

GREENFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

CANINE UNIT

RULE # 08

- I. **PURPOSE:** The Canine Standard Operating Procedure has been developed to provide guidance for officers in the use of a Police Service Dog. To develop and maintain highly trained and well disciplined canine unit that is capable of maximum operational utilization with minimum exposure to civil liability. The Canine Unit is a support unit. The unit is to provide support for any requested service for law enforcement as it applies to Police Service Dogs.
- II. **POLICY & PROCEDURES**
- A. Requests for the Canine Unit are normally, but not limited to:
1. Crime prevention and detection
 2. Criminal apprehensions
 3. Officer safety
 4. Narcotics
 5. Service to the community and other agencies
- B. Assigned Vehicle
1. Canine Officers shall be assigned a specially equipped vehicle. Canine Officers are required to follow the guidelines outlined within departmental rules and regulations regarding vehicle usage.
- C. Canine Handler Responsibilities
1. The handler should make final determination on a call-out response.
 2. Canine Handler will maintain control of his/her canine at all times. When canine becomes involved in a pursuit or when canine is deployed on any situation, the handler must ensure that all police personnel are aware that the dog is out and in use. In pursuit situations, the handler will notify other officers to stay inside their vehicles should the suspect bail and flee on foot.
 3. Canine Handler will notify an on-duty supervisor immediately upon callout or when a canine bites or injures anyone. Officers will provide first aid and call for EMS for any person that a canine bites or injures as soon as that handler determines it is safe to do so.
- D. Care of Canine
1. In the event that a canine handler is unable to care for his assigned police service dog, which could include but not limited to, vacation, illness, injury, family emergency, etc., he/she shall notify the Chief of Police or the Deputy Chief and the Canine Unit Commander. The handler should also notify the communications center that he will not be available for call-outs and notify the communications center when he is again available to respond to call-outs.
 2. The handler shall make every effort to arrange care for the canine and have these arrangements approved by the Chief of Police or the Deputy Chief and the Canine

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Unit Commander.

E. Pursuits

1. When available, Canine Unit should make every effort to get into and involved in a pursuit. When Canine does get into the pursuit, he/she should be permitted to become lead car of the pursuit when it is safe to do so. The handler will advise other officers involved that Canine is in the pursuit. Officers should then remain in their vehicles if and when the suspect(s) flees on foot for safety reasons.

F. Canine uses include but are not limited to the following:

1. Building Searches
2. Missing Persons
3. Pursuits
4. High Risk Traffic Stops
5. Warrant Service
6. Narcotic Sniffs
7. Persons attempting to evade arrest

G. Medical

1. Medical attention will be given to any person injured by canine procedure.

H. Reports

1. Canine officers shall complete use of force report when canine is utilized as an apprehension tool.
2. Photographs shall be taken of the injury as part of the use of force report.

I. Standards

1. The canine unit will be held to the highest of standards at all times. The handlers will maintain their discipline and training at all times not only with themselves but also with their canine partners. The canine is an invaluable tool to the department and community and must be treated as such.
2. Canine and handler will train at a minimum of eight (8) hours per month and will be recertified annually by a certified instructor or organization.

J. Violation of this policy will be considered a severe offense.

K. Canine Retirement

1. When canine is no longer serviceable condition, ie sick, injured or age, the canine will be retired and offered to the handler pending Board of Works approval.

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Chief of Police

THIS POLICY SUPERCEDES ANY POLICY HERETOFORE USED BY THE GREENFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
