



Series 200 Operations	Effective Date 09/01/2022	Review Date Three Years	Directive Number 201.4
Chapter 201 – Patrol Operations			
Reviewing Office Metro Division			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed
References			

CANINE (K-9) OPERATIONS

201.4 - 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidelines for the management and tactical deployment of police canines.

201.4 - 2 POLICY

Because of their superior sense of smell and hearing, the trained police canine is a valuable law enforcement tool. The Detroit Police Department (DPD) trains its canines in the “find and indicate” method of training as opposed to the more aggressive “bite and hold” training method. In 2000, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) adopted a model canine policy that mirrors the methods employed by the DPD. Utilization of canines requires strict adherence to procedures that properly controls canines use of force potential and that channel their specialized capabilities into legally acceptable crime prevention and control activities. Use of force is only authorized when it is objectively reasonable and for a lawful purpose. Any use of a DPD police canine must comply with the DPD’s Use of Force Policy (Refer to Directive 304.2).

201.4 - 3 Definitions

201.4 - 3.1 Canine Apprehension

Any time a canine is deployed and plays a clear and well documented role in the capture of a person. The mere presence of a canine at the scene of an arrest shall not be counted as an apprehension.

201.4 - 3.2 Canine Bite Ratio

The number of apprehensions accomplished by means of a dog bite divided by the total number of apprehensions (both with and without a bite).

201.4 - 3.3 Canine Deployment

Any situation, except in cases involving an on-leash article search only, in which a canine is brought to the scene and either:

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- a. The canine is released from the police vehicle in furtherance of the police action and a suspect is apprehended; or
- b. The suspect gives up immediately after an announcement is made that if they do not surrender the canine will be released.

201.4 - 3.4 Canine Team

A canine team is a Department member/handler and their assigned canine.

201.4 - 3.5 “Find and Indicate”

DPD canines are trained in and utilize the “find and indicate” search method in which the canine is trained to search for a suspect and, upon locating the suspect, controls the suspect without biting unless the suspect is actively resisting, escaping, or poses a risk of imminent danger (e.g. suspect is armed with a weapon or other instrumentality capable of producing significant bodily injury and has refused an order to disarm, articulated an intent of imminent harm, or is acting in a manner perceived to be a threat) to the handler or others.

201.4 - 3.6 Force

1. The term “force” means the following actions by a Department member:
 - a. Any physical strike or instrumental contact with a person;
 - b. Any intentional attempted physical strike or instrumental contact that does not take effect;
 - c. Any significant physical contact that restricts the movement of a person;
 - d. The discharge of a firearm;
 - e. The use of chemical spray, chokeholds, or hand holds;
 - f. The taking of a subject to the ground; or
 - g. The deployment of a canine.
2. The term does not include escorting or handcuffing a person, with no or minimal resistance.
3. Use of force is lawful if it is objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances and the minimum amount of force that is necessary to affect an arrest or protect the member or other person is used.

201.4 - 3.7 “Off-Leash” Canine Deployment

It is not always practical to require a handler to have their canine on a leash. There are a variety of instances when it would not be appropriate to do so (e.g. in circumstances where member safety is concerned). An “off-leash” search is only authorized for article searches and building searches, including secured outer perimeters (e.g. fenced commercial lots). The canine may be unleashed in those circumstances unless there is an imminent risk of injury to innocent persons in the building or other fenced-in area. If a handler is conducting an “open seek” or “open area” off-leash search, the handler must maintain control of the canine at all times.

201.4 Canine (K-9) Operations**201.4 - 4 Canine Utilization****201.4 - 4.1 General**

1. DPD canines are trained for tracking lost persons, fleeing suspects, locating persons concealed in buildings, detection of narcotics, and explosives or arson accelerants.
2. DPD canines can also be utilized for location of discarded evidence and/or articles along the route of escape of a fleeing subject. The use of a DPD canine along the route of a fleeing subject should be limited to an on-leash search.
3. Decisions to deploy a DPD canine shall be based only on the following:
 - a. The severity of the crime;
 - b. Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the members or others; and
 - c. Whether the suspect is actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest at the time.
4. The most appropriate response choice to a situation often involves de-escalation, disengagement, area containment, surveillance, waiting out a subject, summoning reinforcements, or calling in other specialized commands.
5. All DPD police canine handlers shall be trained in the proper handling of their canine prior to being placed in operational status.
6. Where a tactical deployment is justified by the situation and DPD policy, the tactical measures used shall be at the discretion of the canine handler and must be objectively reasonable.
7. Canine teams should not be used to apprehend anyone suspected to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol or mentally ill if no crime is involved unless it is necessary to protect the member or others from an immediate threat of death or serious injury.
8. Canine teams should not be used in schools or to apprehend youth offenders unless it is necessary to protect the member or others from an immediate threat of death or serious injury.
9. DPD canines are trained in such a manner that only the designated handler can command the animal, therefore, police canines shall not be handled or given commands by anyone other than the assigned handler. Under no circumstances will any member of the Department, other than the designated handler be required to handle a police canine. If the handler becomes disabled in some manner such that they cannot control the animal, efforts will be made to safely contain the dog and return it to the canine vehicle until other members of the canine can arrive and take custody of the canine.
10. In the event that a canine handler is transferred, retires, or is otherwise separated from the Department, the DPD canine that is assigned to them shall be re-trained and reassigned to a new handler. If the canine is at least five (5) years old, the handler may request to keep the canine with the express written approval of the Chief of Police, based on the history of the canine team and the recommendation of the commanding officer.

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201.4 - 4.2 Availability

1. Canine has specially trained dogs available to members of the Department on a 24-hour on-call basis.
2. A member may request a canine team whenever an appropriate situation arises by contacting the dispatcher. If a canine team is not on duty, a supervisor shall be requested to come to the scene and may authorize a canine team's recall by contacting Communications, which shall be responsible for notifying the appropriate on-call canine team or the canine team with the appropriately trained dog.
3. In using canines for tracking, time is extremely important, and canines should be called to the scene as soon as possible. Care should be taken not to contaminate the trail or an area that had been occupied by a suspect.
4. If a specially trained canine is not available for a specific search (i.e. narcotics, explosives, cadaver), members may contact Communications to request a Michigan State Police canine team for that specific search.

201.4 - 4.3 Building Searches

One of the many uses of DPD canines is locating suspects in buildings or other structures. These searches shall be governed as follows:

- a. If not already present, a supervisor shall be requested to respond to the scene;
- b. A supervisor from Canine or Metro Division (if available) shall be requested and make the final canine deployment decision if it appears likely that a serious use of force may occur. The supervisor from Canine or Metro Division shall base their decision on the following:
 - The severity of the crime;
 - Whether any weapons are involved or suspected of being involved;
 - The age (if known) of the suspected offender; and
 - Whether the suspect is actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest at the time.
- c. Unless there is a risk to innocent persons, members shall not enter the building but will secure the premises until the arrival of the canine team. A minimum of three (3) Department members is required to contain a building perimeter (canine handler and two (2) members on the opposite ends of the building);
- d. Whenever possible, the building's owner should be contacted to determine whether there may be employees, tenants, or others in the building and to ascertain the building's layout. The on-scene supervisor shall evacuate the building (e.g. tenants, workers, or others);
- e. Special caution shall be utilized in the event it becomes necessary to search an abandoned building due to the possibility of homeless persons or other innocent persons being present. DPD canines shall not be used to search a residence

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- except in extraordinary circumstances because the risk of innocent persons and/or pets being present represents too great of a risk;
- f. Upon entrance to the building, all exits should be secured and communications should be limited to those of a tactical nature so as not to distract the canine;
 - g. Generally, the canine should only be released once backup is available to work with the canine team, and there is no imminent risk of injury to innocent persons in the building. While conducting building searches the canine handler must maintain control of their canine at all times;
 - h. Before commencing the search, the handler or another member shall make a loud and clear announcement and repeat the statement. The announcement shall say "This is the Detroit Police Department Canine. You are under arrest. You have three (3) minutes to surrender. If you do not surrender, the dog will be released into the building. There is a chance you will be injured." A reasonable amount of time will be allowed for the suspect to respond. This warning shall be repeated on each level of multi-level structures. Where there is a reasonable belief that the suspect speaks a language other than English, based upon the totality of the circumstances and availability, a Department member fluent in the other language should be summoned to the scene. The above warning shall be given prior to the dog being released; and
 - i. When apprehending suspects, the canine shall be commanded to disengage as soon as the suspect is subdued and readily complies with direction from the handler.

201.4 - 4.4 Tracking of Suspects

Canines may be used to assist members in the arrest or prevention of the escape of violent offenders. The following protocols should be adhered to maximize the canine's usefulness:

- a. At the scene of a shooting, robbery, rape, or other violent felony where the suspect has fled on foot, members should not touch, or allow anyone else to touch, articles that the suspect may have handled (e.g. gun, wallet, hat, money). Otherwise, this will interfere with the canine's ability to discriminate scents;
- b. In the event the suspect left tracks in the snow or dirt, no attempt should be made to track the subject. The area should be preserved, taking care not to disturb the trail. If the suspect has fled on foot, members who are not necessary for the actual scene (e.g. to aid persons or take reports, should set up an outer perimeter to contain the suspect);
- c. If the suspect fled from a motor vehicle, absent exigent circumstances, members shall not enter the vehicle to search it. The direction of escape shall be determined and the crime scene preserved if a canine team has been dispatched. It must be kept in mind that the scene to be protected is not only the vehicle itself but also the route taken from the motor vehicle by the fleeing suspect. A member can contaminate the scene and compromise the canine's ability to apprehend the

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- perpetrator, merely by approaching too close to the point where the suspect exited the vehicle or crossing the track left by the fleeing suspect;
- d. At robberies of financial institutions, members shall determine the exact location of the suspect during the crime. That area shall be secured to prevent contamination of the suspect's scent. Items the suspect handled or where the suspect sat can be used – where the suspect stood in a bank robbery cannot be used; and
 - e. Most jurisdictions allow tracking dog evidence upon a proper foundation being laid that demonstrates the reliability of the handler and dog. To demonstrate reliability:
 - The handler must be qualified to use a dog for this purpose
 - The dog must be trained and accurate in tracking humans
 - The dog must be placed on the trail where circumstances indicate the suspected person has been (e.g. circumstantial evidence corroborates the canine's identification)
 - It must be shown that the trail has not become so stale or contaminated as to be beyond the dog's competency to follow it
 - It shall be the responsibility of DPD Canine to review and maintain the proficiency of all handlers and their dogs in the art of tracking

201.4 - 4.5 Narcotics Detection

1. A narcotics dog can detect illegal narcotics concealed in automobiles, buildings, suitcases, and other areas. Narcotics shall call for a narcotics detection dog when, in a supervisor's opinion, such use would expedite the search and seizure of illegal drugs. A canine may also be used to detect the odor of narcotics on confiscated money.
2. The use of narcotic detection canines in schools is limited to situations where there is reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal drugs are being sold, possessed, and/or consumed on the premises. Dogs can only be used to determine the presence of illegal drugs in lockers and other school property where drugs can be detected. The school principal, superintendent, or their agent is legally capable of giving "consent to search" all areas on school property. For this reason, in every situation where a narcotics canine is to be used on school property, the principal or proper authority shall be contacted prior to conducting any search. Dogs cannot be used to search a student without a warrant or parental permission of a minor.
3. Canine narcotic searches may be conducted on the exterior of a vehicle based on reasonable suspicion. Canine narcotic searches of the interior of motor vehicles may be conducted only when there is probable cause to believe that the operator or passengers are in possession of illegal narcotics or with a search warrant.

201.4 - 4.6 Article Searches

When a suspect is apprehended and is suspected to have possessed a weapon, money, or other articles during the commission of a crime and it is believed that these articles may have been discarded along the escape route, a tracking dog may be used in an article search to locate the discarded property.

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201.4 - 4.7 Explosive Detection

An explosive detection dog can locate explosives concealed in buildings, lockers, automobiles, and other areas. The dog's handler and the supervisor at the scene will maintain control of the search.

201.4 - 4.8 Crowd Control

DPD canines are not trained for use as a crowd control method. Therefore, under no circumstances shall a canine team be requested or directed by any member of the Department, to be utilized in this capacity.

201.4 - 5 Team Qualifications and Training

Applicants for police canine teams must have:

- a. The willingness (together with other family members) and the responsibility to care for and house the canine at the member's residence with a secure outdoor area for the canine. The canine team supervisor is responsible for observing the canines in their command to ensure that the canine is properly being cared for (i.e. properly groomed, free from open sores, etc.);
- b. A strong desire to work with canines and a willingness to care for and train the animal;
- c. The officer in charge of the canine teams shall be responsible for selection of canine handlers in accordance with Department procedures and collective bargaining agreements;
- d. The canine team supervisor shall maintain records that document the use and the proficiency of individual canines as well as canine trainer certification. This documentation shall be readily available to canine members and other Department members who may need it when seeking warrants and/or testifying in court;
- e. All DPD canine instructors must be Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (M.C.O.L.E.S.) certified;
- f. All DPD canine certification instruction lesson plans and curriculum are kept on file at both Professional Education and Training as well as Canine;
- g. All DPD canines must meet established DPD certification requirements. Untrained canines may not be used for canine duty;
- h. New canine handlers must successfully complete a prescribed course on canine training;
- i. It is the duty of the canine supervisor to ensure that basic in-service training and certification is conducted on a regular basis. All documentation of canine or handler training shall be kept on file at Canine; and
- j. Canine handlers are required to demonstrate acquired abilities to the canine supervisor on a periodic basis.

201.4 Canine (K-9) Operations**201.4 - 6 Canine Bites and Injuries****201.4 - 6.1 General**

No excessive force will be tolerated by any member of this Department. Individuals shall be provided an opportunity to submit to arrest before force is used. Force may be used only when verbal commands and other techniques that do not require the use of force would be ineffective, or where the suspect presents imminent danger to the member or others.

201.4 - 6.2 Handler Responsibilities

In the unlikely event that a canine, whether or not in the line of duty, bites a person the handler shall do the following:

- a. Ensure that the subject has been properly restrained or no longer poses an immediate threat to the safety of Department members or others;
- b. It is the handler's responsibility to have the canine release the suspect as soon as it is safe to do so, taking into account that the average person will struggle if being seized or confronted by a canine and that struggling alone shall not preclude the release of the canine;
- c. Render first aid and summon Emergency Medical Services (EMS);
- d. Notify a Canine supervisor to respond to the scene. In the event a Canine supervisor is not available, a supervisor from the precinct of occurrence shall be required to respond; and
- e. The canine handler shall prepare a Use of Force Report (UF-002) and any other relevant reports as required (e.g. Health Department Animal Bite Report [DPD129]) in the Management Awareness System (MAS) prior to the conclusion of their tour of duty. The report shall include the circumstances surrounding the incident, the identity of the subject(s) involved, and all other DPD members involved in the efforts to apprehend the subject(s).

201.4 - 6.3 Supervisor Responsibilities

The responding supervisor has the following responsibilities:

- a. Preserve the scene and notify Crime Scene Services to photograph the affected area if possible prior to and following medical treatment;
- b. Notify Notifications and Control as required by policy (Reference Manual Directive 201.11, Use of Force Reporting and Investigation). The supervisor from Notification and Control shall notify Force Investigations; and
- c. Request that the person bitten sign a Medical Release Form. If the person bitten refuses to sign, the supervisor shall indicate this on the Medical Release Form.

201.4 Canine (K-9) Operations**201.4 - 7 Reporting Canine Deployment****201.4 - 7.1 Canine Deployments – No Apprehension**

Whenever a canine is deployed and the subject is not apprehended, the handler shall prepare a Use of Force Report (UF-002) in MAS prior to the conclusion of their tour of duty. The report shall include the circumstances surrounding the incident, the identity of the suspect involved, if known, and any other DPD members involved in the attempt to apprehend the subject. A Supervisor Investigation Report (UF-002a [SIR]) is not required to be completed by a Canine supervisor.

201.4 - 7.2 Canine Deployments – Apprehension

1. Whenever a canine is deployed and the subject is apprehended, the handler shall immediately request a Canine supervisor to the scene via Communications. The canine handler shall prepare a Use of Force Report (UF-002) in MAS prior to the conclusion of their tour of duty. The report shall include the circumstances surrounding the incident, the identity of the subject(s) involved and all DPD members involved in the efforts to apprehend the subject(s).
2. A canine supervisor shall be responsible for preparing and documenting any medical care provided, and to the extent reasonably possible, determining whether the member's conduct was justified. A Supervisor Investigation Report (UF-002a [SIR]) is required to be completed by a Canine supervisor. A supervisor is prohibited from closing an investigation because a subject is unavailable, unwilling, or unable to cooperate, including a refusal to provide medical records or proof of injury.

201.4 - 7.3 Use of Force Reporting

For Use of Force Reporting instructions, refer to Department Manual Directive 201.11, Use of Force Reporting and Investigation.

Related Policies:

- Directive 201.11 – Use of Force Reporting and Investigation
- Directive 202.1 – Arrests
- Directive 202.2 – Search and Seizure
- Directive 304.2 – Use of Force

Related Forms:

- Incident Report
- Report of Animal Bite (DPD129)
- Medical Release Form
- Use of Force Report (UF-002)
- Use of Force Supervisor Investigative Report (UF-002a SIR)