human life is present.

76.6.2.2.4. The Building Search will be conducted utilizing a systematic pattern, employing tactics based on the canine team’s basic training.

76.6.2.2.5. The handler will determine if a back-up officer will be utilized during the search of a building, however if another handler is available they will be utilized before a road patrol officer is chosen to assist in the search.

76.6.2.2.6. The Building Search may be conducted on or off-lead, using the standard 6 feet, 15 feet, or 30 foot length. The handler will maintain verbal control over their Canine if the search is conducted off-lead.

76.6.2.2.6.1. The handler will ensure that the Canine does not exit the building until it is on-lead.

76.6.2.2.7. The handler will maintain radio contact with Dispatch during the Building Search ensuring that all personnel are advised of updates throughout the duration of the search; however the radio channel should be reserved for emergency traffic.

76.6.2.2.8. It will be each perimeter officer’s responsibility to prevent any other persons from entering the building once the Canine Team is deployed within. Additionally, perimeter officers should also be alert for persons leaving a building while the Canine search is being conducted.

76.6.2.3. Detection:

76.6.2.3.1. Canine Teams may be of single purpose or cross-trained in the detection of contraband, such as, Narcotics, Explosives, Cadavers, or other materials.

76.6.2.3.1.1. Utilization of Canine Teams for detection purposes will only be accomplished with a canine team that has attended a formal training school for each discipline.

76.6.2.3.2. Canine Teams with specialized disciplines should be available to the Department and any specialized units within, or any outside law enforcement agency in need of their services.

76.6.2.3.3. Canine Teams utilized for detection purposes will maintain their dog's training regimen in order to perform at their highest level whenever called upon.

76.6.2.4. Evidence/Article Search:

76.6.2.4.1. Canine Teams may be utilized to search for evidence or articles that may have been discarded, lost or hidden stemming from the commission of a crime.

76.6.2.4.2. The Evidence/Article Search will be conducted utilizing a systematic search pattern, employing tactics based on the canine team's basic training.

76.6.2.4.3. The Evidence/Article Search can be conducted on or off-lead. The handler will determine the best method of deployment, taking into account the safety of the canine, patrol personnel and any persons in or around the search area.

76.6.2.5. Public Demonstrations:

76.6.2.5.1. Canine Teams may be utilized to conduct public demonstrations or appearances.

76.6.2.5.2. Canine Teams used in this manner will take all necessary precautions and ensure they present a professional appearance.

76.6.2.5.3. Requests for Public Demonstrations will be made through the Unit Supervisors or the Office of Community Policing.

76.6.2.5.4. Canine Teams conducting Public Demonstrations will ensure the safety of their canines and any persons in the area of the demonstration, and will not conduct the demonstration if safety needs cannot be met.

76.6.2.6. Track:

76.6.2.6.1. A Canine Team may be utilized to conduct a Track for: suspects, missing persons, or to locate evidence/contraband.

76.6.2.6.1.1. Such tracks are subject to the following conditions and limitations:

76.6.2.6.1.1.1. When officers are pursuing suspects and contact with the suspect is lost, the officer prior to summoning a Canine Team will:

76.6.2.6.1.1.1.1. Stop and pinpoint the location where the suspect was last seen.

- 76.6.2.6.1.1.1.2. Shut off engines of vehicles in the area, if possible.
- 76.6.2.6.1.1.1.3. Avoid vehicle or foot movement in the area where the suspect was last seen.
- 76.6.2.6.1.1.1.4. A suspect track will be conducted by the Canine Team after a perimeter has been established and following a standard canine warning/announcement “Sunrise Police Canine, surrender yourself now or the dog will be released and you will be bitten”, when tactically feasible.
- 76.6.2.6.1.1.1.5. This track will be conducted on lead which can be 6 feet, 15 feet, or 30 feet in length, to locate a suspect’s scent in the area where they were last observed. The handler will determine if, when, and where to deploy their Canine based on the information that is provided.
- 76.6.2.6.1.1.1.6. The handler will have control of the perimeter and may expand, shift or collapse it as necessary based on the search results.
- 76.6.2.6.1.1.1.7. The handler will maintain radio contact at all times during the search, and should keep the perimeter units informed as to the direction of the search and any updates of suspect information, for example, discarded clothing from suspect, or dropped evidence.
- 76.6.2.6.1.1.2. Canines use for tracking missing persons should remain on a lead which can be 6 feet, 15 feet, or 30 feet in length, to provide a reasonable measure of safety to the subject of the search without compromising the Canine’s tracking ability.
- 76.6.2.7. Crowd Control/Unlawful Assemblies:
 - 76.6.2.7.1. Canine Team(s) may respond as a back-up for crowd control at peaceful demonstrations but the handler(s) shall not deploy their Canine(s).
 - 76.6.2.7.2. The use of Canine Teams during Unlawful Assemblies must be given careful thought and must be authorized by the rank of Lieutenant or above.
 - 76.6.2.7.2.1. Canine Teams are more effective during Unlawful Assemblies when there are multiple Canine Teams present.
 - 76.6.2.7.2.1.1. If a handler conducts a solo operation they should not allow themselves to be cornered by the crowd. The handler should always allow an avenue of escape for the crowd.
 - 76.6.2.7.2.2. The handler(s) must assess the situation prior to deployment to determine the most effective type of deployment, Canine safety, handler safety and the safety of all persons in the area as a whole.
 - 76.6.2.7.2.3. The handler(s) on scene will have the authority to deploy or not to deploy once supervisory authorization is given. The decision not to deploy will be discussed with the on-scene supervisor.

76.6.2.7.2.4. Should Canine(s) be deployed during Unlawful Assemblies, handlers will ensure that they utilize their shortest lead at all times to protect individuals from serious injury.

76.6.2.7.2.4.1. Canines will never be unleashed in any Crowd Control/Unlawful Assembly situation.

76.6.2.7.2.5. Handlers will not initiate any offensive action, unless to guard against imminent loss of life, serious bodily injury, or substantial property damage.

76.6.2.8. Additional Canine Uses:

76.6.2.8.1. Canine Teams can be used to support SWAT Operations.

76.6.2.8.2. Canine Teams can be used to support any Division/Unit requesting assistance to affect an arrest, in serving a warrant or conducting investigations.

76.6.2.8.3. Canine Teams can be used to Assist Another Agency (AOA) when requested.

76.6.2.8.4. Canines Teams can be used to support Mobile Field Force operations as authorized within guidelines specified under Crowd Control/Unlawful Assemblies of this standard operating procedure.

76.6.3. Responsibility to Assist Sunrise Police Personnel:

76.6.3.1. In all Canine uses or requests, Canine Teams should coordinate efforts with Supervisors and Officers on the scene. The final decision to deploy the Canine will rest with the handler.

76.6.3.1.1. Assisting personnel should request the Canine Team as soon as possible.

76.6.3.1.2. Assisting personnel should refrain from contaminating a scene or allowing contamination to occur prior to the Canine Team's arrival as well as during the search.

76.6.3.1.3. It shall be the responsibility of the Supervisor or Officer in charge of the scene to set up and maintain the perimeter around the area to be searched. These duties can be assigned to another officer if the need arises.

76.6.3.2. Perimeter Duties of Assisting Personnel:

76.6.3.2.1. Follow the appropriate vehicle response to the perimeter position as outlined in policy and procedure.

76.6.3.2.2. Personnel should remain by their vehicle, either within the vehicle or standing next to the vehicle doorway, no white light and remain alert.

76.6.3.2.3. Cover as many sides of the perimeter as possible.

- 76.6.3.2.4. Shift position as directed by the handler or Supervisor/Officer in charge.
- 76.6.3.2.5. Do not enter or allow any civilians to enter or remain inside the search area unless directed by the handler or an emergency occurs.

76.6.3.3. Back-up Duties for Assisting Personnel:

- 76.6.3.3.1. Stay with the search team at a distance designated by the handler and follow all directions given by the handler to ensure the safety of all persons involved.
- 76.6.3.3.2. Protect the handler, watch the surroundings, and minimize the use of a flashlight.
- 76.6.3.3.3. Do not become physically involved with a suspect(s) unless requested to do so by the handler.

76.6.4. Canine Use of Force (Instructions, Conditions, and Limitations): (CALEA: 41.1.4[b])

76.6.4.1. In addition to this chapter, all members of the Canine Unit will follow Use of Force procedures as outlined within Department Policies and Procedures, Chapter 35 – Use of Force.

76.6.4.1.1. When a suspect is fleeing or hiding, the use of a canine is for the purpose of stopping, locating, and if necessary, apprehending a suspect.

76.6.4.1.2. Use of force can be considered by a handler under the following conditions:

- 76.6.4.1.2.1. To protect the Handler.
- 76.6.4.1.2.2. To apprehend fleeing suspects refusing to stop or surrender.
- 76.6.4.1.2.3. To apprehend concealed suspects that refuse to surrender.
- 76.6.4.1.2.4. To apprehend concealed suspects who are not visible to the handler.
- 76.6.4.1.2.5. When the Canine is assaulted.

76.6.4.1.3. Canine Teams will not be utilized to search for or apprehend any suspects wanted for misdemeanor crimes, traffic infractions, City or County ordinance violations and where there is no reasonable belief that the suspect's actions will result in a felony, or poses a threat to the community at large.

76.6.4.1.3.1. Should there be a reasonable belief that the suspect's actions will result in a felony, or poses a threat to the community at large; the decision to deploy a Canine will be made by a Supervisor. This decision must be based on extenuating circumstances that would indicate that

public safety would best be served by using the Canine to make an apprehension. These circumstances will be noted in the Canine handler's report.

76.6.4.1.4. Canine Teams will not be used to search for or apprehend known juvenile offenders who are suspected of committing misdemeanors, traffic infractions, City or County ordinance violations, or nonviolent felonies, unless authorized by a Supervisor.

76.6.4.1.4.1. A decision to deploy a Canine in this situation shall be determined by a Supervisor and must be based on extenuating circumstances that would indicate that public safety would best be served by using the Canine to perform a search. These circumstances will be noted in the Canine handler's report.

76.6.4.1.5. Canine Teams will not be used to search for or apprehend subjects who are known to be physically or mentally handicapped or mentally ill who are suspected of committing misdemeanors, traffic infractions, City or County ordinance violations, or nonviolent felonies, unless authorized by a Supervisor.

76.6.4.1.5.1. A decision to deploy a Canine in this situation shall be determined by a Supervisor and must be based on extenuating circumstances that would indicate that public safety would best be served by using the Canine to perform a search. These circumstances will be noted in the Canine handler's report.

76.6.4.2. Control of the Canine: (CALEA: 41.1.4[g])

76.6.4.2.1. A handler should maintain control over the Canine at all times.

76.6.4.2.1.1. Except in exigent circumstances or where there is imminent danger of death or serious injury, Canines should be kept in visual contact by the Canine handler.

76.6.4.2.2. Canines shall not normally be handled or given commands by anyone other than the assigned handler. Only under emergency conditions shall another handler command the Canine.

76.6.4.2.3. Teasing, agitating or roughhousing with a Canine is strictly prohibited unless performed as part of a training exercise.

76.6.4.3. Canine Contacts (Dog bite):

76.6.4.3.1. When a Canine is used to apprehend a suspect and contact is made, the Canine will be commanded to disengage as soon as the suspect no longer poses a threat to the handler or others.

76.6.4.3.2. When a Canine contact is made the following procedures will be completed:

76.6.4.3.2.1. Medical attention will be provided to the suspect as soon as possible. This should be accomplished on-scene by qualified emergency medical services personnel.

76.6.4.3.2.2. The suspect will be transported to a hospital to be examined and treated by a medical doctor and for the purpose of receiving medical clearance.

76.6.4.3.2.3. Photographs will be taken of the suspect's wounds. The photograph will be taken prior to any treatment, except in emergency situations when treatment must be immediate.

76.6.4.3.2.3.1. If the contact (bite) occurs in the genital area of a male or female, or in the chest area of a female, the photograph will be taken by a person of the same sex.

76.6.4.3.2.4. Photographs of the incident location may be taken if deemed necessary by the handler.

76.6.4.3.3. All apprehensions involving Canine contacts will be reported as soon as practical to the Canine Unit Supervisor and the Shift Supervisor. The incident will be documented with the following reports completed:

76.6.4.3.3.1. Offense Incident Report or Supplement Report; whichever is applicable.

76.6.4.3.3.2. Use of Force Report.

76.6.4.3.3.3. Broward County Health/Animal Control Report.

76.6.4.3.4. All documentation will be completed and forwarded to the Canine Unit Supervisor before the handler goes out of service. Information regarding the medical treatment of the Canine contact will be documented in the respective reports and will include the following:

76.6.4.3.4.1. Nature of the injury.

76.6.4.3.4.2. Location of the injury.

76.6.4.3.4.3. Treatment of the injury.

76.6.4.3.4.4. Names of the attending medical personnel.

76.6.4.3.4.5. Attach related photographs.

76.6.4.3.5. No Arrestee will be transported in the same vehicle with a Canine unless alternative transportation is not available and immediate transport is essential for safety or security reasons. Handlers will ensure that should this be necessary there is a barrier between the arrestee and Canine.

76.6.4.3.6. If a Canine accidentally bites a citizen or any other person not intended, all procedures as outlined in this section will apply, however, any person accidentally bit will not be required to go to a medical facility, unless the injury warrants such attention.

76.6.4.3.7. For Canine contacts that occur outside the City of Sunrise, all procedures as outlined in this section will apply. The handler will also obtain any reports from the local jurisdiction and submit with their own.

76.6.5. Canine Unit Supervision:

76.6.5.1. Canine handler's will report to the Canine Unit Supervisor. When in the field, if the Canine Unit Supervisor is not available, Canine handlers will report to the on-duty Supervisor.

76.6.5.1.1. The Canine Unit Supervisor will report to their designated Supervisor as directed by the Uniform Division Commander.

76.6.5.2. Canine Unit Supervisor's absence:

76.6.5.2.1. During scheduled absences, the Canine Unit Supervisor will delegate their duties to another Supervisor. If an unexpected or emergency absence occurs, Canine Unit supervisory duties will rest with the most senior member of the Canine Unit.

76.6.6. Canine Call-out Procedures:

76.6.6.1. All Canine Teams are available for call-out 24 hours a day to assist any Department Division requiring the need for Canine services.

76.6.6.2. Handlers will rotate through the call-out schedule monthly, unless otherwise designated by the Canine Unit Supervisor.

76.6.6.3. Canine handlers may also be call-out at the request of another agency.

76.6.6.4. Call-out process:

76.6.6.4.1. Should the call-out be requested by our Department, a Department Canine Team will always be contacted first before another agency Canine Team is requested, unless a Department Canine Team is not available or other extenuating circumstances prohibit a Department Canine Team call-out.

76.6.6.4.1.1. Whether the call-out is Department-related or for another agency, Sunrise Dispatch will first notify the Canine Unit Supervisor or designee of the call-out request.

76.6.6.4.1.2. Upon approval of the call-out request, Sunrise Dispatch will then notify the handler on-call by telephone, radio, or pager.

76.6.6.4.1.3. This process does not prohibit a Supervisor from making these notifications, if so desired.

76.6.6.4.1.4. When a handler is on vacation or otherwise unavailable, the next handler on rotation will handle the call-out request.

76.6.6.4.2. When a change to the call-out schedule takes place the handler will notify the Canine Unit Supervisor and the Dispatch Center.

76.6.6.4.3. During any Canine deployment, the handler on-scene will evaluate the situation and make requests for additional teams as needed.

76.6.7. Selection of Canine Handlers: (CALEA: 41.1.4[d])

76.6.7.1. The selection process for Canine handlers will follow the current Department Policy and Procedures, Chapter 23 – Specialized Unit Selection. If possible, at least one member of the interview board will be a current or former member of the Canine Unit, who can provide specific insight to the duties of the position.

76.6.7.1.1. Position pre-requisites include:

76.6.7.1.1.1. Must be a sworn officer with a minimum of two (2) years of service with the Sunrise Police Department.

76.6.7.1.1.1.1. Service requirements may be waived depending upon the applicants qualifications. This must be approved by the Chief of Police.

76.6.7.1.1.2. Have a minimum overall evaluation rating of “Satisfactory” within the last twelve (12) months.

76.6.7.1.1.3. Must have the ability to perform the physical demands associated with handler duties and responsibilities and be free of any physical restriction(s) that would inhibit them from performing these duties and responsibilities.

76.6.7.1.1.4. Must have the ability to properly house, handle, or learn to handle dogs.

76.6.7.1.1.5. Must be willing to work flexible days and hours based on Departmental needs and be available for call-outs.

76.6.7.1.1.6. Must agree to interview with affected family members.

76.6.7.1.2. In addition to the selection process and pre-requisites, members interested in becoming a Canine Handler will be required to participate in a Canine Unit familiarity sequence which will include:

76.6.7.1.2.1. Decoying a Canine in a full body bite suit.

76.6.7.1.2.2. Decoying a Canine with a bite sleeve.

76.6.7.1.2.3. Decoying a Canine for muzzle exercises.

76.6.7.1.2.4. Decoying a Canine for search exercises relating to the Canine team.

76.6.7.1.2.5. This sequence may be conducted in a group session prior to the oral examination phase. The purpose of this sequence is to expose prospective handler to elements of Canine duties, which they may not normally have been exposed to, but are a necessity for a handler.