

	MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	
	POLICY AND PROCEDURES	
	Subject CANINE UNIT OPERATIONS	Policy Number GJ-25
		Effective Date 08-24-23
Related Information CP-1, <i>Use of Force</i> GD-19, <i>Injury or Death of an Employee or Volunteer</i> GJ-35, <i>Body-Worn Cameras</i>	Supersedes GJ-25 (02-22-17)	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Office Policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for the operation, deployment, and use of the Office Canine Unit as it is designed to supplement enforcement and detention operations by using highly trained K-9's and handlers.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Office to maintain an Office Canine Unit that assists deputies and detention personnel, as well as other law enforcement agencies, in enforcement and detention operations. K-9's are used routinely to search for criminal and administrative contraband, and to assist in the apprehension of suspects. The Office shall ensure that the deployment of K-9's is conducted in an effective, efficient, and safe manner and only by those personnel who have been appropriately certified and approved by the Office to manage and control Office K-9's.

DEFINITIONS

Blue Team: The Early Identification System (EIS) application that allows employees and supervisors to record information in a database regarding incidents, performance, and conduct. The information from Blue Team is transferred to the IA Pro Early Identification case management system.

Canine Unit: Sworn and detention personnel trained as canine handlers who work with their K-9 partners providing support in enforcement and detention operations. The unit consists of all dual-purpose K-9's and handlers who may serve in different capacities regardless of their division assignment.

Early Identification System (EIS): A system of electronic databases that capture and store threshold events to help support and improve employee performance through early intervention and/or to identify problematic operating procedures, improving employee performance, identifying detrimental behavior, recognizing outstanding accomplishments, and to improve the Office's supervisory response. The computerized relational database shall collect, maintain, integrate, and retrieve information gathered in order to highlight tendencies in performance, complaints, and other activities. The database allows the Office to document appropriate identifying information for involved employees, (and members of the public when applicable), and the actions taken to address the tendencies identified. Blue Team, IAPro, and EIPro are applications of EIS.

PROCEDURES

1. **Canine Unit Operations:** The Canine Unit is responsible for providing support to any Office division requiring assistance, to include dual purpose K-9's assigned to the Special Investigations Division and Lake Patrol Division.
 - A. **Enforcement:** Deputies assigned to the Canine Unit are responsible for providing services that include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Investigating alarm situations, burglaries, and robberies;
 2. Searching buildings or areas for criminal suspects;
 3. Apprehending suspects;
 4. Searching for evidence;
 5. Locating lost persons;
 6. Providing backup for employees in the community or in the jail facilities;
 7. Tracking subjects in both criminal and noncriminal matters;
 8. Providing riot and crowd control in the community and in the jail facilities;
 9. Detecting narcotic or explosive odors; or
 10. Assisting other agencies. Absent exigent circumstances, a request to use canine services should normally be approved by the bureau chief or designee.
- B. Detention: Detention officers assigned to the Canine Unit working in the jail facilities and surrounding areas, are responsible for using their K-9's to provide services that include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Detecting contraband;
 2. Extracting barricaded inmates;
 3. Acting as a deterrent to behavior or actions detrimental to jail facility security;
 4. Providing assistance for employees in a jail facility;
 5. Controlling inmates and suppressing jail facility disturbances. When possible during these situations, canine handlers should wait for additional personnel;
 6. Assisting with inter- and intra-jail inmate movement;
 7. Tracking and apprehending escaping inmates;
 8. Providing riot and crowd control in the jail facilities, or
 9. Any additional duties, as directed by the SWAT/High Risk Responses Division or Canine Unit Commander or designees.
2. **Evidence Search Precautions:** Evidence search precautions to be taken by employees at a scene when requesting assistance from the Canine Unit include, but are not limited to, the following:
- A. Securing a search area while avoiding contamination;
 - B. Determining whether a scent article is available without the employee or anyone else handling it;

- C. Following behind the K-9 and handler while providing security to both; or
 - D. Directing the handler to any possible evidence along the trail.
3. **Canine Handler Control:** Absent exigent circumstances, handlers shall maintain control of their K-9's at all times. The following are general precautions to be taken by employees when handling or otherwise working around Office K-9's include, but are not limited to, the following:
- A. Other than the handler, employees shall not handle, pet, or feed any Office K-9, without the permission of the handler, nor shall they ever excite or harass the animal.
 - B. Inmates and prisoners shall never be allowed to approach or harass any Office K-9.
 - C. If a handler is incapacitated or unable to control their K-9 and the situation permits, another handler or the handler's supervisor shall be contacted to take control of the K-9. Employees near the injured handler should remain calm to avoid exciting the K-9.
 - D. A muzzle may be used at the discretion of the handler, with the overriding concern being public safety. The deployment of an Office K-9 should be based on the criteria specified in Office Policy CP-1, *Use of Force*.
 - E. Canine Unit handlers shall be assigned and utilize their body-worn camera, as specified in Office Policy GJ-35, *Body-Worn Cameras*.
4. **K-9 Bite Deployment:** In the event that an Office K-9 is deployed, resulting in a bite, the following procedures shall be taken:
- A. **Medical Treatment:** Medical treatment shall be sought immediately.
 - 1. **Suspect:** If a K-9 bites a suspect in the line of duty, the handler or another available deputy shall immediately arrange transportation of the suspect to a Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS) hospital or other appropriate medical facility for treatment.
 - 2. **Inmate:** If a K-9 bites an inmate the inmate shall be immediately taken to the Office jail facility medical clinic. Correctional Health Services (CHS) personnel will examine the inmate and determine what treatment is appropriate.
 - 3. **Accidental Bite:** In the event of an accidental K-9 bite, the handler, whether on or off-duty, shall immediately arrange transportation of the bitten person to the closest medical facility for treatment. If they prefer, the bitten person may seek treatment through their own physician or a medical facility of their choice.
 - B. **Notification:** The handler shall notify their supervisor as soon as practical. In the event of an accidental K-9 bite, the bitten person shall be provided with the following information:
 - 1. The handler's name and serial number;
 - 2. The K-9's name;
 - 3. The time and location of the occurrence;
 - 4. The Office telephone number; and

5. The *Incident Report* (IR) number.
- C. Documentation: The handler shall complete all necessary forms regarding the incident.
 1. The handler shall complete an *Incident Report* (IR) documenting the incident and include a Bite Report number obtained from Animal Care and Control Services. A *Canine Unit Action Report* shall also be completed.
 2. If available, the report shall include photographs of the injury, taken by Office Crime Lab personnel, and any available medical records.
 3. Anytime an injury or the complaint of an injury occurs after the deployment of an Office canine which is used in the apprehension, or attempted apprehension, a Use of Force Blue Team entry shall be completed, and shall be routed, as specified in Office Policy CP-1, *Use of Force*. If the canine handler is assigned to another division outside of SWAT/Canine, the SWAT Commander or designee shall be copied as part of the Use of Force division commanders' review prior to forwarding it to EIU.
 4. If the bitten person is an Office employee, an *Employer's Report of Industrial Injury* shall be submitted, as specified in Office Policy GD-19, *Injury or Death of an Employee or Volunteer*.
5. **K-9 Care and Welfare:** Each authorized Canine Unit handler is provided with all the necessities for the care and welfare of the K-9. The K-9 is the property of the Office and cannot be given away or sold without authorization of the Sheriff or designee.
 - A. When feasible, authority should be obtained from the Sheriff, with the approval of the Board of Supervisors, to sell or give the retired canine to either its handler or former handler.
 - B. Retired K-9's shall not be sold at auction.
6. **Canine Unit Training:** Each Canine Unit handler is responsible for attending training, as specified in this Office Policy and the SWAT Divisions Operations Manual section 207, Canine Handler Section (deputy/detention).
 - A. All Office K-9's shall attend weekly training facilitated by the MCSO Canine Trainers, or by an approved canine contract vendor, utilizing positive reinforcement reward-based training methods.
 - B. All Office canine handlers shall adhere to Standard Operating Procedures contained in the SWAT Division Operations Manual, specifically as it pertains to K-9 deployment(s).