

**MUNICIPAL ORDER NO:\_\_:2019**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Morehead Board of City Council voted to enact policies and procedures of the Morehead Police Department by Municipal Order; and

**WHEREAS**, the Morehead Police Department desires to replace Policy #40, Canine Operations in its entirety:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED** by the City of Morehead, Board of City Council that the revised Morehead Police Department's Standard Operating Policy #40, Canine Operations, a copy of which is attached hereto, is hereby approved. The current Policy #40 shall be removed from the manual and a complete copy of the new policy shall be added to the Morehead Police Department's Policies and Procedures Manual retained on file in the City Clerk's office.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2019.

CITY OF MOREHEAD

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura White-Brown, Mayor

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Crissy Cunningham, City Clerk

# Morehead Police Department

## Standard Operating Procedures

Policy # <b>40</b>  <b>CANINE OPERATIONS</b>	Related Policies:
<i>This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.</i>	
Applicable State Statutes	
CALEA Standard:	
Date Implemented: 03/2019	Review Date:

### I. Purpose

To establish procedures and regulations governing the training, use and administration of police service dog teams employed by the Morehead Police Department. These teams will be referred to throughout this policy as "K9" teams. This Standard Operating Procedure shall define the authority and responsibility for their use. Teams will consist of a Morehead Police Department K9 and handler.

### II. Policy

- A. Utilization of properly trained police service canine represent a highly cost effective and reliable asset to law enforcement personnel, due to the canine's acute olfactory and hearing senses. The police service canine also provides a psychological deterrent by their presence at the scene of potential conflicts or disturbances.
- B. Areas of potential deployment for K9 teams may include, but not limited to:

- Building searches
- Open Area Searches
- Evidence Searches/Article Recovery
- Tracking or Trailing
- Narcotics/Controlled Substance Detection
- Back-Up for Violent/ Potentially Violent Calls
- Back-Up for Felony Arrest
- Crowd Control and Disbursement
- Pursuit/Apprehension at Vehicle and Foot Pursuits
- Protection of Law Enforcement Personnel

### **III. Authority and Responsibility**

- A. The chief is responsible for the general supervision of those K9 teams assigned to support patrol functions within the department.
- B. A sergeant will be assigned as the K9 Unit supervisor and shall assume the responsibility of administering the overall operations of the K9 Unit. The K9 Unit supervisor will report to the Chief.
- C. The K9 Unit supervisor shall be responsible for the following:
  1. Appointing and maintaining a dedicated and accredited trainer for all K9 teams- A letter will be kept on file signed by the chief concerning the individual being the department K9 trainer;
  2. Reviewing and inspecting bi-annually all K9 teams' training records and deployment records;
  3. Inspecting all issued K9 equipment annually;
  4. Coordinating all community relations demonstrations;
  5. Assisting in the training of other law enforcement agencies' K9 units with the approval of the chief;
  6. Approving and coordinating with other law enforcement agencies and their requests for assistance using the agency's K9 Unit;
  7. Coordinating and assigning for K9 teams in support of other departments S.W.A.T team; and
  8. Reporting on a monthly basis K9 unit activity to the Chief of Police.
- D. In the absence of the on-duty K9 Unit supervisor, and when not assigned to a specific detail, K9 teams shall operate under the supervision of the on-duty shift supervisor.
- E. The individual K9 handler may authorize the use of their assigned canine for the apprehension of a suspect(s). It shall be the responsibility of each

handler to ensure the practical safety precautions are taken at the time of deployment including a briefing other law enforcement personnel and explaining the canine's abilities and limitations to said law enforcement.

- F. In circumstances where the use of a K9 team is being considered, the final decision to deploy a K9 shall rest with the individual K9 handler, as only the handler truly knows the abilities and limitations of their canine and their ability to safely and legally perform the task at hand.
- G. Once the K9 handler has made the decision to deploy his patrol canine the K9 handler shall assume the responsibility for the control and operational management of the scene until they are properly relieved by a supervisor. The perimeter and back up officers will redeploy to new positions according to directions from the K9 handler during a K9 deployment.

#### **IV. Law Enforcement K9 Team Deployment**

##### **A. Building and Area Searches**

Canines can be effectively used to search areas and buildings for hidden suspects that might be detected by scent or sound. Canines can also be utilized to search open areas for, suspects or evidence/articles that a suspect may have discarded.

When a suspect has fled the scene of a crime and a canine is en route, members should not pursue unless a reasonable chance of success exists. If the pursuing personnel loses sight of the offender, the pursuit should be immediately terminated, and a perimeter secured and held for the K9 team's arrival. Personnel involved in the initial pursuit should note the last direction of travel, obstacles or hiding places, and other potential hazards so that they may brief the K9 team upon arrival.

The initial responding unit involved in the pursuit, the on-scene supervisory or senior officer present should determine if the crime is significant enough to warrant a K9 team call-out or response. It shall be the responsibility of this individual to initiate the call-out/response in a timely manner and ensure that appropriate perimeter control is established and maintained.

Prior to starting any search of a building by a K9 team, a series of 3 verbal warning and commands shall be made by the handler, if practical and safe to do so. A suggested warning is as follows:

- 1- "This is the Police Department Canine Team. Anyone show yourself or the dog will be used to find you."**

**2- “This is the Police Department Canine Team. Come out now or the dog will be sent in and you will be bitten.”**

**3- “This is the Police Department Canine Team. You are under arrest come out or the dog is coming in.”**

This warning may be modified to suit the situation by the handler and only serves as a sample of an appropriate warning. The handler may choose to have this or other warnings issued via public address systems or by other officers as necessary or practical.

If, after a reasonable amount of time passes and no response is heard or no person(s) surrender themselves, the handler may release the canine into the building to begin the search. The handler may choose to conduct the search on-lead or off, as appropriate to the situation.

Prior to starting any search of a building or open area, the handler will determine if additional personnel are to enter the area with the K9 team. Any law enforcement officer may be used provided that the handler briefs the personnel in the procedures of K9 searches and apprehension and the personnel accepts that the handler is in charge.

The primary duty of personnel supporting the K9 team in a search shall be protection of handler and to take custody of any person located by the canine at the direction of the handler.

## **B. Tracking/Trailing of Criminal Suspects and Lost Persons**

Ground scent tracking and wind scent trailing can be useful for following fleeing suspects or lost individuals when the presence of other persons, vehicles or extreme weather conditions do not impair the scent. Personnel requesting the assistance of a K9 team to assist in this type of search should secure an appropriate perimeter to avoid contamination of the scent trail.

## **C. Crowd Control and Civil Disturbance.**

In the case of civil disturbances, labor disputes or other types of non-routine crowd control, the K9 units will not be deployed unless specifically authorized by high command authority. “Routine” crowd control situations such as large fights and similar situations shall be individually assessed by the handler as to the appropriateness of using the canine.

## **D. Pursuit and Apprehension**

Pursuit and apprehension of fleeing suspects makes use of the canines speed and maneuverability to affect a capture without the use of deadly force. K9 pursuits and apprehensions shall be conducted at the handler's discretion. Assisting personnel shall allow the K9 team primary access to the area and path of flight prior to conducting any search, if practical.

#### **E. Tactical Deployments**

The use of K9 teams to support tactical operations must be reviewed and approved by the K9 Unit supervisor or the chief.

K9 Unit personnel shall be consulted prior to deployment as to the appropriateness of using the canine and the best method of using the K9 team(s).

All K9 Unit personnel involved in tactical deployments shall wear all issued tactical equipment for the duration of deployment.

Out of county tactical deployments shall be reviewed and approved by the K9 Unit supervisor or chief prior to deployment. The chief shall be kept notified of progress of such operations and may suspend involvement in such operations at any time.

#### **F. General Search Guidelines**

Searches may be conducted on or off leash at the discretion of the handler. The handler must be able to maintain control of their assigned canine for duration of the search.

### **V. NARCOTICS DETECTION**

#### **A. Types of Controlled Substances**

Handlers equipped with certified narcotics canines are prepared to assist in the detection of the following controlled substances:

- Cocaine HCL and Cocaine Base (Powered and "Crack" Cocaine)
- Hashish
- Mushrooms
- Ecstasy
- Black Tar Heroin

- Heroin
- Marijuana
- Methamphetamine
- Other controlled substances containing derivatives of the above

#### **B. Areas of Deployment**

Narcotics detector canines may be deployed in the following situations:

- Searches during vehicle stops
- To build probable cause for Search Warrants
- Drug interdiction in public areas
- Drug interdiction in county facilities (i.e. Jails, Schools, parks)
- Searches relative to Search Warrant executions
- Community relations demonstrations
- Assistance of other, law enforcement agencies in any of the above
- Other searches of private businesses and homes that are authorized by the K9 Supervisor/Handler

#### **C. Possessing Controlled Substance for Training**

No officer shall possess controlled substances for training purposes with the following exceptions.

- The officer/department possesses a valid Drug Enforcement Agency permit to keep and store controlled substances or...
- The controlled substances have been seized by a bona fide law enforcement agency and are legally possessed and made available for the purposes of training by the agency.
- All other narcotics related training shall be conducted using scented articles provided by a person possessing a valid DEA permit, and through the use of narcotics. Any handler may possess and use narcotics for training.

## **VI. GENERAL OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

On duty K9 teams shall respond to crimes in progress within the city without specific dispatch and shall assist patrol units in any potentially violent situation where the use of a canine may be of service. K9 officers will allow the primary units the forewarning to establish perimeter control and other operational planning/tactics.

As a general rule, when dispatch is made aware of a developing incident that a K9 may be used (i.e. foot pursuit, vehicle pursuit, robbery, lost children, etc.) the dispatcher will contact the K9 handler as soon as possible and put the K9 team on standby for possible call out.

K9 teams may respond to the area of any foot or vehicle pursuits to assist in apprehension search or other deployment. K9 teams involved in a vehicle pursuit shall attempt to engage any fleeing suspect using the canine prior to engaging in a foot pursuit or other potentially dangerous contacts with a suspect.

## **VII. DOG BITE PROCEDURES**

- If an apprehension involves a dog bite the following procedure shall be followed:
  - The injured person shall be afforded medical care as soon as possible.
  - The on-duty supervisor and the K9 Unit supervisor shall be notified. A copy of the report documenting the bite shall be completed by the end of the following day and forwarded to the supervisor for review. Copies of the report shall be immediately forwarded to the following personnel:
    - The K9 Supervisor
    - The Chief
  - The canine involved in the bite shall be taken to the veterinarian for an examination within 5 days of the bite. A copy of the medical certificate clearing the canine shall be forwarded to the police department; the original shall be placed in the canine's medical file.
  - Photographs shall be taken if possible, of the bite. All photographs shall be taken following cleaning of the wound area so the photographs accurately



reflect the extent of the injuries in a non-prejudicial manner. Copies of the photos and shall be held in incident file.

## **VIII. TRAINING AND MONTHLY REPORTS**

- A. All K9 Unit personnel shall be required to certify his or her K9 before it is authorized to be deployed for active duty.
- B. All K9 Unit personnel shall attend maintenance training with their assigned canine monthly.
- C. All K9 handlers shall maintain training files on their canines on preapproved training forms and/or computer files. These files shall be submitted on a monthly basis for inclusion in the canine's permanent file and for audit and review purposes.
- D. K9 Unit training reports, field deployment and narcotics reports will not be removed from the permanent files without the specific permission of the K9 Unit supervisor. These records are the property of the department and not individual officer.

## **IX. GENERAL PROCEDURES**

- A. Any certified officer meeting or exceeding the posted requirements may apply for a position vacancy in the K9 Unit. The Chief, or his designee, shall post the requirements for the position as per established procedure.
- B. The handler(s) assigned to the K9 Unit shall obtain dog food and other contracted supplies from the department's designated vendor only.
- C. The handler is responsible for ensuring that their canine is maintained in a healthy environment. This includes proper feeding and routine physical inspections.
- D. The handler is responsible for ensuring that their canine receives prompt medical care from either the contracted veterinarian or contracted emergency veterinarian services. The handler is responsible for filing all medical records and receipts in their canine's medical records file.

E. The handler will ensure that no unauthorized people tease or otherwise harass their canine or other department canines, unless specifically directed to do so in a training environment.

F. The handler will ensure that nobody pets or attempts to pet a department canine without the specific permission of the canine's handlers.

G. Unauthorized exhibitions of the canine's apprehension and engagement abilities are forbidden.

G. Handlers will ensure that law enforcement personnel working in the immediate proximity of the police service canine shall heed all directions given by the handler and their actions will not comprise the safety of the handler or the deployment mission. The handler may stop and cancel the deployment at any time if they notice a significant safety or tactical violation. These cancellations and the causes shall be immediately reported to the K9 Unit supervisor.

## **X. UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT**

A. All members of the K9 Unit shall be permitted to wear the optional uniform as described below. All members must comply with agencies ballistic vest policy.

- BDU type shirt and pants or comparable one-piece suit. The shirt shall be marked with shoulder patches as defined in the Department Standard Operating Manual with a cloth representation of the name plate and the department badge above the left breast pocket. No specialty patches e.g. SWAT, FTO etc..., shall be worn with the exception of the approved K9 Unit patch and the American Flag.

- The shirt will be tucked into the pants at all times. The bottoms of the pants may be either cleanly pressed or bloused as per individual.

- The sleeves of the uniform shirt may be either long or short sleeved: long sleeves may be rolled up using a military style 3 inch cuff. Or cutoff, as long as the cuff does not obstruct the shoulder patch.

B. Unit polo shirt. A unit authorized polo shirt consisting of a black golf type shirt with an approved embroidered insignia may be worn to certain functions as approved by the K9 Unit supervisor. When wearing the shirt, it shall be tucked into the trousers.

C. Department standard black baseball cap or beanie.

D. Call out Uniform. A handler may elect to wear a department approved "Raid Jacket" or similar jacket or windbreaker when called out to a deployment during off-duty hours. The exceptions to this are call-outs for tactical deployments where the BDU uniform shall be worn.

E. Leather Gear. The handler may elect to wear a nylon type duty belt and associated gear in the lieu of the regulation leather gear.

F. Each K9 handler will be issued equipment approved by the Chief including but not limited to:

- Kennel; 10 ft x 10 ft minimum, with door assembly
- Dog House
- Training Aids

G. K9 equipment. A military style bearing harness and belt assembly may be worn by handlers to provide for additional storage of equipment and availability of drinking water on extended deployments.

H. Inclement weather clothing. It shall be the responsibility of the individual K9 handler to dress appropriately for climatic conditions. This includes the maintenance, and use of cold weather clothing. The following types of cold weather clothing may be approved for use by the K9 teams:

- Hooded sweatshirt's provided they are solid black in color.
- Insulated coveralls; provided they meet or exceed departmental specifications.
- Insulated boots
- Insulated gloves

## **XI. KENNEL TIME COMPENSATION**

Two hours compensation per week is awarded for kennel care and maintenance. These two hours can be claimed as overtime or adjusted off as schedule allows.