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**CSU FULLERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 8-12**

CANINE POLICY

SUBJECT: Canine Policy

PURPOSE: The purpose of our Department's Canine Program is to augment the existing law enforcement services provided to the University and to surrounding law enforcement jurisdictions with the addition of a trained bomb/explosive detection canine team consisting of one dog handler and one canine.

POLICY: Utilization of properly trained police service dogs represents a cost effective and reliable asset to law enforcement personnel by utilizing The Canine's Acute Olfactory. The police service dog also provides a psychological deterrent by their presence among the criminal element.

PROCEDURE:

I. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The on duty Watch Commander will be responsible for the general supervision of the canine unit. The Operations Commander is the supervisor of the canine unit.
- B. The Operations Commander is assigned as the canine unit supervisor and shall assume the responsibility of supervising the canine unit. To include:
 1. General supervision of the canine teams when on-duty and available.
 2. Direct supervision of the operation and maintenance of the canine unit.
 3. Review and inspection of all canine teams training, certification and deployment records.
 4. Coordinating all community demonstrations.
 5. Approval and coordination with other agencies requesting K9 team services.
 6. Approval and coordination of canine team call outs after hours.
 7. Upkeep of the department's canine unit kennel facility.

8. Annual updates to this General Order (G.O.)

II. CANINE TEAM DEPLOYMENT

- A. A canine handler may use their assigned canine for any authorized use of a canine. It shall be the responsibility of each handler to ensure that practical safety precautions are taken at the time of deployment such as briefing to other law enforcement personnel and school officials to explain the canine abilities and limitations. In circumstances where the use of a canine team is requested, the decision to deploy the canine shall ultimately rest with the individual canine handler. Only the handler truly knows the abilities and limitations of their canine to safely and to legally perform the task at hand.
- B. Each member of the canine unit shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with department rules, regulations and policies as set forth in the CSU Fullerton Police Department G.O. and unit directives that are applicable. Each canine unit handler shall adhere to the training directives of the canine unit supervisor, and the rules, policies, procedures, and directives set forth in this G.O.
- C. Department personnel and field supervisors should be aware that the experience and training of handlers and canines varies from agency to agency, as do search policies. As such, the utilization of outside agency canines and handlers shall be avoided, except in circumstances which clearly dictate the need for an immediate canine deployment. Requests for outside agency canine units shall be directed through the CSU Fullerton Operations Commander or Watch Commander. If an outside agency is utilized the Operations Commander or a member of the Command Staff will be notified as soon as practical.
- D. All canine deployments will require a police report.

III. USE OF EXPLOSIVE DETECTION TEAM

- A. Because of the high risk of danger to the public and officers when a bomb or other explosive device is suspected, the use of a trained explosive detection dog team may be warranted. When available, a trained explosive detection dog team may be used in accordance with current law and under the following circumstances:
- B. To assist in the search of a building, structure, area, vehicle or article where an actual or suspected explosive device has been reported or located.
- C. To conduct preventative searches at locations such as special events, VIP visits, official buildings and other restricted areas. Because a dog sniff may be considered a search, such searches of individuals should remain minimally intrusive and shall be strictly limited to the purpose of detecting explosives.
- D. To assist with searches at transportation facilities and vehicles (e.g., buses, airplanes and trains).

- E. To assist in the search of scenes where an explosion has occurred and an explosive device or secondary explosive device is suspected.
- F. At no time will a detection dog be used to render a suspected device safe or clear.
- G. When a canine team is requested for a vehicle search, the vehicle doors and windows should be left closed until the arrival of the canine team. All edibles should be removed from the inside of the vehicle prior to the deployment of the canine. Any indication of a "Positive Alert" made by the canine during the search of the vehicle and/or discovery of explosive material shall warrant the immediate notification of the Orange Sheriff's Bomb Unit.

IV. REQUESTING USE OF OUTSIDE AGENCY CANINE

- A. Instances may arise when we require the mutual aid assistance for narcotic detection or apprehension canine. When considering requesting mutual aid for the use of an apprehension canine, Watch Commanders shall consider the following:
 - 1. There is a reasonable belief that the individual(s) poses an imminent threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any officer, or the handler.
 - 2. The individual(s) is/are physically resisting or threatening to resist arrest and the use of a canine reasonably appears to be necessary to overcome such resistance.
 - 3. The individual(s) is/are believed to be concealed in an area where entry by other than a canine would pose a threat to the safety of officers or the public.
- B. It is recognized that situations may arise that do not fall within the provisions set forth in policy. In such cases, a standard of objective reasonableness shall be used to review the decision to request a canine in view of the totality of the circumstances.
- C. Absent reasonable belief that an individual has committed or threatened to commit a serious offense, mere flight from pursuing officer(s) shall not serve as good cause for the use of a canine to apprehend the individual.

V. USING OUTSIDE AGENCY CANINE

- A. Prior to requesting mutual aid for the use of a canine to search for, or apprehend any individual, the Watch Commander on scene shall carefully consider all pertinent information that is reasonably available at the time. The information should include, but is not limited to the following:
 - 1. The individual's age or estimate thereof.
 - 2. The nature of the suspected offense.
 - 3. Any potential danger to the public and/or other officers at the scene if the canine is released.
 - 4. The degree of resistance or threatened resistance, if any, the subject has shown.

5. The potential for escape or flight if the canine is not utilized.
 6. The potential for injury to officers or the public caused by the suspect if the canine is not utilized.
- B. As circumstances permit, the canine handler will make every reasonable effort to communicate and coordinate with other involved personnel to minimize the risk of unintended injury.
- C. A canine handler shall have the ultimate authority not to deploy the dog. The handler will evaluate each situation and determine if the use of a canine is technically feasible. Generally, the decision whether to deploy the dog shall remain with the handler. However, a supervisor sufficiently apprised of the situation may decide not to deploy the dog.

VI. USE OF OUTSIDE AGENCY NARCOTIC-DETECTION CANINE

- A. A mutual aid narcotic-detection-trained canine may be used in accordance with current law under the following circumstances:
1. To assist in the search for narcotics during a search warrant service.
 2. To obtain a search warrant by using the detection canine in support of probable cause.
 3. To search vehicles, buildings, bags, and any other articles deemed necessary.
 4. A narcotic-detection canine will not be used to search a person for narcotics.

VII. GUIDELINES FOR NON-APPREHENSION USE

- A. Because canines have senses far superior to those of humans, they may often be effectively utilized to track or search for non-criminals (e.g. lost children, individuals who may be disoriented or in need of medical attention) or even suspects wanted for minor criminal offenses. In such circumstances, it will be necessary for the handler to evaluate the conditions and ability of the canine to determine the feasibility of such an application.
1. Absent a change in circumstances that present an immediate threat to officers, the canine or the public, such applications should be conducted on leash or under such conditions that will minimize the likelihood that the canine will bite or otherwise injure the individual.
 2. Throughout the deployment of the canine in such circumstances, the handler should consider issuing periodic verbal assurances that the canine will not bite or hurt the person.
 3. Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, assisting personnel should take direction from the handler in order to minimize interference with the canine.

VIII. OUTSIDE AGENCY REQUEST TO USE OUR CANINE TEAM

- A. The Operations Commander or Watch Commander must approve all requests for canine assistance from outside agencies subject to the following provisions:

1. Canine team shall not be used beyond the boundaries of the CSU Fullerton to perform any assignment that is not consistent with this policy.
2. Upon arrival at the scene, the handler has the ultimate decision as to whether or not the canine is to be used for a specific assignment.
3. Canine teams shall not be called out while off duty unless authorized by a member of the Command Staff
4. It shall be the responsibility of the canine handler to coordinate with outside agency personnel in order to minimize the risk of injury to the handler or canine.

IX. DOG BITES PROCEDURES

- A. When a canine physical bite occurs, the following procedure shall be followed:
 1. Medical aid will be given as soon as possible.
 2. The Command Staff will be notified for response.
 3. Any witnesses or witnessing officers shall be identified and interviewed. Photographs shall be taken for visual documentation of the injury.
 4. Medical inspection of the canine shall be made as soon as practical.
- B. The Operations Commander will be responsible for an administrative review of the incident.

X. TRAINING

- A. Before assignment in the field, our canine team shall be trained and certified to meet current POST standards.
- B. The Support Services Commander shall be responsible for scheduling periodic training for all department personnel in order to familiarize them with how to conduct themselves in the presence of department canines.
- C. Our Canine Team shall thereafter be recertified to current POST standards on an annual basis. Additional training considerations are as follows:
 1. Our Canine team shall receive training as defined in the current contract with the department's canine training provider.
 2. The Canine handler is encouraged to engage in additional training with approval of the Operations Commander.
 3. To ensure that all training is consistent, no handler, trainer, or outside vendor is authorized to train to a standard that is contrary to the policies of the CSU Fullerton Police Department.

4. All canine training shall be conducted while on-duty unless otherwise approved by the Operations Commander.
- D. Our Canine team shall not be deployed in the field until current POST certification is achieved. When practical, pending successful certification, the canine handler shall be temporarily reassigned to regular patrol duties.
- E. All canine training records shall be maintained in the canine handler's training file.

XI. CANINE HANDLER REQUIREMENTS

- A. The following are the minimum qualifications for the assignment of canine handler:
1. The most recent evaluation rated as overall “meets and frequently exceeds”.
 2. CSU Fullerton Police Department Officer for at least two years.
 3. Reside in an adequately fenced, single-family, residence (minimum five-foot high fence with locking gates).
 4. Have a garage which can be secured and accommodate a canine unit vehicle.
 5. Live within 60 minutes travel time from the CSU Fullerton Main Campus.
 6. Agree to be assigned to the position for a minimum of three years.

XII. CANINE OFFICER EQUIPMENT

- A. When working as a Canine Officer, the officer shall wear the proper safety equipment and uniform for the assignment.
- B. The Department will furnish all of the following equipment and uniforms for the Canine Officer. Replacement of equipment will generally be every two years or as needed.
1. Department marked patrol vehicle equipped for the Canine assignment.
 2. Two Crye Precision G3 Combat black uniform shirts.
 3. Two Crye Precision G3 Combat black uniform pants.
 4. One pair approved K9 boot such as 4D GTX Forces (black).
 5. One BPS tactical vest exterior carrier in black with POLICE K9 on the back.

XIII. GENERAL OPERATION PROCEDURES

- A. As a general rule, canine teams should be limited as the primary unit to calls requiring a detailed police report.
- B. Canine teams will not transport any prisoners.

- C. Canine teams shall inform the communication center when the team is initially in-service and available for calls.
- D. A handler may use only dog food, contracted services or Department supplies purchased or supplied through the Department for a Department canine unless otherwise directed by the Operations Commander. The handler shall be responsible for completing and turning in all receipts and forms for any services or items received for their canine.
- E. Each member of the Canine Unit who is assigned a canine shall work a 40 hour work week. During the handler's days off, the handler shall be responsible for the maintenance of the canine. If a Canine Unit member is injured and away from duty for any period of time, it shall be at the discretion of the Operations Captain to whether or not a canine is to be housed at that handler's home kennel or a Contracted Kennel Facility.
- F. The canine handler shall be compensated for the time spent in the care, feeding, grooming and other needs of the dog as provided in the Fair Labor Act. The compensation shall be prescribed in the employee's Memorandum of Understanding.
- G. Each member of the Canine Unit shall be responsible for obtaining and maintaining updated case law knowledge involving police canine issues.
- H. The canine is property of the CSU Fullerton Police Department. Disposition of any department canine shall be done at the discretion of the Department. As a general rule, canines are usually allowed to retire to their last handler at the end of their service life. If a handler is unable to accept the retired canine, another handler may take possession of the canine. No benefits shall be given to a retired canine.
- J. Each member of the Canine Unit shall be available for call-out. If a handler is unavailable, the handler shall notify the Operations Commander immediately so that another canine team can be notified.

XIV. CANINE HANDLING PROCEDURES

- A. 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. The handler will be responsible for the following:
 - 1. The handler shall be responsible for the handling of their assigned canine unless otherwise directed by the Operations Commander. All canines utilized by the Department's Canine Unit are property of the CSU Fullerton Police Department.
 - 2. The handler shall be responsible to keep the canine secured at all times in accordance to the rules of public contact. No one shall be allowed to tease or agitate the canine. The handler shall be responsible for securing the canine properly and briefing the public on how to approach and touch the canine or not to touch the canine at all. The handler shall not allow the canine to remain off leash unsupervised. When off leash, the handler shall

always remain in eye contact and short distance unless specifically directed in a training environment. The handler shall be responsible for the action of the canine both on and off leash at all times.

3. The handler shall keep the canine inside of its home kennel when not on-duty. The home kennel shall be secured at all times. The handler may allow the canine out of the home kennel for supervised exercise activities, cleaning of the kennel, and grooming.
4. When the handler is unable to tend to the canine for more than 24 hours, the Operations Commander will be notified and care for the canine will be arranged.
5. The handler shall not abuse, injure or overcorrect the canine out of anger or maliciousness.
6. The handler shall not use the canine for anything other than an on duty police function unless otherwise directed by the Operations Commander. The handler shall not deploy the canine for any unauthorized use. The handler shall be responsible for the proper deployment and maintenance of the canine according to the guidelines set forth by this G.O.
7. The handler shall be responsible for ensuring that their canine is maintained in a healthy environment. This includes proper feeding, routine physical inspections, and a properly cleaned kennel. The handler shall be responsible for maintaining a usable inventory of dog food and cleaning materials. The handler shall be responsible for the daily grooming and inspection of the canine.
8. The handler shall be responsible for ensuring that their canine receives prompt medical care from either the contract veterinarian or contract emergency veterinarian services (with the Operations Commander approval when practical). The handler shall be responsible for completing and turning in all necessary medical forms and receipts.
9. A canine shall only be transported in an approved and modified department vehicle unless otherwise directed by the Operations Captain.
10. When the handler is away from the patrol unit or the kennel, the handler shall be responsible for the proper safety of the canine, to include the proper ventilation and temperature control of the patrol unit or home kennel.
11. The handler shall allow the canine to relieve bodily functions on leash unless the canine team is in a safe environment where the public is not present. The handler shall still assume responsibility of the canine's actions. A canine should be able to relieve him/herself at the discretion of the canine handler.
12. The handler shall maintain all Department equipment under his/her control in a clean and serviceable condition and when not on duty shall maintain the canine unit in a garage, secured from public view.

13. When a handler takes a vacation or extended number of days off, the assigned canine vehicle shall be maintained at the contract boarding facility.
14. Handlers shall permit the Operations Commander to conduct spontaneous on-site inspections of affected areas of their residence as well as the canine unit, to verify that conditions and equipment conform to this policy.
15. The canine should be permitted to socialize in the home with the handler's family for short periods of time and under the direct supervision of the handler.
16. Under no circumstances will the canine be lodged at another location unless approved by the Operations Commander.

XV. EXPLOSIVE TRAINING AIDS

- A. Explosive training aids are required to effectively train and maintain the skills of explosives detection dogs and can also provide effective training for law enforcement personnel and the public. Peace officers are permitted by law to possess, transport, store or use explosives or destructive devices while acting within the scope and course of employment (Penal Code § 12302). Explosive training aids designed specifically for canine teams should be used whenever feasible. Due to the safety concerns in the handling and transportation of explosives, inert or non-hazardous training aids should be employed whenever feasible.
- B. The use of explosives or destructive devices for training aids is subject to the following requirements:
 1. All explosive training aids, when not in use, shall be properly stored in a secured magazine storage unit rated approved by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).
 2. An inventory ledger shall be maintained to document the type and quantity of explosives training aids.
 3. The Operations Commander shall be responsible to verify the explosives training aids on hand against the inventory ledger once each quarter.
 4. Only members of the Canine Program shall have access to the explosives training aid storage container.
 5. A primary and secondary custodian will be designated to minimize the possibility of loss of explosive training aids during and after the training. Generally, the handler will be designated as the primary custodian while the trainer or second person on scene will be designated as the secondary custodian.
 6. Any lost or damaged explosives training aid shall be promptly reported to the on duty Watch Commander immediately, who will determine if any further action will be necessary. Any

loss of explosives will be reported to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

XVI. DEMONSTRATIONS

- A. The handler shall only perform public demonstrations approved by the Operations Commander.
- B. All demonstrations shall be done with the on-duty uniform.
- C. All demonstrations shall be done while on duty.

XVII. MEDICAL CARE OF THE CANINE

- A. All medical attention shall be rendered by the designated canine veterinarian, except during an emergency.
- B. Non-emergency medical care will be coordinated through the Operations Commander when practical. Any indication that a canine is not in good physical condition shall be reported to the Operations Commander or the Watch Commander as soon as practical.
- C. All records of medical treatment shall be maintained in the canine handler's personnel file.
- D. The Canine handler shall notify the Watch Commander as soon as practicable when emergency medical care for the canine is required.
- E. Depending on the severity of the injury or illness, the canine shall either be treated by the designated veterinarian or transported to a designated emergency medical facility for treatment. The well-being of the canine will be the primary deciding factor for treatment options.