

OGDEN CITY POLICE

Office of the Chief

Policy No: 26

Subject Use of Police Service Dogs (K-9 Corps)	Effective Date March 28, 2022
Department Police	Replaces Policy Dated March 2018
Division All Police Personnel	Review Date Feb 2024
Authorized Signature 	

NOTE: This rule or regulation is for internal use only and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this agency, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the guidelines to be used by the Ogden Police Department in the use of Police Service Dogs (K-9 Corps).

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Ogden Police Department to provide certified Police Service Dogs (K-9) and K-9 Handlers for support to Department operations in accomplishing the Department's goals and objectives.

The mission of the K-9 Corps is to certify dogs and handlers capable of supporting Department operations through standard Police Service Dog missions and illegal drug detection. Where practical, the K-9 Corps will also support the Department's Community Policing programs through their presence and public presentations.

This policy also establishes guidelines for officers assisting K-9 teams in various operations as well as training. Every member of the Department should be familiar with the policies set forth in this document.

III. PROCEDURE

K-9 teams (dog and handler) are assigned to the Patrol Bureau of the Field Operations Division. The function of this team is to provide support and assistance to operational units of this Department within the capabilities of the K-9 Team. Typical capabilities of the K-9 Team include area searches, building searches, search and rescue, tracking of individuals, physical detention of suspects either by fear or by bite, crowd control, officer protection in a variety of circumstances, community liaison activities, and illegal narcotics detection.

Overall management of the OPD K-9 Corps Program will be assigned to a Department Lieutenant and a K9 Sergeant who will exercise oversight and management of the program. A senior K-9 handler will also be assigned to assist in the management of the program.

When an officer establishes a need to call out a K-9 team for a search or track, the officer will obtain authorization from the appropriate supervisor. Officers will make every effort to avoid contamination of the area with their human scent, either by handling property or by the presence of unnecessary numbers of people and vehicles, including other police officers. The officer requesting a K-9 team will make every reasonable effort to establish a perimeter with the resources available prior to the K-9 team's arrival.

A. Use of "Off-Duty" K-9

Should a situation arise that requires a K-9 unit, and there is not one on duty, the duty officer is authorized to contact an off-duty K-9 team to respond. All requests for an off-duty unit must be made through the Watch Commander.

B. Use of K-9 Outside the City Limits

When another police agency requests assistance from the OPD K-9 Corps, permission to assist the agency must first be obtained from the Watch Commander. K-9 teams will operate under OPD policy at all times, even when not in the City of Ogden.

C. Uses of K-9 Teams include, but are not limited to;

1. Building search
2. Search and rescue
3. Guard duty
4. Crowd control
5. Backup
6. Public relations and education

D. Antagonizing the Dogs

OPD employees will not tease or antagonize K-9 dogs except at organized training sessions and under the direction of the Department trainers.

E. Public Demonstrations

All public requests for a K-9 team shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, approved by a K-9 supervisor prior to making any resource commitment. The K-9 supervisor is responsible for obtaining resources and coordinating involvement in the demonstration to include proper safety protocols. K-9 handlers shall not demonstrate any apprehension work unless authorized to do so by a K-9 supervisor.

F. K-9 in areas accessible to the public

The K-9 should be kept on a leash when in areas that allow access to the public. Exceptions to this rule would include specific law enforcement operations for which the canine is trained.

- (i) A K-9 shall not be left unattended in any area to which the public may have access.
- (ii) When the K-9 vehicle is left unattended, all windows and doors shall be secured in such a manner as to prevent unauthorized access to the dog.

G. Apprehension Criteria

K-9 officers will not cause the animal to apprehend or bite anyone except in compliance with the established policy on the use of force or at an organized training session.

If, during the deployment of a K-9 team, anyone is injured (to include a bite) or any property is damaged, an After Action Report will be completed as detailed in Policy 3.

H. K-9 Injury and Medical Care

In the event that a K-9 is injured, or there is an indication that the K-9 is not in good physical condition, the injury or condition will be reported to a K-9 supervisor or Watch Commander as soon as practicable and appropriately documented. Medical care will be approved by the K9

supervisor(s) before the service is obtained, except for emergent situations.

I. Training

Prior to assignment in the field, each K-9 team shall be trained and certified to meet current Utah Peace Officer Standards, and Training (POST) Service Dog Program requirements or other State of Utah recognized and approved certification standards. All K-9 training should be conducted while on-duty unless otherwise approved by a K-9 supervisor.

Each K-9 team shall recertify to Utah POST Service Dog Program or other recognized and approved certification standards annually.

J. For guidelines and procedures in the use of the Department's K-9 Teams, see the OPD Procedures Manual.