



CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



Canine Use

Eff. Date 12/21/2020

Purpose

Subject to the provisions of this standard operating procedure (SOP), Madison Police Department (MPD) K9s trained in patrol applications may be utilized for area searches, building searches, tracking, evidence searches, narcotics detection, bomb detection, suspect apprehensions, handler protection, and community presentations.

The K9 handler is at all times responsible for the control of his or her dog. If there is a dispute on the manner in which a K9 team is to be used, the final decision will be made by the handler.

Procedure

SEARCH AND APPREHENSION

Deploying a K9 off lead to search for or apprehend a subject is considered a use of force and must be reasonable and consistent with MPD's Use of Non-Deadly Force SOP. MPD K9s may be used as an application of force to:

- Assist in the arrest or prevent the escape of serious or violent subjects;
- Conduct building or area searches for what are reasonably believed to be serious or violent subjects;
- To overcome violent or assaultive behavior or its threat, if the officer reasonably believes that the subject poses an articulable threat of harm to officers or others and that a lesser degree of force would be insufficient or impractical;
- To control a subject to prevent him or her from harming themselves or others, if a lesser degree of force would be insufficient or impractical.

Verbal warnings shall be issued prior to the deployment of the K9 unless circumstances exist that make such warnings impractical or unsafe. Officers will also consider the potential risk of a K9 deployment to officers or uninvolved subjects prior to deployment.

Searches of populated areas should be done on lead until the dog locates a subject. The dog may then be deployed off lead in accordance with this SOP. The K9 handler shall not allow his or her dog to engage a subject who has voluntarily submitted to arrest or who is in physical custody.

If a K9 engages a subject, the K9 shall be commanded to disengage as soon as the person is subdued and under control. The appropriateness of deploying a K9 for an apprehension may vary during the course of an incident and the K9 handler must continually evaluate the circumstances when determining the reasonableness of a K9 apprehension.

INJURY CAUSED BY K9

Once a K9 has engaged a subject and control has been achieved, the subject will be evaluated for injury. If a patrol K9 injures a person, the K9 handler will request that a field supervisor respond to the scene immediately, consistent with the Use of Force Data Collection and Review SOP. The K9 handler will also ensure that the K9 supervisor is notified.

NARCOTICS DETECTION

K9s trained in narcotics detection will be used in accordance with their training.

BOMB DETECTION

K9s trained in bomb detection will be used in accordance with their training.

MUTUAL AID REQUESTS

MPD K9 units will, when possible, assist other agencies pursuant to a mutual aid request. Mutual aid requests should be vetted and approved by the OIC. MPD K9 handlers assisting other agencies will act in accordance with this SOP at all times.

K9 HANDLER VEHICLE

1. Each handler will be assigned a squad for his or her exclusive use. Handlers are allowed to keep their squads at their residence and to use them as follows:
 - a. Driving to and from work.
 - b. During the handler's normal tour of duty.
 - c. Taking the K9 to the veterinarian.
 - d. Picking up dog food or other required K9 equipment.
 - e. Driving to work-related K9 training.
 - f. Any other work-related transportation.
2. When the handler is away from his or her vehicle and the dog is in the vehicle, the vehicle shall be locked and appropriate ventilation will be provided.
3. Patrol K9 handlers will have an exposed bite sleeve available in the trunk of their vehicle at all times.
4. When operating the squad (on- or off-duty), handlers will be armed with their duty weapon, will have handcuffs available, and will have police identification—including a badge—with them.

K9 HANDLER ASSIGNED K9 CARE

1. Each K9 handler will have an assigned K9 to keep at his or her residence. K9 handlers are responsible for the care of their assigned K9 as follows:
 - a. Provide regular food and water as needed.
 - b. Ensure routine vet care is provided and ensure prompt vet care for health changes or injury.
 - c. Notify a K9 supervisor when the K9 is being cared for by anyone other than the assigned handler. Ensure the person caring for the K9 has the K9 sergeant's contact information.
 - d. Notify the K9 sergeant of any changes in the K9's health or of any injury as soon as possible.

K9 TRAINING

1. New handlers and dogs will undergo initial training prior to being certified for active duty. Each team will obtain an independent certification by an organization recognized in patrol, narcotics, and/or bomb detection use prior to active duty.
2. Each K9 team will engage in regular maintenance training and periodic re-certification as necessary.
3. The K9 supervisor is responsible for ensuring that each K9 team receives adequate training and maintains appropriate certification.

RECORDS

1. Each handler is responsible for maintaining records of all K9 related calls for service and K9 training.
2. The K9 supervisor is responsible for maintaining overall MPD K9 records and for verifying that individual handlers are maintaining appropriate records.

Original SOP: 02/25/2015
(Revised: 02/24/2016, 01/15/2019, 01/15/2020, 12/21/2020)
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