



CANINE USE INCIDENTS



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I. PURPOSE

This directive:

- A. outlines policy governing the use of Department canines as a force option.
- B. satisfies CALEA Law Enforcement Standard Chapter 4.

II. POLICY

A. **Sanctity of Human Life.** *The Department's highest priority is the sanctity of human life. The concept of the sanctity of human life is the belief that all human beings are to be perceived and treated as persons of inherent worth and dignity, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, military status, immigration status, homeless status, source of income, credit history, criminal record, criminal history, or incarceration status. Department members will act with the foremost regard for the preservation of human life and the safety of all persons involved.* A canine handler's decision to utilize a Department canine as a force option will be made in accordance with the Department directive titled "**De-escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force.**"

B. **De-Escalation.** Members will use de-escalation techniques to prevent or reduce the need for force when it is safe and feasible to do so based on *the member's training and experience* and the totality of the circumstances (*e.g., when a zone of safety can be safely established and there is not a continuing threat to Department members or members of the public*). This includes continually assessing the situation and modifying the use of force as circumstances change and in ways that are consistent with officer safety, including stopping the use of force when it is no longer necessary, in accordance with the Department directive titled "**Response to Resistance and Force Options.**"

C. **Canine Use - When Authorized.** Canine handlers' use of a Department canine as a force option must be objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional to the threat, actions, and level of resistance offered by a subject, under the totality of the circumstances. Consistent with the Department directive titled, "**Response to Resistance and Force Options,**" canine handlers are authorized to use a Department canine as a force option for the following subjects:

1. Active Resisters.

The use of a canine as a force option against an active resister is limited to when there is an objectively reasonable belief at the time of ANY of the following:

- a. a subject that is armed.
- b. a subject that has committed a felony.
- c. a search for a subject that has committed either a felony or a violent misdemeanor conducted in areas or buildings that contain hidden locations.

NOTE: A canine may be used in this situation to locate a subject who is attempting to avoid apprehension and who fails to comply with a sworn member's orders to reveal themselves.

2. **Assailants.**

A canine is an authorized force option against a subject who fits the definition of an assailant. In the case of an incident involving a canine, an assailant will also include a person who is an imminent threat to the canine.

D. **Restrictions.** Canines will not be used as a force option for the following:

1. **Crowd, Protest, or Civil Disturbance Incidents**

Department canine teams will not be used in response to crowds, protests, or civil disturbances.

2. **Persons Vulnerable to Injury.** Canines will not be used on a subject who is at a greater risk of serious injury or death from canine use, unless the subject is defined as an **assailant** and other force options are not readily available or would otherwise be ineffective. People who are at a greater risk of serious injury or death from canine use include, but are not limited to, children, pregnant women, and the elderly.

NOTE: If the Department member is responding to an incident involving persons in need of mental health treatment, the member will act in accordance with the Department directive titled "**Responding to Incidents Involving Persons In Need Of Mental Health Treatment.**"

E. Department members will refer to the Department directive titled "**Canine Teams**" for specific procedures on:

1. requesting a Department canine team.
2. the responsibilities of Department canines and canine handlers.
3. when a Department canine inflicts an injury to a subject.

III. **CONDITIONS ON THE USE OF CANINES AS A FORCE OPTION**

A. **Canine Deployment.** Any deployed canine, when circumstances permit, will be:

1. kept in visual and auditory range of the canine handler at all times, except for brief periods which make this requirement impracticable (e.g., the canine turns a corner, enters a room, is walking through tall vegetation, or is among tall objects.)
2. called off immediately once the subject is under control.

NOTE: Only Department members who are assigned as a canine handler are authorized to deploy a canine.

B. **Request Supervisor.** As soon as practical, a canine handler who has used or anticipates using a canine will notify a canine supervisor and a field supervisor from the district of occurrence and request that a supervisor respond to the scene. The determination of the appropriateness of the canine deployment and the responsibility of the canine use will rest with the canine handler.

NOTE: If a dispute regarding the deployment of a canine occurs between the canine handler and the on-scene field supervisor, the final determination of the canine deployment will rest with the canine handler's supervisor.

C. **Warnings.** Prior to the use of the canine, the canine handler will announce his or her police authority and provide verbal warnings stating that the canine will be released if the subject does not comply

with the canine handler's orders. When it is safe and feasible to do so, the canine handler will provide multiple warnings.

1. Any verbal warning will be given in a loud and clear manner, capable of being heard by the subject, any witnesses, or other parties within the targeted area.
2. The canine handler issuing the warning will allow a reasonable amount of time for Department members and other uninvolved members of the public to respond and vacate the area.
3. For building searches, a verbal warning will be given again upon entering subsequent floors or areas or if the size of the area is too great for a single warning.
4. For open field or block searches, a verbal warning will be given again upon the canine being repositioned into an area which was not in audible range of the initial or other subsequent warnings.
5. Verbal warnings may only be omitted in situations where exigent circumstances place the canine handler or others in imminent danger.
6. The fact that the warnings were given or omitted will be documented in the appropriate case report.

D. Location and Apprehension by Canine

1. Department canines are trained and permitted to physically apprehend a subject only on the command of the canine handler, to apprehend a subject that flees, or when the canine or the canine handler is threatened with attack by the subject.
2. Department-owned canines are trained in the **"find and bark"** method of finding persons. This method of training requires the canine to bark or otherwise alert its handler upon discovering a person and to remain in the immediate area of the person until relieved by the canine handler.
3. In those circumstances when a canine finds a subject, the canine handler will:
 - a. only command the canine to physically apprehend or make contact with the subject when the canine handler is in visual and auditory range of the canine and the subject.
 - b. not permit the canine to make contact with the subject unless commanded to do so by the canine handler or when the canine or canine handler is threatened with attack.
4. Once the canine handler determines that the incident is over and the control of the subject has been obtained, the canine handler must immediately order the canine to release the subject. In making the determination whether to order the canine to release the subject, the canine handler must carefully consider what is reasonably necessary based on the totality of the circumstances to control the subject and protect themselves and others from injury.

IV. POST-DEPLOYMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. **Deploying Canine Handler.** Immediately upon gaining control and restraining the subject, the deploying canine handler will:

1. notify the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC).

NOTE: If a canine handler deploys a canine outside the City of Chicago, the member will also notify the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction and the Chicago Police Department's Crime Prevention and Information Center (CPIC).

2. request the appropriate medical aid, including contacting emergency medical services (EMS) from the Chicago Fire Department, if the Department canine inflicts injury to the subject or the subject appears to be in any physical distress or complains of injury.

NOTE: For further guidance on medical attention for injuries caused by a Department canine, Department members will refer to the Department directives titled "**De-escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force**" and "**Canine Teams**."

3. complete a Tactical Response Report (TRR) ([CPD-11.377](#)) for the deployment consistent with the procedures outlined in the Department directive titled "**Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report**," when a canine physically apprehends a subject by making physical contact, including grasping the subject or the subject's clothing. The assigned canine handler will:
 - a. be responsible for the completion of the TRR to document the canine physical apprehension.
 - b. document on the TRR the duration of the total time the canine was deployed.
4. complete the appropriate case report and other required reports and submit the reports to their immediate supervisor for review and approval.

B. Office of Emergency Management and Communications. OEMC will immediately notify the:

1. involved member(s) immediate supervisor.
2. field supervisor and the watch operations lieutenant from the district of occurrence.

C. Reviewing Supervisor. When notified that a canine handler deployed a canine, the reviewing supervisor will:

1. respond immediately to the scene and assume command and oversight of the scene unless relieved by a higher-ranked supervisor.

NOTE: When the the deploying canine handler's immediate supervisor is unavailable, the watch operations lieutenant will assign a reviewing supervisor from the district of occurrence.

2. ensure the scene is protected and processed in accordance with the Department directive titled "**Crime Scene Protection and Processing**," including determining whether to request an evidence technician to process the scene.
3. request the Street Deputy to respond to all canine deployments that result in potential life-threatening injury or death.
4. if a death has occurred as a result of a canine deployment, ensure the appropriate Forensic Services Division and Bureau of Detectives personnel are requested.
5. review the deploying member's TRR and complete the appropriate section of the TRR consistent with the procedures outlined in the Department directive titled "**Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report**."

D. Investigating Supervisor. The watch operations lieutenant, or assigned investigating supervisor the rank of lieutenant or above, from the district of occurrence will:

1. ensure that a supervisor at least one rank higher than the discharging member responds to the scene of the deployment when such a supervisor is available.
2. notify the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) (or CPIC when COPA is not available) and ensure that a log number is obtained for a canine deployment notification.

- E. **Street Deputy.** In all cases in which a subject has a potential life-threatening injury or a death in conjunction with a canine deployment or when a canine physically apprehends a subject by making physical contact, including grasping the subject or the subject's clothing, the Street Deputy will:
1. proceed to the scene, assume command of the scene, and personally conduct a complete and thorough investigation of the incident.
 2. ensure that all tasks delineated for subordinate personnel are performed.
 3. review the deploying member's TRR and complete the appropriate section of the TRR-I consistent with the procedures outlined in the Department directive titled "**Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report.**"

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20-120 MWK/TSS

GLOSSARY TERMS:

1. **Zone of Safety**

The distance to be maintained between the person and the responding member(s). This distance should be greater than the effective range of the weapon (other than a firearm) and it may vary with each situation (e.g., type of weapon possessed, condition of the person, surrounding area).