

## **Canines**

### **310.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This policy establishes guidelines for the use of canines to augment police services to the hospitals and communities in locating contraband.

### **310.2 POLICY**

It is the policy of the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH) that team(s) (canine handler and canine) meet and maintain the appropriate proficiency to effectively and reasonably carry out legitimate law enforcement objectives.

\*Please refer to the Canine Procedure Manual for a full list of duties and responsibilities of the canine handler and canine.

### **310.3 ASSIGNMENT**

Canine team(s) should be assigned to assist and supplement the Office of Protective Services (OPS) operations. However, they may be assigned by the canine sergeant to other functions, such as routine calls for service, based on the current operational needs.

Canine team(s) should generally not be assigned to handle routine matters that will take them out of service for extended periods of time and then only with the approval of the canine lieutenant.

### **310.4 CANINE LIEUTENANT**

The canine lieutenant shall be appointed by and directly responsible to the Hospital Police Chief or authorized designee.

1. Canine lieutenant is responsible for program oversight at the facility. The canine lieutenant shall ensure sufficient checks and balances are in place to provide accountability, leadership, direction, and program uniformity. Compliance with policy and maintenance of required training and certifications are essential to the canine program's success.

2. Canine team shall:
  - (a) Ensure each canine team complies with all policies and procedures relating to the program.
  - (b) Be responsible for and ensure proper management and control of the canine team(s).
  - (c) Assign, monitor, and evaluate the effectiveness of canine team(s) within their facility to ensure an appropriate and efficient system of deployment.
  - (d) Designate a uniformed member at the rank of sergeant to serve as the canine sergeant.
  - (e) Coordinate monthly maintenance training and ensure remedial training is instituted as necessary.
  - (f) Ensure electronic and/or paper copies of monthly canine team training/sniffactivity logs are maintained within the canine's file as an attachment to the supervisor's file for canine handler.
3. The canine lieutenant may elect to assign the responsibilities enumerated above directly to a canine sergeant, acting as a liaison for the assigned canine team, due to logistical or geographical circumstances.

### **310.5 REQUESTS FOR CANINE TEAM(S)**

Requests for a canine team from DSH units outside of normal work duties shall be reviewed by the canine lieutenant and approved by the Hospital Police Chief or designee.

#### **310.5.1 OUTSIDE AGENCY REQUEST**

All requests for canine assistance from outside agencies must be approved by the canine lieutenant or watch commander and approved by the Hospital Police Chief or designee, and are subject to the following:

Canine team(s) shall not be used for any assignment that is not consistent with this policy.

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- (a) The canine handler shall have the authority to decline a request for any specific assignment that he/she deems unsuitable.
- (b) Off-duty call out for a canine team is discouraged.
- (c) It shall be the responsibility of the canine handler to coordinate operations with agency personnel in order to minimize the risk of unintended injury.
- (d) It shall be the responsibility of the canine handler to complete all necessary reports as directed.
- (e) Request for canine team assistance in the execution of lawful search warrants may be approved by the canine lieutenant or designee.

\*Please refer to the Canine Procedure Manual for a full list of procedures.

### **310.5.2 PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES**

All public requests for a canine team shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, approved by the Hospital Police Chief or designee with input from the canine lieutenant and canine sergeant prior to making any resource commitment. The canine sergeant is responsible for obtaining resources and coordinating involvement in public relations activities.

### **310.6 CANINE HANDLER SELECTION GUIDELINES**

The minimum qualifications for the assignment of a canine handler shall include but not limited to the following:

- (a) An officer who is currently off probation.
- (b) Residing in an adequately fenced, single-family residence (minimum 5-foot high fence with locking gates).
- (c) A garage that can be secured and accommodate a canine vehicle.
- (d) To ensure a timely response to call-outs, during an on-call/stand by status, a candidate's residence shall be within a reasonable distance from the police department to adhere to the current bargaining unit language for on-call responses.
- (e) Agreeing to be assigned to the position for the life of the the canine.

\*For complete qualifications please refer to the Canine Procedure Manual.

### **310.7 CANINE HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES**

The canine handler shall ultimately be responsible for the health and welfare of the canine and shall ensure that the canine receives proper nutrition, grooming, training, medical care, affection and living conditions.

\*Please refer to the Canine Procedure Manual for a full list of responsibilities.

#### **310.7.1 CANINE IN PUBLIC AREAS**

The canine should be kept on a leash when in areas that allow access to the public. Exceptions to this rule would include specific law enforcement operations for which the canine is trained.

### **310.8 CANINE HANDLER COMPENSATION**

The canine handler may be available for call-out under conditions specified by the canine sergeant.

In addition to regular work shift and overtime compensation, the department will compensate each handler for canine care and maintenance costs. The rate of compensation will be pursuant to the current bargaining unit agreement. Compensation is predicated on the assumption the handler will be required to maintain the canine in an acceptable manner, both during scheduled work days and on regular days off.

### **310.9 TRAINING**

Before assignment in the field, each canine team shall be trained and certified to meet current POST guidelines or other recognized and approved certification standards. All canine training should be conducted while on-duty unless otherwise approved by the canine sergeant.

#### **310.9.1 FAILURE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE TRAINING**

Any canine team failing to graduate or obtain certification shall not be deployed in the field for tasks the team is not certified to perform until graduation or certification is achieved. When reasonably acceptable manner, both during scheduled work days and on regular days off.

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Any canine team failing to graduate or obtain certification shall not be deployed in the field for tasks the team is not certified to perform until graduation or certification is achieved. When reasonably practicable, pending successful certification, the canine handler shall be temporarily reassigned to regular patrol duties.

Any team who fails to successfully pass certification shall be evaluated and/or removed from the program.

**310.9.2 TRAINING AIDS**

Training aids are required to effectively train and maintain the skills of canines. Officers possessing, using or transporting controlled substances for canine training purposes must comply with federal and state requirements regarding the same. Alternatively, OPS may work with outside trainers that possesses the applicable licenses or permits.

**310.9.3 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TRAINING AIDS**

Canine handler acting in the performance of their official duties may possess or transfer controlled substances for the purpose of narcotics-detection canine training in compliance with state and federal laws. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11367.5; 21 U.S.C. § 823(f).

The Hospital Police Chief or designee may authorize an employee to seek a court order to allow controlled substances seized by DSH to be possessed by the employee or a narcotics-detection canine trainer who is working under the direction of OPS for training purposes, provided the controlled substances are no longer needed as criminal evidence.

As an alternative, the Hospital Police Chief or designee may request narcotics training aids from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

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**310.9.4 TRAINING RECORDS**

All canine training records shall be maintained in the canine training file by the canine sergeant.

**310.9.5 CONTINUED TRAINING**

Each canine team shall thereafter be recertified to a current Peace Officer Standard of Training (POST), or other recognized and approved certification standards on an annual basis. Additional training considerations are as follows:

- (a) Canine team(s) should receive training as defined in the current contract with DSH canine training provider or vendor.
- (b) Canine handlers are encouraged to engage in additional training with approval of the canine sergeant.
- (c) To ensure that all training is consistent, no handler, trainer or outside vendor is authorized to train to a standard that is not reviewed and approved by OPS.

**310.10 CANINE INJURY AND MEDICAL CARE**

In the event that a canine is injured, or there is an indication that the canine is not in good physical condition, the injury or condition will be reported to the canine sergeant as soon as possible and appropriately documented.

All medical attention shall be rendered by the designated canine veterinarian, except during an emergency where treatment should be obtained from the nearest available veterinarian. All records of medical treatment shall be maintained in the canine file.

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