

East Haven Police Department 	Type of Directive: Policies & Procedures	No. 437.6
	Subject/Title: Canine Unit	Issue Date: March 30, 2021
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	Issuing Authority: Honorable Board of Police Commissioners	Review Date: Annually
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		Amends: N/A

I. PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this directive is to set forth the policies and procedures of the East Haven Police Department (EHPD) regarding the training, use and administration of its canine unit(s).

II. POLICY

- A. It shall be the policy of the East Haven Police Department to utilize canine units to support law enforcement operations.
- B. The canine shall be cared for at the highest standards of humane treatment.
- C. The canine shall be used in scheduled civil disturbances only with the permission of the Chief of Police.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Bite and Hold:** Canines shall be trained to bite and hold a suspect once located. The canine will be trained to remain on the bite until called off by the handler.
- B. **Objectively Reasonable:** The legal standard used to determine the lawfulness of a use of force is the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court established this standard in its ruling in *Graham v. Connor* (1989).
 - 1. The Court held, "...that all claims that law enforcement officers have used excessive force – deadly or not – in the course of an arrest, investigatory stop, or other seizure of a free citizen should be analyzed under the Fourth Amendment and its objective reasonableness standard...The Fourth Amendment "reasonableness" inquiry is whether

the officers' actions are 'objectively reasonable' in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them, without regard to their underlying intent or motivation. The 'reasonableness' of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, and its calculus must embody an allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force necessary in a particular situation."

2. The force must be reasonable under the circumstances known to the officer at the time the force was used.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Any deployment of a canine for a forcible apprehension must be objectively reasonable.
 1. Canines shall be trained to use the Bite and Hold tactic.
- B. Conditions/areas for the potential deployment of a canine unit may include, but are not limited to the following.
 1. Building Searches.
 2. Open Area Searches.
 3. Evidence Searches/Article Recovery.
 4. Tracking or Trailing.
 5. Narcotics/Controlled Substances Detection.
 6. Back-up for Violent/Potentially Violent Calls.
 7. Back-up for Dangerous Arrests.
 8. Pursuit/Apprehension at Vehicle and Foot Pursuits.
 9. Protection of Law Enforcement Personnel.
- C. Canine Unit
 1. A supervisor will be assigned as the canine unit's supervisor and shall assume the responsibility of supervising and administering the day-to-day operations of the canine unit(s).
 2. The canine supervisor shall be responsible for the following.
 - a. General supervision of the canine unit.
 - b. Biannual review and inspection of all the canine unit's training and deployment records.
 - c. Inspection of all issued canine equipment on a regular basis.
 - d. Coordinating all community relations demonstrations.

- e. Coordination and assignment of the canine unit in support of the South Central Regional Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SCRSWAT).
 - f. Monthly report to the Head of the Patrol Division on the canine unit's activity for the past month.
3. The canine handler and canine supervisor can limit the scope under which a canine will be deployed.
4. Mutual Aid Requests by Other Agencies for the Canine Unit.
- a. When the canine unit supervisor is off-duty, the on-duty supervisor will approve/disapprove and coordinate all emergency mutual aid requests by other agencies for the canine. The canine handler shall notify the canine unit supervisor if there is an activation as soon as practical to do so.
 - b. When the canine unit supervisor is on-duty, the on-duty supervisor will approve/disapprove and coordinate all emergency mutual aid requests by other agencies for the canine. The on-duty supervisor shall notify the canine unit supervisor as soon as practical of any emergency mutual aid request for the canine unit by another agency.
 - c. All non-emergency or planned requests for use of the canine unit by other agencies shall be approved by the canine unit supervisor.
5. In the absence of the on-duty canine supervisor and when not assigned to a specific detail, the canine unit shall operate under the supervision of the on-duty supervisor.
6. The individual canine handler may authorize the use of his/her assigned canine for the apprehension of a suspect(s). It shall be the responsibility of each handler to ensure practical safety precautions are taken at the time of deployment including a briefing to other law enforcement personnel, explaining the canine's abilities and limitations.
7. In circumstances where the use of a canine unit is being considered, the final decision to deploy a canine shall rest with the individual canine handler, as only the handler truly knows the abilities and limitations of his/her canine and the animal's ability to safely and legally perform the task at hand.
8. Once the canine handler has made the decision to deploy his/her canine, the canine handler shall assume the responsibility for the control and operational management of the scene until a supervisor properly relieves him/her.
- a. The perimeter and back-up officers will redeploy to new positions according to directions from the canine handler during a canine deployment.

D. Building and Area Searches

- 1. Canines can be used effectively to search areas and buildings for hidden suspects that might be detected by scent or sound. Canines can also be utilized to search open areas for, suspects or evidence/articles that a suspect may have discarded.

2. When a suspect has fled the scene of a crime and a canine is enroute, other officers should not pursue the suspect unless a reasonable chance of success exists.
 3. If the pursuing personnel lose sight of the offender, the pursuit should be immediately terminated and a perimeter secured and held for the canine unit's arrival.
 4. Personnel involved in the initial pursuit should note the last direction of travel, obstacles or hiding places, and other potential hazards so they may brief the canine unit upon arrival.
 5. The on-duty supervisor should determine if the incident is significant enough to warrant a canine unit call-out or response. It shall be the responsibility of the on-duty supervisor to initiate the call-out/response in a timely manner and ensure the appropriate perimeter control is established and maintained.
 6. Prior to starting any search of a building by a canine unit, a series of verbal warnings and commands shall be made by the handler, if practical and safe to do so. The following warning shall be made.
 - a. "This is the East Haven Police Department Canine Unit. Anyone inside the building, announce yourself now and surrender or a police dog will be used to find you and may bite you."
 - 1) Three (3) such warnings shall be given and recorded through the handler's MVR microphone, police radio or body-worn camera.
 7. This warning may be modified to suit the situation by the handler and only serves as a sample of an appropriate warning. The handler may choose to have this or other warnings issued via public address systems or by other officers as necessary or practical.
 8. After a reasonable amount of time passes and no response is heard or no person(s) surrender themselves, the handler may release the canine into the building to begin the search. The handler may choose to conduct the search on-lead or off, as appropriate to the situation.
 9. Prior to starting any search of a building or open area, the handler will determine if additional personnel are to enter the area with the canine.
 - a. The handler shall brief the personnel in the procedures of canine searches and apprehension.
 - b. The primary duty of personnel supporting the canine unit in a search shall be the protection of handler and to take custody of any person located by the canine, at the direction of the handler.
- E. Tracking/Trailing of Criminal Suspects and Lost Persons**
1. Ground scent tracking and wind scent trailing can be useful for following fleeing suspects or lost individuals when the presence of other persons, vehicles or extreme weather conditions do not impair the scent.

2. Personnel requesting the assistance of the canine unit to assist in this type of search should secure an appropriate perimeter to avoid contamination of the scent trail.
3. Canines shall not be used to approach individuals who are known to be mentally disturbed persons unless an exigent or emergency circumstance dictates otherwise.

F. Crowd Control and Civil Disturbances

1. In the case of civil disturbances, the canine unit will not be deployed unless authorized by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
2. When practical, while deploying the canine in a large crowd control situation, the handler should wear appropriate tactical/safety equipment to include, but not limited to a tactical vest, Kevlar helmet and gloves.

G. Pursuit and Apprehension

1. Pursuit and apprehension of fleeing suspects makes use of the canine's speed and maneuverability to affect a capture without the use of deadly force.
2. Canine pursuits and apprehensions shall be conducted at the handler's discretion.
3. Assisting personnel shall allow the canine unit primary access to the area and path of flight, prior to conducting any search if practical.

H. Tactical/SWAT Deployments

1. The use of the canine unit to support tactical operation and SWAT operations must be reviewed and approved by the supervisor of the canine unit.
2. Canine unit's personnel shall be consulted prior to deployment as to the appropriateness of using the canine and the best method of using the canine unit.
3. All canine unit personnel involved in SWAT deployments shall wear all issued tactical equipment for the duration of the deployment.

I. Narcotics Detection

1. The Department's canine may be trained to detect the following narcotics.
 - a. Cocaine HCL and Cocaine Base (Powdered and "Crack" Cocaine).
 - b. Hashish.
 - c. Heroin.
 - d. Marijuana.
 - e. Methamphetamine.
- f. Other controlled substance containing derivatives of the above.

2. Narcotics detection canines may be deployed in the following situations.
 - a. Searches during vehicle stops.
 - b. To build probable cause for search warrants.
 - c. Drug interdiction in public areas.
 - d. Searches relative to search warrant executions.
 - e. Community relations demonstrations.
 - f. Assistance of other law enforcement agencies in any of the above.
- J. The following procedure shall be followed if an apprehension involves a canine bite.
 1. The injured person shall be afforded medical care as soon as possible.
 2. The on-duty supervisor and the canine unit's supervisor shall be notified.
 3. A copy of the report documenting the bite shall be completed by the handler and forwarded to the canine unit's supervisor. Copies of the report shall be forwarded to the Head of the Patrol Division.
 4. A Use of Force Report shall be completed in accordance with the Department's Use of Force Policies and Procedures.
 5. If the canine involved in the bite is injured during the incident, the canine shall be taken to the contracted veterinarian for a medical examination as soon as possible. A copy of the medical certificate clearing the canine shall be forwarded to the Department and the original shall be placed in the canine's medical file.
 6. Photographs of the wound from the canine bite shall be taken by the on-duty supervisor or his/her designee.
 - a. All photographs shall be taken following cleaning of the wound area so that the photographs accurately reflect the extent of injury in a non-prejudicial manner. Photographs shall be logged into evidence or uploaded into the case file in the Department's computer system.
- K. Training
 1. All canine handlers shall be required to certify his/her canine before it is authorized to be deployed for active duty.
 - a. Canine handlers and their canines shall receive initial training at a canine training location that has been approved by the Chief of Police.
 - b. Canine handlers and their canines shall attend required monthly in-service training in order to maintain their annual certification(s).

- c. All training shall be completed in accordance with programs designed by an approved canine training location, the Connecticut Police Work Dog Association and/or the National Police Canine Association.
2. Canine handlers and their canines shall be required to maintain their Connecticut Police Work Dog Association and National Police Canine Association certifications on an annual basis.
 - a. The annual evaluation process for the Connecticut Police Work Dog Association and National Police Canine Association certifications shall be conducted at an approved canine training location.
3. All canine training shall be documented, and the canine handlers shall maintain training files on their canines using preapproved training forms.
 - a. These files shall be submitted to the Administrative and Training Division for inclusion in the canine handler's permanent file and for audit and review purposes.

L. Canine Provisions

1. The selection of a canine to the canine unit shall be based on the needs of the Department as well as the canine's recommendation from the supplier/breeder, as approved by the Chief of Police.
2. The selected canine must be able to attend and successfully complete training at an approved canine training location prior to entering active duty.
 - a. The pre-service training for the canine shall meet the standards that are set forth by the canine training location, the Connecticut Police Work Dog Association and/or the National Police Canine Association during which the canine's performance shall be evaluated.

M. Canine Handlers

1. Any officer meeting or exceeding the listed requirements may apply for a posted vacancy in the canine unit.
 - a. The listed requirements will include, but may not be limited to the following factors.
 - 1) Status as a non-probationary certified officer.
 - 2) Proactive community policing and community engagement efforts.
 - 3) Self-initiated and proactive activity.
 - 4) Sustained complaints, letters of counseling, and/or discipline.
 - 5) Quality of reports and paperwork.
2. Assignment to a canine handler position in the canine unit is subject to approval by the Chief of Police, and the selection process will include the following.
 - a. A satisfactory completion of an oral interview.
 - b. A satisfactory review of the candidates' personnel file.

3. Officers who are accepted for the position of canine handler must be able to attend and successfully complete training at a canine training location that has been approved by the Chief of Police.
4. Canine handlers assigned to the canine unit are responsible for ensuring their assigned canine receives 24-hour care and are maintained in a healthy environment. This includes proper feeding and routine physical inspections.
 - a. Canine handlers shall obtain canine food and other contracted supplies from the Department's designated vendor(s) only.
5. The canine handler is responsible for ensuring his/her canine receives prompt medical care from the Department's authorized veterinarian or emergency veterinarian services.
 - a. The Department shall obtain 24-hour veterinarian services that are available to the canine unit.
 - b. The canine handler is responsible for filing all medical records and receipts in his/her canine's medical records file.
6. The canine handler will ensure no unauthorized people tease or otherwise harass their canine or other Department's canines unless specifically directed to do so in a training environment.
7. The canine handler will ensure no one pets or attempts to pet a Department canine without the specific permission of the canine's handler.
8. Unauthorized exhibitions of the canine's apprehension and engagement abilities are forbidden.
9. Canine handlers will ensure law enforcement personnel working in the immediate proximity of the police service canine shall heed all directions given by the handler and that their actions will not compromise the safety of the handler or the deployment mission. The handler may stop and cancel the deployment at any time if they notice a significant safety or tactical violation. These cancellations and the causes shall be immediately reported to the supervisor of the canine unit.

M. Canine Equipment

1. Each canine handler will be issued the following equipment and will be responsible for the care and maintenance of the issued equipment.
 - a. Traffic Lead (leather).
 - b. Patrol Lead (leather or nylon).
 - c. Tracking Lead (leather or nylon).
 - d. Agitation Muzzle (leather German basket style).
 - e. Stainless Steel Prong Collar.

- f. Fursaver Collar.
 - g. Feed Pan.
 - h. Water Pan or Bowl.
 - i. Water Bucket.
 - j. Dog Brush.
 - k. Fur Rake.
 - l. Kennel, 8 feet x 12 feet minimum, with door assembly.
2. All canine equipment shall be returned when the canine handler no longer serves as a canine handler.

N. Reporting

1. All canine deployment activities shall be documented in the Law Enforcement Administration System (LEAS).
 - a. All canine bites and other uses of force as outlined in the Department's Use of Force Policies and Procedures shall be documented in accordance with Policies and Procedures # 407 – Use of Force Review and Investigations.
 - b. Canine unit training reports, field deployment, and narcotics reports will not be removed from the permanent files. These records are the property of the Department and not the individual canine handler.
 - c. The collection of data from the aforementioned reports may be used in order to enhance the canine unit's program.
 - 1) Monthly canine activity reports shall be submitted to the Head of the Patrol Division by the canine supervisor.