

22.3 **Department Canine Teams**

22.3.1 **Selection Of Canine Handlers**

CALEA 41.1.4d

a. **Submit a written request for consideration as a canine handler**

Any trooper requesting assignment as a dog handler shall submit a request through the chain of command to the Commander of Emergency Services who will consider and select applicants according to department needs.

b. **General requirements**

Canine handlers must have sufficient police experience to master situations common to duties performed by canine teams and must have a strong desire to work with canines.

c. **Assignment considerations**

(1) Because assignment as a canine handler is an extra duty and a part time assignment that may adversely affect primary duties, retention as a handler is contingent upon adequate performance of a trooper's primary assignment.

(2) Canine handlers are normally assigned to patrol duties and should function with a canine for at least two years after initial certification.

(3) From the time of selection as a prospective handler, the trooper should not be considered for any additional assignment except resident trooper.

CALEA 3.1.2

(4) Resident troopers selected and certified as canine handlers should continue their primary assignments accompanied by a canine.

22.3.2 **Canine Team Training**  
CALEA 41.1.4d

- a. **All canine teams certified for patrol duty must attend:**
- (1) One training day each calendar month; and
  - (2) A five day training session each year.
- b. **Certified canine teams**  
Teams certified for specialized canine duty must attend a scheduled three day training session during each fiscal quarter, in addition to the one day each month of patrol dog training.
- c. **Training assignments**
- (1) Training details will be determined by the department dog trainer.
  - (2) Training dates will be published two weeks in advance for each month and troop commanders should indicate which training dates each canine team will attend.
  - (3) The dog trainer will establish minimum training standards required for certification.
  - (4) A department canine in-training will not be used for patrol duty and other functions unless permission is granted by the dog trainer.
  - (5) Commanders shall ensure that department dog handlers attend at least one training session each month.
  - (6) Failure to attend training will result in removal of the canine and its handler from all duties as a canine team.

CALEA 41.1.4f d.

- Handling controlled substance training devices**  
Pursuant to regulations of the Department of Consumer Protection and the Drug Enforcement Administration, training devices containing controlled substances are issued to the department to use for training narcotics detection canines.
- (1) Upon attending a department narcotic canine training class, a handler will be issued two or more controlled substance training aids.
    - (a) Controlled substances are sealed in containers and weighed in the presence of the handler by a canine training staff member.
    - (b) The substance weight and the seal number is recorded in a log maintained at the kennel.
    - (c) The staff member and canine handler will sign the log to verify the weights and numbers and transfer the devices.
    - (d) At quarterly training sessions, weights and seal numbers will be verified and the devices will be resealed and rotated among narcotic canine handlers until the next training session.
  - (2) Handlers are responsible for the security and integrity of assigned training devices.
  - (3) When not in use, training devices shall be stored in the trunk of the handler's department assigned vehicle and/or his or her residence.
  - (4) If a canine is lodged at the kennel for caretaking, training devices will be transferred to a canine training staff member and logbooks will reflect the transfer.

- (5) Whenever a seal on a training device is broken, a report shall be made to the Commander of Emergency Services who will cause an investigation to document the circumstances and to report any difference in weight of the controlled substance, the results of field tests and new seal numbers.
- (6) **Training aid logbooks**
  - (a) Training device logbooks will be maintained at the kennel and the loss, destruction or tampering with a logbook or training device will be investigated by the Commander of Emergency Services.
  - (b) Logbooks will document any unusual incidents and any case number associated with an investigation.

**22.3.3 Using Department Canines**

CALEA 41.1.4a

CALEA 41.1.4g a.

**Handler training and certification is required**

Only department trained and certified handlers will direct or control department canines.

**b. Patrol dogs**

CALEA 41.1.4b

**(1) Dispatch considerations**

Canine teams should be dispatched to all potentially hazardous or violent situations, i.e., gang fights, barricaded persons, hijackings, building searches, unruly crowds, prowlers, or missing person incidents where the missing person is a child, an elderly person or whenever foul play is suspected.

(a) A separate Event Number shall be created in the I-CAD system documenting the utilization of the K-9. This K-9 Event shall be "cross-referenced" to the primary event being investigated.

**(2) Use at correctional facilities**

Canine teams shall be available for correctional facility disturbances, but their deployment must be approved by the task force commander.

**(3) Crowd control use**

Whenever canines are needed for crowd control, at least two teams shall be assigned.

(a) An additional trooper shall be assigned to each canine team to secure any prisoners.

(b) Patrol canines shall normally be restrained on a lead during crowd control duties.

(4) A canine team shall be otherwise dispatched to any incident where a canine is normally used.

(5) Prior to the end of the shift, the troop desk officer shall direct a SPRAMIS message to Emergency Services, summarizing any significant event involving canines.

CALEA 46.2.5

**(6) Missing person and escapee searches**

Search areas shall be secured as quickly as possible to protect scent articles and to establish perimeter patrols.

(a) Patrol canines shall be used for tracking operations while awaiting bloodhounds (Sec. 18.4.2).

(b) During an area search, each canine team should be accompanied by an additional trooper.

(c) The Commander of Emergency Services or his designee is the canine search coordinator.

(d) Any canine trainer and the senior canine search and rescue handler at a scene shall determine how canine operations will be undertaken.

(e) At any scene where state police canine search and rescue teams are present, the ranking trooper shall attempt to prevent interference with department search operations by outside groups or individuals.

1. Volunteers shall not be prevented from searching for missing persons unless their efforts will compromise department search operations.

2. The ranking trooper at the scene shall negotiate a solution to any conflicts or problems encountered.
3. In any criminal incident, adequately protect the crime scene.

(f) **Use of non-police search & rescue canine teams**

1. The department will not routinely solicit or permit assistance from non-police search & rescue canine teams, but guidance may be requested from the Commander of Emergency Services whenever department resources appear to be exhausted.
2. If life is endangered and an immediate response appears essential, the ranking trooper at the scene may assume responsibility for the use of outside canine teams, but use of such teams should be suspended as soon as possible.
3. Non-department canine teams shall not be routinely exposed to undue risk or hazard.

(7) Patrol dog teams may provide public demonstrations with approval from the Emergency Services commander.

(8) Consideration should be given to the degree of urgency and anticipated incident duration before an on-duty resident trooper canine-handler is called away from the resident town.

(a) Off-duty resident trooper canine-handlers may be used without restriction.

(b) Resident trooper handler overtime performed outside a resident town shall not be charged to the resident town.

(9) A completed Form DPS-758-C, Canine Incident Report, will be submitted to the dog trainer by a handler within three working days.

CALEA 1.2.7

(10) **Use of force guidelines for patrol canines**

(a) Each handler is responsible for the proper use and control of his assigned canine.

(b) Under the direction of its handler, force may be applied through a canine in any situation in which the use of non-deadly physical force is justified to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To arrest or prevent the escape from custody of any person the trooper reasonably believes to have committed an offense; or
2. To defend the canine-handler or other person from the use or imminent use of physical force.

CALEA 1.3.1

(c) **Only necessary physical force is authorized**

Only the minimum amount of force necessary to achieve a lawfully intended result should be used when deploying a department canine under the direction of its handler.

(d) **Other considerations**

1. Handlers shall rely on state statutes and department directives and training to determine when it is necessary to resort to the use of force through a canine to accomplish lawful objectives.

2. Handlers shall also consider the following to determine whether the use of force through a canine is appropriate:

- [a] Severity of the crime;
- [b] Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the handler or other persons;
- [c] Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.

c. **Using evidence recovery dogs**

- (1) Most patrol dogs are trained to conduct rapid searches of areas to locate items with a human scent on them.
- (2) A rapid search may locate weapons and other evidence.

d. **Using drug detector dogs**

Drug detector canines can detect the following controlled substances:

- (1) Marijuana;
- (2) Hashish;
- (3) Cocaine; and
- (4) Heroin.

e. **Using explosives detector dogs**

(1) **Explosives detector dogs can detect the following materials:**

- (a) Black powder;
- (b) Primer Cord;
- (c) Dynamite; and
- (d) Plastic explosives.

(2) **Teams will be accompanied by a trained bomb technician during an active search.**

f. **Using body detector dogs**

A trained canine can detect dead bodies, body parts or materials soiled with large quantities of blood or body fluids.

g. **Using accelerant detector dogs**

- (1) Canines are capable of locating certain arson accelerants.
- (2) Accelerant detection dogs will be requested from the Emergency Services Commander through the Office of State Fire Marshal.

CALEA 46.2.5 h. **Use of bloodhounds**

- (1) Whenever a person is lost, request a bloodhound as soon as possible.
- (2) Protect the scene while awaiting arrival of the bloodhound.

- (a) Determine the area where the person was last seen and exclude all persons from it until after the bloodhound arrives;
- (b) Do not park motor vehicles where exhaust fumes will saturate the starting point and destroy scents;
- (c) **Obtain a scent article**
  - 1. Do not handle the article;
  - 2. If a scent article is brought from another location, obtain instruction from the handler on how to transport it.
- (3) **Preliminary search efforts**  
Check all buildings, the immediate area and patrol perimeter roads while the bloodhound is en route.
- (4) **Limit access to the search scene**  
Keep area access to a minimum to prevent scene contamination.

22.3.4

**Administrative Matters**

a. **Care and maintenance of canines**

CALEA 41.1.4e

- (1) Canine handlers are responsible for the care, cleaning, handling and daily training of their canine.
- (2) Canine handlers shall keep assigned vehicles and work related equipment clean and in good working condition.

b. **Tours of duty**

Each canine handler shall use their canine during each tour of duty and should not be dispatched for routine troop duties.

c. **Canine housing**

- (1) Canines will be assigned to a handler to live with the handler and his family as a house pet in-residence.
- (2) Whenever a handler is on extended leave due to illness, injury or vacation, the canine will be delivered to the dog trainer for kenneling, unless the handler exerts full control over the canine during the entire leave period.

d. **Medical reports and medical records**

- (1) Each canine will be given an annual physical in April including immunizations and heart worm testing.
- (2) Heart worm prevention medication shall be administered to each canine.
- (3) Canines will be medically serviced only by department approved veterinarians, except for an emergency.
- (4) Routine veterinary visits require prior notification to the department trainer concerning the reason for the visit.
- (5) Form DPS-812-C, Recording Services Rendered by a Veterinarian, will be forwarded to the department trainer after each visit.

e. **Retirement of canines**

- (1) A canine will be retired from service when it cannot physically or mentally perform in conformance to department standards.
- (2) A retired canine may be turned over to ownership of its handler or another owner, if that person signs a release assuming all responsibility and liability for the canine.

f. **Assignment of canine teams to duty**

- (1) Requests by a troop commander for additional canine teams will be evaluated considering department needs.
- (2) Troop commanders will not usually assign more than one patrol dog to the same shift or platoon.

g. **Reporting injuries or property damage caused by department canines**

- (1) **Whenever a canine causes personal injury or damage to property**
  - (a) Provide first aid or medical attention for injuries.



- (b) A supervisor shall investigate and report the incident using an Event Number assigned by CAD system. Additionally, supervisors shall ensure that incidents involving department K-9's are included in the Morning Report.
- (c) Supervisors shall also ensure that the following Incidents involving department canines are properly documented:
  - 1. Intentional use of department K-9s and any K-9 bite (intentional or accidental) shall be considered "Use of Force", and as such, the Response to Aggression (DPS-449-C) shall be completed and accompanied by a narrative caption report on form(s) DPS-302-C. Some examples are as follows:
    - [a] K-9 Bite -- Arrest;
    - [b] K-9 Bite – Unintended / Accidental, while in the course of duty;
    - [c] Other Injury by K-9 (Non-Accidental);
    - [d] Property Damage by K-9 (Non-Accidental);
  - 2. For other accidental or unintentional incidents involving department K-9s, Incident Report form DPS-683-C shall be completed and accompanied by a narrative caption report on form(s) DPS-302-C. This report shall be entitled "Accidental Canine Incident". Some examples are as follows:
    - [a] Other Injury by K-9 (Accidental)  
[i.e. Off-Duty K-9 Bites someone];
    - [b] Property Damage by K-9 (Accidental / Off - Duty)
- (d) Cross reference the overall CAD Event number in the applicable K-9 report to the DPS Case Number documenting the incident.
- (e) Three sets of color photographs will be taken in all cases to show:
  - 1. Damage to property including overall area views;
  - 2. Physical injury photographs showing the nature and extent of any injury and full body photographs indicating the extent or absence of signs of physical injury.
- (f) A detailed written report will be obtained from the handler.
- (g) Obtain written statements from all witnesses, including the victim.
- (h) Obtain a medical release and photocopy of the attending physician's report.
- (i) Before the shift ends direct a critical incident electronic message to the Troop Commander, District Commander, Emergency Services and the Office of Field Operations to briefly describe the incident.
- (j) An incident review will be performed by the canine training unit supervisor to determine whether remedial action is appropriate.

(2) **Routing canine incident reports**

(a) The canine handler shall cause the reports to be directed as follows:

1. For all injury to prisoners or non-accidental incidents involving canine:

[a] The original DPS-449-C (Response to Aggression Report) supporting reports and original photos shall be forwarded to Emergency Services after the Troop Sergeant and Commanding Officer have reviewed and approved all documents. Once Emergency Services have reviewed form DPS-449-C and all supporting reports for compliance to the Department's current canine policy, the report will then be forwarded through the chain of command to the Office of Professional Standards and Training.

[b] A copy of the DPS-449-C (Response to Aggression) supporting reports and photocopy of photos shall be retained at the Canine Training Unit.

2. For all accidental incidents involving canines that do not involve a prisoner:

[a] The original DPS- 683c (Investigative Report), supplementary reports and original photos shall be forwarded to Reports and Records.

[b] A copy of DPS- 683c (Investigative Report), supplementary report and photocopy of photos shall be forwarded to the Office of Field Operations through the chain of command.

[c] A copy of the DPS- 683c (Investigative Report), supplementary report and photocopy of photos shall be forwarded to Emergency Services for review and forwarding to the canine Training Unit.

CALEA 41.1.4 h. **Requesting canine team services**

(1) During normal business hours requests for specialized canines and from outside agencies shall be routed to Emergency Services.

(2) After normal hours notify the DPS Communication Center at HQ.

i. **Specialty canine teams - special considerations**

(1) **Secure the scene to prevent contamination.**

(2) **Request canine services as soon as possible.**

j. **Claims arising from dog bite injuries** (Section 8.9.1, Claims Against the State)

k. **Veterinary billing**

Whenever a canine requires medical treatment, examination or evaluation by a veterinarian, the canine handler shall submit the veterinary bill and a completed Form DPS-33-C, Request For Goods Or Services, to the clerk of the command where the canine is assigned.

**Use of Narcotic Detection Canines in School Settings****a. Section 54-33n of the Connecticut General Statutes sets forth the authority for the "Search of School Lockers and Property".**

- (1) All local and regional boards of education and all private elementary and secondary schools may authorize the search by school or law enforcement officials of lockers and other school property available for use by students for the presence of weapons, contraband or the fruits of a crime, if:
  - (a) The search is justified at its inception, and
  - (b) The search as actually conducted is reasonably related in scope to the circumstances, which justified the interference in the first place.
- (2) A search is justified at its inception when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.
- (3) A search is reasonably related in scope when the measures adopted are reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

**b. Procedure for utilizing narcotic detections canines in school settings**

When a request is made for the use of narcotic detection canines in a school setting, the following guidelines shall be followed:

- (1) The request shall be in writing and signed by the authorized representative of the local or regional board of education or the requesting private elementary or secondary school administrator.
- (2) The request should set forth the specific facts justifying the use of a canine, including:
  - (a) The nature of the law violation or school infraction;
  - (b) The reasonable grounds for the belief that evidence will be found;
  - (c) The timeliness of the information in relation to the request;
  - (d) Age and gender of the student(s) involved;
  - (e) The scope of the proposed use of the canine (i.e. search of specific lockers vs. search of all lockers);
  - (f) Timing of the search;
  - (g) Presence of students during the search.
- (3) The request shall be forwarded through the chain of command to the District Commander.
  - (a) The District Commander in conjunction with the Troop Commander and the Commanding Officer of Emergency Services will assess the request and feasibility regarding the use of the canines to conduct the search.
    1. Prior to approving any requested search, consideration shall be given to the following:

- [a] Have school administrators, in the beginning of the school year or via the student handbook, clearly identified that the lockers are school property and that these lockers are subject to random searches during the school year by school administrators, with the assistance of law enforcement personnel at times?
  - [b] Are school lockers secured with locks that are a part of the locker; school provided locks; or via personal locks owned by the individual student?
- (b) After evaluating all of the circumstances surrounding a search, the decision to conduct the search or not shall be conveyed to the school administrator by the District or Troop Commanding Officer.
1. If so approved, an Operational Plan shall be established in accordance with section 20.10 of the A&O Manual.
    - [a] School searches shall be conducted either before or after normal school hours, if possible, so as to not interrupt the school day.
    - [b] The specific schedule of any search should be finalized after conferring with the involved school officials.
    - [c] A school representative shall be present throughout the entirety of any requested search conducted on school property.
    - [d] A case report will be completed regarding the request and the results of the canine search.
  2. Following the completion of the search, an After Action Incident Report shall be completed in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the operation.