

Truro Police Department

POLICE CANINE AVAILABILITY

Policy Number: OPS-6.32

Effective Date: Aug 27, 2008

REFERENCE:

Revised Date:

Accreditation Standards:

Mass. Gen. Law:

Other: Com v. Feyenard, 445 Mass 72, 833 N.E.2d 590, 2005

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Because of their superior senses of smell and hearing, physical stamina and agility, the trained law enforcement canine is a valuable supplement to police manpower. However, utilization of canines requires adherence to procedures that properly control their use-of-force potential and channel their specialized capabilities into legally acceptable crime prevention and control activities.

Police dogs are not infallible. Their effectiveness depends largely upon the intelligent application of their capabilities. Police dogs react as trained to situations. Anyone making a sudden or threatening move toward the dog or handler risks the chance of the dog engaging and causing injury.

The purpose of this policy is to establish a set of guidelines for the use of police canine team(s) from the other police agencies during daily and specialized operations.

This policy will familiarize Department personnel with canine operating procedure and policy to ensure the best use of canine teams as well as educate Department supervisors on the appropriate uses of canine teams to ensure effective utilization and management in deployment situations.

II. POLICY

This Department may utilize the Barnstable County Sheriffs canine team(s), Massachusetts State Police Canine Unit or other when it is felt that their use will aid in the apprehension of wanted or escaped persons, tracking, search and rescue operations, seizure of contraband, discovery of explosives, crowd control, drug interdiction programs, locating articles, arson investigation, public relations demonstrations, and other needs of the Truro Police Department.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Canine Team Utilization

1. Canine teams are available on a 24-hour, on-call basis from the Barnstable Sheriff's Office and the Massachusetts State Police to perform the duties for which they are trained. They are available for planned special operations and emergency services. The OIC or officer in charge of any special event/function shall request such assistance.
2. The Canine Handler shall be in control of his/her particular function, however, the OIC, or IC, shall be in charge of the particular operation or incident

B. Drug-sniffing canines may be used to sniff motor vehicles when:

1. Reasonable suspicion exists to believe the operator or passengers are in possession of illegal narcotics.
2. During a valid vehicle stop, the use of a canine to sniff the vehicle's exterior in an exploratory manner is not a search.¹
3. Unless the canine alerts to the vehicle, the operator may not be detained longer than necessary to conclude the business associated with the initial stop.
4. If a canine is used during a traffic stop, and the stop results in a search, an incident report will be filed for that stop.
5. If a canine is used during a pre-planned drug interdiction program, and incident will be created and an after action report will be filed by the OIC in charge of the operation, indicating
 - a. Times on and off operation
 - b. What officers were assigned, what agencies, radio call numbers and cruiser numbers
 - c. How many stops were made
 - d. How many times the canine walked around a stopped vehicle
 - e. How many searches were conducted
 - f. Description and total items seized.
 - g. Traffic and weather conditions
 - h. Special conditions or issues
 - i. Number of arrests

¹ Com v. Feyenard, 445 Mass 72, 833 N.E.2d 590, 2005