

**NEW SMYRNA BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT  
NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA**

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE DIRECTIVE**

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**TITLE:** CANINE TEAM PROTOCOL

**NUMBER:** 14-11

**EFFECTIVE:** 11/08

**REFERENCE:**

**RESCINDS/ AMENDS:** 9-3-08

**REVISED:** 06/20

**ATTACHMENTS:**

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***PURPOSE***

The purpose of this order is to establish guidelines for the supervision, operation, training, and utilization of the New Smyrna Beach Police Department Canine handlers and their Canine working dogs.

***SCOPE***

These procedures shall apply to all New Smyrna Beach Police Department personnel.

***DISCUSSION***

Law Enforcement Canine Teams are valuable law enforcement tools for the use in criminal apprehension, evidence detection, narcotics detection, and for promoting favorable public relations.

The procedures set forth herein are intended to ensure the safe and effective use of Canine Teams. The decision to use a canine in accordance with this policy shall be deemed an act of discretion and shall be reviewed in light of the circumstances and information that is reasonably available to the canine handler at the time the decision is made.

***POLICY***

The use of properly trained Canine Teams is a valuable law enforcement tool, employing the canine's distinguished abilities to enhance officer and public safety.

Therefore, it is the policy of the New Smyrna Beach Police Department to maintain a fully operational Canine Unit whose mission is to support patrol officers and investigators in the protection of persons and property from offenders that may pose a threat to the community.

Canine deployments may include, but not be limited to: Criminal apprehension, tracking, building and area searches, officer protection, evidence recovery, crowd control, narcotics detection, and public demonstrations. Canine

deployment shall be documented utilizing the appropriate form and/ or report. (CFA 14.11M-F)

## **DEFINITIONS**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT CANINE:** A working class dog that has been procured and specially trained to execute a number of specific tasks that make use of the canine's acute senses and physical capabilities.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT CANINE HANDLER:** An officer assigned to the canine unit, who has successfully completed a state approved training course in the handling, care, and training of a dog for law enforcement use.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT CANINE TEAM:** A police canine handler and their designated police canine.

**CANINE UNIT SERGEANT:** A sergeant qualified in road supervision, canine law enforcement operations through specialized training and / or experience in administrative duties enforcement operations. The Special Operations Sergeant will normally be assigned to this function.

## **ORGANIZATION & RESPONSIBILITIES**

**14.11.1 THE CANINE UNIT SERGEANT:** Is responsible for the administrative and operational aspects of the Canine Unit.

- Review Canine Unit directives and modify, if necessary.
- If on-duty, the road supervision, direction, and discipline of canine teams otherwise, the normal chain of command applies.
- Evaluation of the Canine handler.
- To promote a positive and productive work environment for subordinates, as well as promote good work ethic and morale within the Canine Unit.
- Foster a constructive learning environment that imparts the practical skills and knowledge required to safely perform the duties of an effective canine team.
- Learn progressive canine training methods, diverse theories, and innovative practices through educational media, seminars, and networking.
- Deliver guidance and instruction with canine related concerns on patrol.
- Establish working liaisons with local, state, and federal agencies.
- Participate in the selection of new canine handlers, and, if justified, the removal of current canine handlers.
- Review monthly activity records of canine teams and insure that accurate training records are properly filed.
- Review and approve/disapprove all administrative requests, such as time off, training, schools, and equipment needs and forward to the Division Commanding Officer.
- Monitor Canine Use of Force Reports and adherence to department policy by all Canine handlers.
- Review canine deployments and use of force bite ratios for training issues.
- Ensure that all canine handlers possess the current certifications needed to perform duties.
- Ensure that all certifications are current for all canine teams, including all specialty skills, and that proof of certifications are forwarded to the Office of Professional Standards.
- Conduct inspections of personnel, canines, equipment, and training aids.
- Periodically attend canine training for the evaluation of Canine Teams and training methods. Acquisition and disposition of canines and related equipment.
- Maintain inventory of assigned canine equipment and request additional supplies.

**14.11.2 THE CANINE HANDLER:** Deployment of the canine and appropriate reports relative to the utilization. (CFA 14.11M-C)

- Documentation of all canine utilization, including training records and monthly statistics.
- Care of canines to include food, water, exercise, grooming, bathing, veterinary care, and cleaning their living environment.
- Active participation and cooperation during canine training.
- Familiarization with department directives and current case law pertaining to the deployment of canines.
- Canines will be housed at the handler's property. Handlers will not use agency canines for personal monetary gain.

**14.11.3 VETERINARY CARE PROCEDURES:** Canine handlers will follow these procedures for veterinary care. Any questions pertaining to a canine's health should be directed to the canine unit sergeant.

- If a canine has symptoms of illness, the agency veterinarian should be called for treatment. The canine unit sergeant shall then be notified of a canine's ill health and advised of its ability to work as a police dog.
- If emergency treatment is required, other than during normal visiting hours, the agency veterinarian will be contacted and handlers will be guided by his/her advice for treatment. If unavailable, an emergency clinic may be used. The canine unit sergeant will be notified immediately.
- In no case will an appointment with any specialist be made without prior authorization of the canine unit sergeant and Division Commanding Officer.
- Only the agency's designated veterinarians will treat agency canines, unless notification cannot be made in the event of an emergency or other mitigating circumstances.
- The canine handler is responsible to carrying out treatment recommended and/or prescribed by the veterinarian.
- Shall ensure the canine receives a physical exam annually.
- Shall ensure that the canine's vaccinations are current, and that the dog is properly licensed.

**14.11.4 USE AND CARE OF CANINE UNIT VEHICLES:** Each canine handler is assigned a specially equipped police department vehicle that is clearly marked, "Caution K-9 Unit." This is required for callout response on a twenty-four hour basis.

- Due to the special use associated with the Canine Unit vehicles requires special attention to cleanliness:
  - The driver's compartment will be kept free of hair, dust, dirt, and/or paper/trash.
  - The cage area of the Canine Unit will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each 2/3-day tour of duty.
- Sufficient fuel shall be maintained at all times so that canine handlers may respond directly to any incident within the city.
- Canine handlers shall not use their canine vehicles to transport prisoners or civilians requesting transportation. A handler will request that a patrol unit respond for this purpose.
- Canine officers shall keep their radios on the primary radio channel and be available should their services be required.
- Handlers will leave the unit running with the air conditioner and fan on for the health of the K-9.
- Except when another officer is riding, both passenger doors will remain locked at all times.
- No handler shall permit anyone to pet the K-9 while the animal is in the vehicle.
- Vehicles shall be secured and locked at all times when unoccupied.

***CANINE HANDLER QUALIFICATIONS***

**14.11.5** A minimum of (2) two years of continuous employment as a full-time certified law enforcement officer with the New Smyrna Beach Police Department or previous canine handler experience with another agency. *(CFA 14.11M-B)*

- Be in good physical condition that is consistent with the application requirements outlined in this directive,

and as necessary to perform the duties of a canine handler.

- Capable of working nights and able to adjust to unscheduled changes in work shifts and assignments.
- Willing to be on-call and able to respond to canine call-outs in a timely manner.
- Capable of housing the canine indoors or properly fenced property and an approved kennel enclosure.

**14.11.6** Canine handlers are required to keep the canine at their residence, and it is preferred that the handler and the canine live within a single-family residence.

- Appropriate signage, warning visitors as to the presence of a canine, is provided and must be posted on all sides of the premises.

**14.11.7** Candidates should display or demonstrate:

- High job proficiency and activity as a law enforcement officer;
- Ability to work well independently, in the absence of direct supervision;
- Competent thinking and calm nerves under stress, making rational decisions in a timely manner;
- Effective communication skills and ability to speak comfortably in public;
- Strong job interest and dedication to the community, police department, and canine program;
- Responsiveness to constructive criticism and willingness to learn and improve.

**14.11.8** Considerations for prospective canine handlers:

- Sufficient thought should be given to this position prior to taking on the additional responsibilities, as it requires extra commitment at work and the new obligation can be demanding on life at home.
- Canine handlers are regularly involved in dangerous situations of intensified risk.
- Canine handlers may be susceptible to increased liability.
- Canine call-outs occur more often than call-outs of patrol officers and can be frequent.
- Canine handlers' work schedules are changed regularly to meet the needs of the department.
- The canine is also the handler's companion and the canine's wellbeing depends on the attitude and care shown by the handler and each member of the handler's family. Any allergies to animals should also be of concern.

**14.11.9** Due to the substantial investment of time and money in training and equipping a canine team, officers selected as canine handlers will be expected to remain in the Canine Unit for the working life of their canine, unless exigent circumstances arises.

**14.11.10** The police department owns all canines. Should a handler leave the canine unit, voluntarily or otherwise, the Canine Unit Sergeant decides the next appointment for the departing handler's canine.

***APPLICATION PROCESS***  
***(CFA 14.11M-B)***

**14.11.11** Once an opening in the canine unit has been posted, all interested officers must submit a memorandum to the Canine Unit Sergeant through their chain of command. All applicants shall contact the Canine Unit Sergeant to participate in the selection process.

- Applicants will then be assigned to ride with a canine team during a shift so that a handler can demonstrate the duties and describe the responsibilities related to the position, including the advantages and disadvantages.
- Prospective handlers are also required to attend in-service training conducted by the canine trainer. This will include:
  - Exposure Walk: To evaluate applicant's ability to handle a canine and various terrains.

- Fieldwork: To evaluate the applicant's interaction with a canine.
- Apprehension: To determine if the candidate is afraid of police canines.

**14.11.12** The Division Commanding Officer, Canine Sergeant, and members of the canine unit will conduct oral interviews of the candidates to include:

- Interviews of the applicant's past and present supervisors.
- Review of personnel file, to include excessive use of sick time.
- Review of disciplinary record, to include sustained excessive use of force complaints.
- Interview of the applicant's family or significant other.

**14.11.13** Once testing is completed, the Canine Unit Sergeant will submit a memorandum through the chain of command, listing the qualified candidates for selection by the Chief of Police.

***GENERAL USE OF CANINE TEAMS***

**14.11.14** Hours of work: Canine Teams will work twelve-hour shifts. One hour a day will be used for the care and maintenance of the canine working dog.

**14.11.15** Although their greatest value may be their deterrent factor, the use of canines may be the most beneficial and safest of options available in certain situations.

**14.11.16** Canine handlers must be able to appraise various situations and react appropriately, based upon their training, current law, and agency policies and procedures regarding use of force.

**14.11.17** In order for the canine program to function properly, canine teams should not normally be dispatched as the primary unit on a report type call. However, when calls for service are backlogged, canine teams may be required to respond to routine calls for service.

**14.11.18** Canine teams should respond to calls having a high level of response priority, to include: *(CFA 14.11M-A)*

- All burglary in-progress calls, intrusion and/or robbery alarms, felonies in progress or just occurred.
- All felony or serious misdemeanor crimes where the suspect has fled on foot and a possible tracking event may develop.
- All alarms or open door / window calls where the canine team will be the unit primarily responsible for conducting the building search.
- All major disturbances, large crowds, or parties where the canine team could be needed for crowd control.
- Lost/missing person calls with suspicious circumstances or safety concerns.
- Calls where the canine may be utilized to search an area or vehicle for evidence and / or contraband.
- Any call for service where a canine team would be considered an asset.
- If a canine team is not on duty, a shift supervisor should consider calling out a canine unit for any of these situations.

**14.11.19** Factors to be considered before a canine call-out:

- Nature and severity of crime.
- Time lapse between the time the offense was committed and the estimated arrival time of canine.
- Containment of the crime scene and/or perimeter.
- Likelihood that the suspect(s) remained in the area.

- Weather conditions such as rain.
- Scene contamination.

**14.11.20** A New Smyrna Beach Police Department canine team may be called out before requesting canine assistance from another agency.

**14.11.21** Prior to deploying a police canine in response to a specific situation, the handler shall first evaluate the situation to determine whether the use of the canine is warranted and/or feasible.

- The final decision to use, or not to use, the canine in accordance with this policy is at the discretion of the handler, as the handler is ultimately responsible for the proper use and control of their assigned canine.
- If the decision is made not to use the canine, the canine handler can provide other needed assistance.
- Conflicts regarding the use of the canine shall be referred to the Canine Unit Sergeant.

***OPERATIONAL USE OF CANINE TEAMS  
(CFA 14.11M-A)***

**14.11.22** In all searches for known or suspected armed suspects, the canine handler will be accompanied by at least one back-up officer, and a radio channel will be designated for emergency traffic.

- Officers backing up the canine unit are responsible for radio traffic, such as updating their location, direction, and status. They should stay close to the canine handler and should not directly illuminate the canine team.
- It is paramount that officers remain vigilant of their surroundings and do not watch the dog work, as this is the responsibility of the handler.

**14.11.23 TRACKING:** Canine teams follow the ground scent that a suspect leaves while in-flight.

- During tracking situations, the dog will be on lead.
- During tracking events, the perimeter will be established by the initiating officer on scene and secured by patrol units while the canine team responds for the track.
- Any suspect description, criminal charges, weapons involved, and direction of travel will also be communicated to responding officers via radio.
- If for some reason a patrol unit entered the tracking area prior to the arrival of the canine team, he/she should immediately exit the area and relay this information to the tracking canine team so that the canine handler can judge the canine's change of behavior in the contaminated area.
- Perimeter units shall remain in their patrol cars with emergency lights activated in an effort to stop further progress by the suspect.
- Perimeter units will not enter the tracking area on foot, as this will cause contamination, giving the suspect a greater opportunity to elude the canine team.

**14.11.24 AREA SEARCHES:** Canine teams search open areas using windborne scent to locate suspects who have concealed themselves, missing persons, evidence, or discarded contraband or evidence.

- A perimeter will be established by the officer on scene and maintained by responding patrol units until advised otherwise.
- The handler will conduct most open area searches with the dog on lead. This does not preclude the handler from allowing the dog to apprehend a suspect.
- If the dog indicates the possible presence of a hidden offender, and if circumstances permit, a warning will be given and the offender will be afforded an opportunity to surrender prior to release of the canine.

**14.11.25**    **ENCLOSED AREAS:** When searching an enclosed area or fenced-in open area, the handler may conduct the search off lead providing the handler has made every reasonable effort to ensure that no authorized persons are within the area. This will include, but should not be limited to, giving the standard verbal warning indicating the presence of a police canine.

**14.11.26**    **BUILDING SEARCHES:** Canine teams can search the interior of a building utilizing the dog's ability to locate the concentrated scent of a hidden suspect.

- When it appears that a burglary has been committed, or a suspect is believed to be present, the search of a building's interior will normally be off lead. However, in certain cases, it is recommended that the canine search on lead.
- If circumstances permit, the owner of any building or establishment will be contacted to determine if anyone has permission to be inside. The owner's response to the scene may allow the canine team safer access to the building.
- The handler is required to issue (2) two loud, clear verbal warnings to alert anyone inside that a canine is about to search the premises.
  - The handler will then wait a reasonable amount of time to allow the suspect(s) to surrender.
- An additional warning will be issued while progressing through a large building or area and upon entering each floor of a multi-floor structure.
- Should the canine alert to a person behind a closed door in the building, the warnings shall be repeated, unless extenuating circumstances exist (absence of cover, etc.).

**14.11.27**    Canine handlers will use their own discretion when deploying a canine in a building, taking into consideration the following:

- Broken glass at point of entry.
- Cut or jagged metal.
- Distance of break from the ground.
- Potential presence of any type of hazards on the floor.
- Canines will not be lowered into any building for a search unless it is known on what type of surface / material the canine will be landing.

**14.11.28**    Patrol officers shall not search buildings if there is a canine team available to perform the search, regardless of how minor the situation.

**14.11.29**    Persons will not be allowed into the building while the canine team is searching the building. Officers accompanying the canine team should remain close to the handler to watch for possible threats.

**14.11.30**    Patrol units will be responsible for setting up a perimeter around the structure to be searched and maintaining that perimeter until the search is complete.

**14.11.31**    **CHASING:** Chase situations present themselves whenever the dog is released to prevent the escape of a suspect whom an officer has probable cause to arrest for a felony criminal offense.

- Before releasing the canine, the handler should know the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses a potential threat to officers or citizens, and whether the suspect is actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest by flight.

**14.11.32**    Prior to releasing the canine, and throughout the chase, the handler will ensure that:

- There is no obvious danger to the public that will result from the release of the canine.

- If time and circumstances permit, a warning will be given prior to releasing the canine, unless it would otherwise increase the risk of injury or escape. This warning should be given as follows: "POLICE K-9, STOP OR I'LL RELEASE THE DOG."
- Officers hearing this warning should immediately stop running to avoid being targeted by the canine.
- The handler must maintain visual contact with the canine throughout the chase.
- In the event that visual contact is lost, the handler will immediately recall the canine.

**14.11.33** If the suspect surrenders prior to contact, the handler will immediately recall the canine.

**14.11.34 CROWD CONTROL:** It is recognized that canine teams can be used effectively for controlling and moving large groups of people. Therefore, it will be the policy of the New Smyrna Beach Police Department to utilize canine teams for crowd control situations under specific circumstances, as follows:

- The canine handler has the discretion to deploy his canine in a defensive posture on lead. i.e. to protect officers, citizens and/or property from hostile attack.
- Supervisory authorization is required in order to utilize the canine in an offensive posture on lead for moving or dispersing large crowds of non-compliant subjects.
- When specifically requested, and approved by a supervisor, at any event where very large crowds are anticipated. The canine teams will be deployed in a manner that provides maximum visibility.
- The commanding officer on the scene, with the assistance of a Canine Unit supervisor (if available), will assume the responsibility for all canine teams deployed.
- A Canine Unit supervisor should be present if at all possible when canine teams are deployed to control crowds.
- Canine teams will always be used in conjunction with other officers in a coordinated effort.

**14.11.35 PUBLIC RELATIONS:** All public relations requests to demonstrate the abilities of a police canine will be routed to the Canine Unit Sergeant for review.

- If approved, it is preferred that at least (2) two canine teams attend the demonstration. Requests should provide ample time to allow for this consideration.

**14.11.36 DISASTER OPERATIONS:** The Canine Unit will assume the following security role during disaster situations.

- Off-Duty Canine Unit officers will be contacted and notified of the possibility of a call-up, advised to secure their families and homes and prepare for extended duty.
- On-Duty Canine Unit officers will be relieved at the direction of the Canine Unit Sergeant to secure their homes and families.
- They will be instructed to return to work as soon as possible with clean uniforms, toiletries, food, water, canine necessities, etc.
- Canine Unit officers will receive their instructions from the Incident Commander overseeing emergency operations conducted by the police department or the Canine Unit Sergeant.
- Canine Unit officers should be utilized to patrol areas where looting is likely (i.e. shopping centers, business areas, and evacuated residential areas), or to secure large scenes.

**14.11.37 OTHER APPLICATIONS:**

- Felony arrests: (Pick-up requests and/or search warrants).
- Dignitary protection.
- SWAT call-outs.
- Undercover operations (support).

## *USE OF FORCE GUIDELINES*

**14.11.38** The canine is not utilized as a weapon when searching for inanimate objects, and searches for people are not always successful or intended to be a use of force. Additionally, if a suspect is located, the use of force may, or may not, be necessary by the canine or the handler, as it is dependent upon the level of resistance offered by the offender. Therefore, the mere deployment of a police canine shall not be considered a use of force.

**14.11.39** Handlers must be cognizant that law enforcement officers can only use reasonable force to effectively subdue and maintain custody and control of a suspect. In response to a suspect's level of resistance, handlers must respond in kind through escalation, de-escalation, and/or disengagement.

**14.11.40** When a deployment of a police canine results in the physical apprehension of a suspect, it shall be considered a use of less than lethal force, as the canine is neither likely nor intended to cause death or serious physical injury to the offender.

**14.11.41** A police canine may be used to track and apprehend an individual if the canine handler reasonably believes that the individual has either committed, or is in the process of committing a felony or serious misdemeanor, and if any of the following conditions exist:

- There is reasonable belief that the individual poses an imminent threat of violence to him / herself, the public, or law enforcement.
- The individual is physically resisting arrest and the use of a canine reasonably appears to be necessary to overcome such resistance.
- The individual is concealed in an area where entry by other than the canine would pose a threat to the safety of officers or the public.

**14.11.42** Additional factors to be considered by the handler before deploying their canine in a possible apprehension scenario:

- The existence of criminal charges and their severity.
- Officer/subject factors.
- The proximity, availability, or likelihood of weapons.
- The training and experience of the canine team (know your capabilities and respect your limits).
- The potential for injury to citizens, officers, and suspects.
- The risk of escape by the offender and the threat to the community.
- Availability of other options and their probable success

**14.11.43** In all apprehensions, the canine handler will recall their canine as soon as the suspect has been taken into custody. When the canine is under the physical control of the handler, back-up officers will be directed to take the suspect into custody. At no time should they come near the dog while he is apprehending the suspect.

**14.11.44** It is recognized that situations may arise that do not fall within the provisions set forth in this policy.

**14.11.45** In any such case, a standard of objective reasonableness shall be used to review the handler's decision to deploy a police canine in view of the totality of the circumstances.

**14.11.46** It should also be remembered that a police canine is a trained animal that responds to its surroundings and is trained to react to certain stimuli without the direction of the handler.

**14.11.47** Furthermore, no amount of training can completely override a canine's instincts. Due to these

variables, there may be instances where the canine causes a use of force to occur, such as handler protection.

### ***GUIDELINES FOR PHYSICAL APPREHENSIONS***

**14.11.48** In accordance with the Use of Force guidelines, the following examples are representative of the type of situations where physical apprehension by the canine may be authorized:

- To stop a suspect of a criminal offense by releasing the canine.
- Battery upon the canine handler, other police officers, and / or the canine.
- To prevent injury to any officer or civilian.
- To prevent the escape of a known felon.

**14.11.49** When the canine locates a suspect and circumstances prevent the handler from stopping the apprehension, such as:

- Off lead searches of areas, buildings, and compounds where the suspect is accessible to the dog.
- A spontaneous bite of a suspect hidden from the canine handler on a track.
- The canine's inability to avoid contact when recalled due to a fleeing suspect's last second surrender upon realizing apprehension by the dog was imminent and inescapable.

### ***INAPPROPRIATE USE OF CANINE***

**14.11.50** To affect the apprehension of a person known to be highly intoxicated or feeble, and who obviously could not escape arrest or violently resist the officer.

**14.11.51** Canine handlers will not use the canine to intimidate, coerce, or frighten a suspect for the purpose of gaining information or a confession regarding an offense.

**14.11.52** Allowing the canine to chase a person for mere flight from an officer is prohibited, unless probable cause exists for a felony arrest.

**14.11.53** In any instance where the handler commands their canine to make an unjustified physical apprehension of any person, or takes part in any activity in violation of this directive, that handler will be subject to disciplinary action and / or transfer from the Canine Unit.

### ***REPORTING CANINE RELATED INJURIES***

**14.11.54** In the event of a physical apprehension by a police canine, the handler shall immediately notify a supervisor of the occurrence.

- Arrange transportation in a police vehicle to a hospital for medical attention, no matter how slight the injury. If a suspect or person refuses medical treatment, it will be documented in the report.
- The on-duty Patrol supervisor shall be notified as soon as possible after the incident. The supervisor will then notify the appropriate Command Staff member.
- The incident and injuries shall be documented at minimum by means of an incident or supplement report, color photographs, and follow the Use of Force reporting procedures.
- A copy of all documentation shall be submitted via the chain of command to the Chief of Police.
- The on-duty supervisor will conduct interviews of all involved parties immediately after the incident, to include suspects, officers, witnesses, doctors, and nurses.

#### **14.11.55 ACCIDENTAL BITES:**

- While on-duty, an accidental bite of law enforcement personnel or civilians will be reported via the chain of command.
  - Render first aid and arrange for transportation to a medical facility, unless refused
  - The on-duty Patrol supervisor shall be notified as soon as possible after the incident. The supervisor will then notify the Operations Division Commander or on call administrator.
  - The incident shall be documented in an information report.
  - Medical treatment shall be sought as soon as possible if necessary.
- All accidental bites occurring off-duty will be reported to the Operations Division Commander and followed up with a written memo.

**14.11.56 INJURED/INCAPACITATED HANDLER:** In the event of an accident or injury, which renders a canine handler incapable of controlling his canine, any available canine handler (on duty or off duty) will be summoned to take charge of the canine.

- In the absence of an available canine handler and if response time is not critical, a responsible member of the injured officer's family, who is capable of controlling the canine will be summoned to take charge of the canine. Canine handlers from other jurisdictions may also be utilized, if a department handler is not readily available.
- In any event where a canine handler is injured, the on-duty shift supervisor will immediately notify the Division Commanding Officer and Canine Sergeant.
- If time is critical to render aid to the injured canine handler, appropriate measures, with the approval of the shift supervisor, may be taken to neutralize the canine.

### ***UTILIZATION OF DRUG DETECTION CANINE TEAMS***

**14.11.57** Drug canines may be deployed to detect the odor of illegal narcotics in, on, or about any item, structure, or conveyance for which a law enforcement officer has legal access.

- Drug canines are trained to respond to the odor of illegal narcotics, such as marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and MDMA.
- There are several different search applications for drug canines, and the handler's knowledge of current case law is vital to the case. The handler will document all deployments of the drug canine.

**14.11.58** The following provides a guideline and procedures to be followed when utilizing a drug canine.

- **CURRENCY EXAMINATIONS:** Handlers will use their discretion on currency examinations, taking into account how the money was handled prior to the exam. This will assure the handler is aware of unintentional, inadvertent contamination before the exam is conducted.
- **PARCEL EXAMINATION:** Handlers will not normally deploy their canines while employees of the business are present or working. (Exception: The exam will be conducted at request of management or loss prevention officer.)
  - The handler has the discretion to conduct the exam on or off lead.
  - The New Smyrna Police Department may utilize detector canines to conduct "random examinations" with the approval of the business.
- **VEHICLE EXAMINATION:** The requesting officer will inform the handler of all circumstances involving the

investigation.

- The requesting officer should not search the vehicle prior to the arrival of the canine team.
  - The requesting officer will have the driver turn off the vehicle and have all passengers exit the vehicle to a safe location prior to the approach by the canine team.
  - An alert by the canine on the vehicle exterior is probable cause to place the dog inside the vehicle for a detailed examination.
- **BUILDINGS/ SEARCH WARRANTS:** Handlers will have legal authority or permission from ownership prior to conducting examinations.
    - Persons and animals will be removed from buildings and rooms to prevent injury and/or interference with the search sequence.
    - The handler has the discretion to conduct the examination on or off lead. Handlers will use a systematic search pattern when conducting examinations.
    - All hazardous materials, drug paraphernalia, or drugs in plain view should be removed prior to examination by the canine.
    - The requesting officer should not search the building/room prior to the arrival of the canine. The handler has the final decision whether to deploy his canine.

### ***DRUG DETECTION TRAINING AIDS***

**14.11.59** Canine teams use scent pack training aids (scent pack) obtained under a Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to use as training aids. The training aids are pre-packaged, sealed, weighed, and labeled.

**14.11.60** Drug detention training is conducted with the Edgewater Police Department K-9 Unit. Drug detention training is conducted by utilizing training aids that are sole property of the Edgewater Police Department.

**14.11.61** If a scent pack used by the NSBPD K-9 handler while training is found to be missing, lost, or compromise, the NSBPD canine handler shall immediately notify both Edgewater and NSBPD K-9 Unit supervisors.

- A written report will be submitted by the NSBPD K-9 handler to both agencies before the officers end of his/her tour of duty. The report shall document the type of drug(s) and their respective weights(s).

**14.11.62** The notified NSBPD supervisor shall complete a preliminary investigation and forward the completed report via the chain of command to the Chief of Police for assignment to the Office of Professional Standards for continued investigation if it rises to that level.

### ***CERTIFICATION & TRAINING***

**14.11.63** Only canine teams, (handler & canine), with current CJSTC certification, as defined in [Rule 11B-27.013](#), Florida Administrative Code, are authorized to participate in canine deployments beyond routine contraband searches. *(CFA 14.11M-D,E)*

- Canine teams, (handler & canine), must recertify annually by passing the proficiency examination.
- Canine Teams that fail to certify shall not be used until certification is obtained.
- Each canine team must attend weekly in-service training, unless excused by the canine sergeant. All training shall be documented.

### ***UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT***

**14.11.64** Canine officers are authorized to wear the approved canine duty uniform or the uniform of the day. No unauthorized uniform apparel or items will be worn without the approval of the Division Commander.

**14.11.65** Each handler will be issued equipment for handling and caring for their canine by the Quartermaster and will be accountable for this equipment during inspections.

- Handlers will be responsible for the maintenance of issued equipment. All expendable items will be turned in to the Quartermaster for proper disposal, repair, or replacement.

**14.11.66** Canine officers are required to have the following additional items in their vehicles.

- Short traffic lead
- Choke chain.
- (6) Six foot lead
- (15) Fifteen foot nylon tracking lead
- (30) Thirty foot lead
- Tracking harness.
- Pinch Collar.
- Electric collar.
- Leather agitation collar
- Muzzle
- Stainless Steel Water Bowl
- First Aid Kit For Canine

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**Approved:** Signature on File  
**Chief Mike Coffin**