
	SALISBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT
	Written Directive: Police Service Canines (K-9 Program)
	Publication Date: January 11, 2018
	 Approved: Barbara Duncan, Chief of Police
Related CALEA Standards: 41.1.5	Police Service Canines (K-9 Program) Section #205

Police Service Canines (K-9 Program)

1. Policy:

It is the policy of the Salisbury Police Department to utilize properly trained K-9 teams to supplement patrol, to assist with the investigation of crimes and safeguard police equipment.

2. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the proper management and deployment of the Salisbury Police Department canine teams.

3. General Operations:

- A. For the purpose of this directive, a K-9 Team consists of a handler and his dog.
- B. Before any K-9 Team can be put into service, the K-9 must be licensed by the Maryland State Police. Applying for the K-9 license will be the responsibility of the K-9 unit supervisor. This will be done through the office of the chief of police.
- C. One of the greatest values of K-9 teams lies in their crime deterring effect. Their use in making and/or maintaining an arrest is authorized when the circumstances justify such use. The K-9 handler must be constantly alert that a police officer may use only the amount of force necessary to make an arrest, and that the use of a K-9 under such circumstances constitutes the use of force or the implied use of force. In determining the degree of force to be used, he/she must take into consideration all circumstances known to him.
- D. The K-9 handler must also bear in mind, in responding to a request for a K-9 team, that he/she is responsible for determining whether use of the dog is justified and feasible. In each case of such, an appropriate force report shall be completed promptly in keeping with established procedures.

- E. K-9 teams are subject to call out during off duty hours for use in urgent investigations and incidents, except when on vacation or sick leave. A request for immediate tactical use of K-9, in keeping with this policy, may be made by any police officer at the scene of an incident to his supervisor or commander. Whenever a situation arises where a K-9 team is needed, the supervisor of the squad on duty will call a Salisbury Police Department K-9 team. If no Salisbury Police Department team is available, and only at this time, a K-9 team from an allied agency will be requested. If a situation warrants more K-9 teams than are available through SPD, then allied agency K-9 teams may be called for assistance. Upon the arrival of the K-9 officer the situation shall be fully explained to him by the requesting officer.
- F. The K-9 officer shall be responsible for determining whether the circumstances justify the use of K-9 and for determining the tactical utilization. When a member of the K-9 unit believes the use of the K-9 is unjustified or not feasible, he shall advise the requesting officer and/or ranking officer at the scene and the K-9 will not be deployed. By the same token, if the ranking officer on scene believes that the use of the K-9 is unjustified or not feasible, he shall advise the handler and the K-9 will not be deployed. In the event that the handler and ranking officer are not in agreement with regards to deployment of the K-9, the K-9 division commander will be contacted. The ultimate authority to deploy or not deploy the K-9 resides with the chief of police or his/her designee, with significant consideration given to the opinion of the K-9 handler who is most familiar with K-9 operations and his/her particular K-9.
- G. When assisting other departments, the Salisbury Police Department K-9 team must abide by Salisbury Police Department policies. The squad commander of the K-9 unit has the discretion of making availability arrangements for the Salisbury Police Department K-9 unit.

4. **Reporting:**

- A. Handlers are responsible for the maintenance of all records associated with their assigned K-9, to include medical history and veterinary information, training records and thorough documentation of all on-duty use for tracking, narcotics detection, building search, crowd control or other deployment. A call for service will be opened by the K-9 handler for any use/deployment of the K-9. A K-9 Report SPD-210 will be used to document all training and on-duty K-9 use. After supervisory review, these reports will be maintained by the handler and made readily available for administrative and court purposes.
- B. All K-9 handlers will submit their monthly k-9 deployment data to their squad commanders for review and submission to the division commander.

