



# BRAINTREE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Policy and Procedure

### Canine Operations

2019-76

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Certification Standards: **1.3.4; 41.1.4 a,b,c,d; 46.1.3h**

Accreditation Standards: **83.2.4 b**

Optional Accreditation Standards:

- Background** Canines function as a support service, when integrated into the regular patrol force, will supplement and assist primary response units in fulfilling the department's public safety mission. This policy will outline the criteria for the unit, qualifications, training, and equipment required for the Canine Handler. **[41.1.4 a]**
- Policy** It is the policy of the Braintree Police Department to staff, train, deploy and maintain Canine Teams. The Department recognizes that canines are a valuable law enforcement tool due to their superior sense of smell, hearing and tracking ability. Police canine functions include tracking, criminal apprehension, missing persons, evidence recovery, narcotics detection, crowd control, and other police functions. Police canines may also be used in public relations events and demonstrations.
- Overview** The Canine Officer will keep his/her canine in the cruiser when leaving the vehicle to answer routine complaints or calls for service. During such times the handler is away from his/her cruiser, both the cruiser and the sliding partition door separating the canine compartment from the front portion of the cruiser shall be locked. The Canine Handler will have his/her canine under direct control at all times. During cases of searching or tracking in open or otherwise populated areas the canine shall be kept on leash by the handler unless situations dictate otherwise.

When a Canine Officer is assigned to a sector, the Canine Officer will answer to the radio call sign of the sector in which they are working.

Canine Officers will be prepared to respond to any call where their services might be required, i.e., crimes in progress, alarms, breaks, open/secured buildings, fleeing suspects, etc., without consideration as to whether or not they are working as a sector or the location of the incident. Canine Officers shall notify Communications over the radio they are responding so officers and supervisors know. When a Canine Officer is responding to an incident, it should be done in addition to, not substitution of, the normal primary and secondary responding units.

Teasing, agitating or roughhousing with a police canine is strictly prohibited unless performed as part of a training exercise or demonstration.

Handlers shall not permit anyone to pet or hug their canine unless such action is required pursuant to training. Should a civilian express a desire to do so, he/she should be informed that police canines are serious working dogs and that they can be dangerous if improperly approached. Handlers are encouraged not to allow or participate in this activity.

Working patrol dogs are not house pets. While at home, off-duty with their handlers, canines shall be kenneled at all times when not under the immediate, direct control of the handler, particularly when other persons, including family or friends, are present. Exceptions to this rule include home canine training, grooming, exercise, and bathroom necessities.

#### Definitions

**Canine Team:** A specially trained police officer/handler and canine who work as a unit.

**Canine Supervisor:** A ranking officer, designated by the Chief of Police, who is responsible for managing, supervising, and supporting the Canine Team.

**Canine Warning:** An audible warning, when practical, that announces the official police presence and intention to use a canine who is trained to bite, when there is no indication of surrender or compliance by the offender.

**Passive response:** The canine alerts to the presence of a controlled

substance or other material by sitting, standing, lying down passively or any non-destructive indicator consistent with training.

**Canine Contact:** Any injury caused by a law enforcement canine maintained by the Town of Braintree.

Canine Team  
Deployment

**Canine Handling:** Only police officers trained to handle canines and authorized by the Chief of Police may handle a canine. The handler, exclusively, shall maintain control of the canine at all times. Police canines shall not be given commands by anyone other than the assigned handler. **[41.1.4 a]**

The decision to use a canine is the responsibility of a Supervisor. Tactical decisions regarding deployment of the canine are the responsibility of the handler. The on-scene Supervisor may instruct the handler not to deploy the canine. **[41.1.4 a]**

Arrestees shall not be transported in a vehicle with a police canine unless alternative transportation is not available and immediate transportation is required for safety or security reasons. **[41.1.4 a]**

The Canine Team may be called by the Department during off duty time for canine related services when authorized by a Supervisor. In the event of a canine call out, Braintree Police Canine Officers should be the first call. However, if a nearby outside agency has a canine working Supervisors have the discretion to utilize that canine. When Braintree Police Canine Officers are unavailable, a request for an out of town Canine Team should be made.

Mutual Aid

When the Braintree Police Department receives a request from another agency for the services of their Canine Team, the dispatcher shall notify the Shift Commander and provide a description of the incident. The Shift Commander may authorize the mutual aid request. If no team is on duty, the Shift Commander may authorize an off duty team to respond. **[41.1.4 a]**

A Canine Team may not leave the Town of Braintree without the authorization of the Shift Commander or Patrol Supervisor. **[41.1.4 a]**

When the Braintree Police Canine Unit operates outside their jurisdiction, it shall follow the policy and procedures set forth by the Braintree Police Department.

Operations  
**41.1.4 a**

**Crowd Control:** Canines shall be restrained at all times on a leash no longer than six feet that is attached to a collar or harness. Canines shall remain muzzled at all times unless removal of the muzzle is

necessary for officer safety. The team shall allow open avenues of escape to the crowd. Canines shall **not** be used for crowd control at nonviolent demonstrations.

**Drug Detection:** Random exploratory sniffing of objects in public places may be authorized by the Shift Commander or Patrol Supervisor. Such sniffing should be confined to areas open to the general public with the advanced knowledge to an individual with apparent authority of the premises, if there is one. Canine sniffs in areas restricted to the public, such as baggage staging areas, are considered searches and require reasonable suspicion or probable cause to believe specific items contain illegal narcotics. Sniffing of an individual is permitted when there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the individual is in possession of illegal narcotics. Sniffing of individuals shall be conducted using passive response dogs.

**Canines in Schools:** The intent of Canine Operations in schools is to provide a safe, stable and drug-free learning environment for the high school community and to do so in the least disruptive manner.

**Deployment:** A plainclothes officer and a passive alert single purpose Canine will conduct Canine Narcotic Searches. This will be done to minimize disruption to the learning environment and to minimize fear. The Canine Officer will notify the Headmaster or his/her designee, of his/her presence just prior to conducting a search. Searches will be conducted on random days and times. Searches will be conducted in locker and common areas and parking lots at random. Interior searches will only be conducted while students are in class. A lockdown or shelter in place will not be required. The Canine Team will conduct a search of a specific area (***not at random***) upon request by the Headmaster or his/her designee or if reasonable suspicion arises. If classes are released unexpectedly (Fire or Emergency) while the Canine is in the school, the search will end immediately, unless safety and/or security dictate otherwise.

**Positive Alert:** In the event of a positive alert, the Headmaster or his/her designee will be notified and will be responsible for searching the property. The police will assist in, or conduct the search, only when requested by the Headmaster or his/her designee or when evidence of criminal behavior is located. If possible, the student will be present when a physical search of his/her property is conducted.

**Disposition/Discipline:** If/when non-criminal contraband is located, it ***shall*** be handled by the school administratively and at minimum

parents will be contacted and a police master card created and a report written. In the event criminal evidence is located (class A,B,C,E narcotics or other criminal evidence), the Canine Officer and School Resource Officer (SRO), if available, will use their discretion on what action to take, re: parental, administrative, civil, and/or criminal.

All drugs seized will be turned over to the Canine Officer or SRO for destruction or to be entered into evidence for criminal prosecution.

The Canine Officer will write a report on every school deployment regardless of whether or not drugs were located and seized.

### **Other Canine Operations**

Single purposes ballistic detection Canine Teams should be deployed in the same manner as the Narcotics Canine, should the need arise.

Larger scale multi-agency "Lock Down" type searches as conducted in surrounding communities, will be conducted only at the request of the Superintendent of Schools and with approval of the School Committee.

**Building Searches:** Officers at the scene will secure the area, by requesting whatever assistance is necessary to prevent escape from the building. If possible, all unnecessary persons shall be removed from the structure prior to the search. Officers should take care not to enter the building or allow others to contaminate the area unless told to do so by a Supervisor. The Canine Officer must be accompanied by a Cover Officer prior to the search. Whenever possible, and prior to entering, the suspect should be audibly advised that the canine is to be deployed and will use force, if necessary. At the handler's discretion, the canine may be unleashed at any time during the search if appropriate.

**Tracking:** Canines used in tracking shall remain on a leash. Tracking off-leash should only be considered when the threat level to officers or civilians is high. With Supervisor approval, canines may be used to locate subjects suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, lost or missing persons, and those known to be suffering from mental illness if their safety or the safety of others is at risk. These searches will only be done on leash.

**Search Warrants:** Canines may assist in the execution of search warrants with Supervisor approval.

**Arrests/Apprehensions:** In arresting or apprehending a suspect

using a canine, the handler must remember that the use of the dog can constitute a use of force. The Canine Team will use only that force which is necessary to apprehend and /or overcome resistance that may be offered by the suspect. The decision to deploy a canine should be guided by consideration of the following factors:

- a) The severity of the crime;
- b) Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of officers or the public;
- c) Whether the suspect is actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest at the time;
- d) The risk posed to police and the public if a canine is not deployed; and
- e) The probability that a suspect will escape if a canine is not deployed, and; other factors known at the time the decision is made.
- f) A canine shall never be used to bite a compliant subject.
- g) When apprehending suspects, canines shall be disengaged as soon as it is safe to do so.

Once the subject is secured, the canine's apprehension should cease immediately. The handler shall then offer medical assistance and notify EMS.

A Use of Force Report will be filed, detailing of the circumstances of the arrest/apprehension and any injuries including medical attention offered and received if any (refer to **Use of Force** Policy).

Canine  
Warnings  
1.3.4

A "Canine Warning" should be given prior to releasing the dog unless in the opinion of the handler doing so would cause undue risk to the Canine Team, its presence or intention.

To ensure that the suspect has received ample warning that the canine will be used to apprehend him/her, if possible, **three** warnings shall be given with the first being given without the canine present.

A warning not only allows a suspect time to surrender, it also alerts any innocent persons of the Canine Team's presence and intention.

If in the opinion of the handler it is tactically unsafe to announce the presence of the Canine Team, the canine may be deployed without warning.

Canine  
Contact

### 1.3.4

Whenever a canine bites an individual, whether on or off duty and when safe to do so, the Canine Handler shall;

- a) Examine the affected area and determine the seriousness of the injury; immediately render first aid; summon emergency medical services (EMS) and notify Control to dispatch a Patrol Supervisor.
- b) The police dispatcher shall immediately dispatch the Patrol Supervisor, if available, in order that appropriate photographs may be taken of the scene and any injuries claimed by any person(s) if practical. **[83.2.4b]**
- c) The requirement for impounding of the canine is not necessary due to the kenneling of the canine at the handlers residence and subsequent veterinary examinations.

The handler shall immediately file an incident or arrest report as well as a use of force report and other related documents. The Training Supervisor shall maintain a file of all deployment reports relating to Canine Team(s) including the following:

- a) Detailing the circumstances surrounding a deployment incident.
- b) Identify witnesses, suspects, and arrestees.
- c) Extent of injuries if known.
- d) Actions taken in response to the incident, including any After Action Report filed by a Patrol Supervisor or Incident Commander.

#### **[46.1.3 h]**

- e) Retrieve official police reports from outside jurisdictions when a department Canine Team was properly requested and actively deployed causing injuries or arrests.

### Backup Officers

Whenever possible, a back-up officer shall accompany the Canine Team and follow the handler's directions.

Determine the last known location of the subject and secure the area to reduce scent contamination and establish a perimeter.

Shut off vehicles in the area, if feasible, to minimize scent contamination by engine exhaust.

Minimize noise and confusion at the scene to avoid exciting and distracting the canine.

Do not follow or get close to a canine that is working, unless instructed to do so by the handler.

Injury to  
Canine Officer

When a Canine Officer is injured, all personnel will take the following precautions:

- a) Do not, under any circumstances, approach the canine or attempt to render immediate first aid unless fatality will result.
- b) Notify EMS immediately for the injured handler.
- c) Attempt to get the Canine Officer to control the canine.
- d) If the Canine Officer cannot control the canine attempt to get another Canine Handler to respond.
- e) If no Canine Handler is available or time does not allow, attempt to bring the Canine Cruiser as close to the scene as possible and open the rear door.
- f) Request Animal Control to assist.
- g) If a fatality or serious injury will occur as a result of delayed medical treatment, officers will take all necessary steps to aid the fallen officer, including destroying the canine if necessary.

Injury to  
Canine

In instances where the dog sustains an injury as a result of line of duty work, the Canine Officer will (unless ordered otherwise by a Supervisor) determine the ability of the animal to continue the mission.

If an injury does occur, the Canine Officer must submit a report to the Shift Commander.

In the event of an injury or illness, the Canine Officer may seek services of a department approved veterinarian. The Canine Officer will report all injuries, illnesses and or veterinarian visits in writing on his next scheduled workday to the Canine Supervisor.

Training  
**41.1.4 b**

Officers assigned as Canine Handlers shall attend and successfully complete a prescribed training program approved by the Chief of Police for the handling of and caring for the police working dog with specialized training in the dog's specific discipline. The length of the training shall be determined by the Chief of Police, in conjunction with the recommendations of the Master Trainer. The current Canines are trained under Master Trainer Sgt. Mark O'Reilly of the Massachusetts Department of Correction. Other law enforcement training programs

will be evaluated for future canines.

A training schedule shall be arranged by the Canine Officer, with the approval of the Training Supervisor, in order to keep the canine fit and provide performance consistent with the law enforcement standards. The Canine Team will attend a minimum of 16 hours of training per month in lieu of shift. The necessary time allowed for the handler to care for the canine will be one hour a day while on the shift.

Whenever a Canine Team attends training, the handler will document the training into the Canine training and report database, which is maintained on the Braintree Police Department's computer servers. The information should include the location, date, hours attended, name of person in charge of the training, as well as the specific or specialized training work the Canine Team received. A copy of this report shall be made available to the Training Supervisor.

The Canine Supervisor and Canine Handlers shall stay current in legal issues regarding the use of canines.

#### Certification

The 16 week basic patrol certification has been developed in order to train and certify handlers with untrained canines in the following areas:

- Basic Obedience Skills
- Tactical obedience
- Tracking
- Basic Agility
- Tactical Agility
- Searches (various types)
- Apprehension
- Evidence Recovery

The 12 week basic detector certification program has been developed to train and certify handlers with untrained canines in the detection of the odor of commonly abused narcotics (marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, ecstasy, opiate based prescription pills, etc. This program trains and certifies in the searching of interior, exterior, motor vehicles and people for the previously mentioned items.

#### **Obedience:**

- Heeling
  - Leash verbal control/reward
  - Off Leash verbal only/reward
- Sitting
  - Leash verbal/reward
  - Off Leash verbal only/reward

- Downing
  - Leash/verbal reward
  - Off Leash verbal only/reward
- Staying
  - Leash/verbal reward
  - Off Leash verbal only/reward

**Agility:**

- Jumping
  - On lead/Off lead Reward
  - Small objects 2 feet high
  - Medium objects up to 6 feet high
  - Large objects more than 6 feet high
- Crawling
  - On lead / off lead reward
  - Through and under obstacles
  - Drainage pipes
  - Openings
- Climbing
  - On/ off lead reward
  - Stairs
  - Small ladders
  - Fire escapes
  - Small and large objects

**Tracking:**

- Scent Pad
  - Set (4) pads with food
  - Set (3) and (1) without food
  - Set (2) and (2)
  - Set (1) and (3) without
- Foot step for Food
  - Food on every step  
Alternating food
  - Step Over
  - 15 to 90 degree turn
  - Food reward to Person apprehension

**Searching:**

- Building
  - Single room
  - Small to large search area
  - Multiple Rooms
  - Multiple floor
- Area
  - Small wooded area to large wooded area

**Apprehension:**

- Puppy Tugs
  - On and Off Lead
  - Basic Bite work
- Soft Sleeve
  - On and off Lead
  - Intermediate Bite Work
- Hard Sleeve
  - On and Off Lead
  - Advanced Bite Work
- Bite Suit
  - On and off leash
  - Advanced Bite work
- Civil Suit
  - On and off leash
  - Advanced bite work (hidden)

**Building Searches:**

Canine at door on lead, 3 warning orders given (knock at door) open door, helper agitates canine and runs off.

Canine at door on lead, 3 warning orders given (knock at door) open door, helper agitates canine, apprehension with bite or muzzle hit.

Canine at door on lead, 3 warning orders given (knock at door) open door, helper agitates canine and runs off into a second room and closes the door behind him.

Canine at door on lead 3 warning orders given (knock at door) open door, helper agitates canine and runs off into a second room and closes the door behind him, apprehension with bite or muzzle hit.

Canine off lead searches building, apprehensions with bite or muzzle hit, location identification with bark

Tactical search CQB with team in a stack formation  
apprehensions with bite or muzzle hit, location identification  
with bark, searches done with simunitions or live fire.

### **Vehicle Extraction:**

- K-9 agitation drill at door of vehicle
  - K-9 enters apprehension w/bite or muzzle hit
- K-9 off lead enters vehicle
  - Apprehension w/bite or muzzle hit

### **Crowd Control:**

- Agitation
  - Single or multiple subjects
- Formation
  - Line
  - Wedge
  - Support
- Apprehension
  - With bite or muzzle hit
  - Submission of subject
- Crowd Size
  - Small to large groups

### **Immediate Action Drill:**

- K-9 on lead
  - Subject surprises (no verbal command)
  - K-9 apprehension with bite, muzzle hit, or subject submission
- K-9 in vehicle
  - Subject located K-9 apprehension from vehicle (off lead) with bite, muzzle hit, or subject submission.

### **Certification Testing:**

Each Canine team must successfully pass each of the criteria in order to be certified. In the event the canine does not complete the certification, the instructor will work with the Canine team on weak

removed from certification on the request of the lead instructor. At the end of class each Canine team shall receive a certificate of completion.

- Obedience
  - Distance Control
    - K-9 placed in down position
    - Handler at 50 feet verbal command to return
    - K-9 off lead walking freely (recall command)
  - Tactical Obedience
    - Tactical movement
    - Various positions in stack
- Agility
  - Overcoming various obstacles
  - Overcoming different environments
- Evidence Search
  - Evidence placed in helper pocket
    - After period of time, evidence is thrown
    - K-9 on lead search command given
    - K-9 shown interest given down command (evidence indication)
    - Search area increased
    - K-9 off lead
    - Multiple evidence recovery
  - Evidence Recovery
    - Area search for evidence
    - Location identified by K-9 lying down
- Tracking
  - 1 hour old
  - 2 terrain changes
  - Track ¼ mile
  - Track 2 turns
  - Apprehension at end
- Gunfire with K-9
  - Gunfire on/off leash
  - At 30 yards (2 to 3 shots)
  - At 20 yards
  - At 10 yards
  - Gunfire near K-9 (2-3 shots)
- Tactical Movement
  - K-9 in muzzle on lead in front of 3 to 4 man stack K-9 kept quiet moving from point A to point B

- K-9 on lead in front of 3 to 4 man stack K-9 kept quiet moving from point A to point B
  - K-9 rotation of position with muzzle
  - K-9 rotation of position without muzzle
  - K-9 movement off lead (quiet)
- Apprehension
  - Courage Test
  - Short chase with gunfire
  - Building Search
  - Area Search
  - Crowd Control
- Narcotics
  - Introduction of Narcotics
  - Pseudo inside pipes
  - Basic hides
  - Intermediate hides
  - Advanced hides
  - Live narcotics
- Narcotic Search Subjects
  - Building Searches
  - Area
  - Vehicle
  - Article
    - Low to high
    - Duration
    - Single to multiple hides
  - Person
    - Duration
    - High/Low
    - Number of people
- Narcotics (Live marijuana, cocaine, heroin)
  - Building
    - 3 hides (1 high)
    - 2 blank rooms
  - Area
    - 3 hides (1 high)
  - Vehicle
    - 5 vehicles: 3 hides, 2 blanks, 2 interior, 1 exterior
  - Person
    - 7 persons: 3 hides, 4 blanks
- Narcotic Canine Indication
  - Passive (sitting/down)

- o Aggressive (scratching, biting, barking)

Handler  
Requirements  
**41.1.4 b**

A Canine Handler must possess or meet the following minimum requirements:

- a) A minimum of three full years of full-time law enforcement experience with satisfactory work performance and attendance.
- b) Physical attributes commensurate with the rigors of the handling, training and care of the canine.
- c) The ability to provide a secure outdoor area for the canine that conforms to accepted canine requirements at the home. This includes family support for having a police working canine in the home.
- d) Personal long-term commitment to the position of handler and to the canine.
- e) Ability to be on call with the canine.

As a result of the Canine Handler bonding process, a canine will not be separated from his/her handler after a period of 18 months. Reassigning the canine to a new handler would be detrimental to the canine and the program. If either the handler or canine are deemed substandard, then retraining or replacement would be the desired response.

The Chief of Police has the right of assignment of the Canine Officers.

Canine Care;  
Maintenance  
and Required  
Equipment  
**41.1.4 c d**

Officers assigned to the Canine Unit have the added responsibility of handling, training and caring for a trained police dog.

Such care includes the following:

- a) The canine will be housed on the property of the Canine Officer to whom the dog is assigned or a facility approved by the Chief of Police.
- b) Provision of food, water and general diet maintenance and grooming.
- c) Maintenance and cleaning of the kennel and yard area where canine is housed.
- d) General medical and maintenance of health care of the canine and associated records.
- e) The Canine Officer shall exercise good judgment at all times and not expose the canine or public to danger.

- f) The canine shall at all times be trained and treated in a humane manner.

The Canine Officer will be issued equipment for handling and caring for the canine. Equipment shall include but not limited to; a waist lead, 6 ft. detection lead, 10 ft. field search lead, basket muzzle, "police" labeled harness, ballistic vest, food storage vault and narcotic detection training aids. The Canine Officer will be responsible for the maintenance and proper use of all canine equipment.

All food, medical care, related equipment and expenses except the police vehicle, will be provided by the Braintree Working Dog Foundation. The department will be responsible for providing a police vehicle. The handler will be responsible for cleanliness and general maintenance.

The use of the vehicle will be at the discretion of the Chief of Police. When the handler is off duty, the vehicle shall be secured and legally parked at the residence of the handler.

Canine vehicles may be taken to details only when the dog is present and the handler has immediate access to the vehicle. Special considerations are to be given to the dog's well-being, taking into account such factors as weather conditions and the handler's availability to get the dog out for relief.

Handlers will report any cruiser deficiencies immediately to the Fleet Maintenance Supervisor.

Compensation In compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act the handler shall be compensated for caring and handling of the canine during non-working hours.

The Canine care and maintenance compensation provided shall be in the form of one (1) hour per day at straight time.

This compensation shall be provided in the following manner and is only applicable to regularly scheduled shifts and days off;

Canine Handlers will work a regularly scheduled shift of seven (7) hours, either arriving an hour after shift or leaving an hour prior to the end of shift. If more than one (1) Canine Officer is assigned to the same shift one (1) should arrive one hour late and the other should leave one (1) hour prior to the end of the shift. The Shift Commander

will determine which Canine Officer will arrive late and which Canine Officer will leave early.

Canine Handlers will receive one (1) hour per day of straight “time owed” during their regularly scheduled days off. This amounts to two (2) hours of straight time per week.

Canine  
Retirement

Upon retirement, Canine Handlers will be offered the opportunity to acquire their retired police working dog.

A Canine Handler who is promoted may be allowed to remain in the unit at the discretion of the Chief of Police.