

# East Range Police Department

## Canine K9

POLICY  
217

REV 03/10/2025

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### **POLICY:**

Our policy is to enhance our mission of protection of life and property through the use of the canine's superior sensory abilities to locate suspects, find evidence and provide support to officers.

### **PROCEDURE:**

This policy is a guideline for canine handlers and supervisors in the administration and operation of the canine unit.

#### **1. Supervision of Canine Unit**

- a. Overall administration and supervision of the canine unit will be the responsibility of the Chief of Police.
- b. The Chief of Police will oversee the daily administrative and operational functions of the canine handler and canine. These duties include:
  - i. daily canine handler supervision.
  - ii. supervise and review the canine handler to make sure that their responsibilities are being complied to.
  - iii. promote the canine unit through Public Relations.
  - iv. assist in the selection of the canine handler.
- c. The Chief of Police will be responsible for the normal duty activities of the canine teams, which include:
  - i. The canine unit shall be operationally subordinate to the Chief when engaged in normal duty assignments.
  - ii. The tactical use or application of the canine unit shall be at the discretion of the individual canine handler.
  - iii. Whenever the use of a police canine causes injury to any person, including members of this department, the Chief will be notified. The canine handler will ensure that all persons suffering injuries from the canine will be given medical assistance and will ensure that the required incident reports are submitted.
- d. The Chief of Police shall have the discretion to provide mutual aid canine assistance to agencies outside the East Range Police Department. The decision to permit the canine unit to provide assistance outside the East Range Police Department's jurisdiction may be based on, but not limited to the following:
  - i. The availability of the canine unit and whether the canine unit can be spared, which depends on shift personnel levels and calls for service.
  - ii. The seriousness of the crime, location or call and time elapsed.
  - iii. The safety concern for the canine unit (dog or handler).

- iv. The canine handler discretion for call out in the East Range Police Department's jurisdiction if the Chief of Police cannot be contacted.

## **2. Canine Utilization**

Canines are primarily used for their remarkable scenting abilities. The scenting abilities of a canine can assist officers in safely locating hiding suspects and locate concealed physical evidence.

The canine handler shall have the ultimate authority not to deploy the canine. The canine handler will evaluate each situation and determine if the use of the canine is technically feasible. Generally, the decision to deploy the canine shall remain with the handler, however, a supervisor sufficiently apprised of the situation may decide not to deploy the canine.

The utilization of the department canine is authorized for the following purposes, but not limited to:

- a. Building searches where the use of the canine would minimize the safety risk to officers, provided that:
  - i. The canine handler has made reasonable efforts to determine if innocent people are present in the building to be searched.
  - ii. A verbal warning by an officer or the canine handler that a police canine will enter the building has been given and adequate time has been given for person(s) in the building to respond to the warning, unless tactically unsound.
  - iii. Additional warnings should be given for each floor or section of a multi-level building, unless tactically sound.
- b. Tracking for suspects that have fled the scene of a crime and are actively engaged in efforts to elude capture or missing or lost persons provided that:
  - i. 1. The canine handler has made reasonable efforts to determine if innocent people are present in the area to be searched.
  - ii. A verbal warning by an officer or the canine handler that a police canine will enter the area has been given and adequate time has been given for person(s) in the area to respond to the warning, unless tactically unsound.
  - iii. Additional warnings should be given on long tracks, unless tactically unsound.
- c. Open area searches for suspects that have fled the scene of a crime and are actively engaged in efforts to elude capture, or missing or lost persons provided that:
  - i. The canine handler has made reasonable efforts to determine if innocent people are present in the area to be searched.
  - ii. A verbal warning by an officer or canine handler that a police canine will enter the area has been given and adequate time has been given for person(s) in the area to respond to the warning, unless tactically unsound.
  - iii. Additional warnings should be given on large open area searches, unless tactically unsound.

- d. Protection of the handler, other officers and/or innocent third persons from bodily harm.
- e. Evidence searches and recovery
  - i. Canines are trained to search for evidence discarded by fleeing suspects.
  - ii. If trained as a Narcotic Detector, canine teams are available to search for narcotic evidence. When canines are used for the purpose of locating narcotics, the handler should remove unnecessary people from the area when appropriate.
- f. Public demonstrations
  - i. The canine unit will be available to perform public demonstrations with prior approval from the Chief of Police.

### **3. Canine Use of Force**

- a. Canines are primarily a locating tool used to locate hidden person(s) or evidence. However, canines have the capability of being used as a use of force option and therefore subject to the provisions of MN §609.06 which authorizes the use of force.
- b. Depending on the facts and circumstances of the situation, the canine may be placed on the force continuum anywhere from verbal control to impact weapon. The canine handler must be constantly alert to the fact that a police officer may only use the amount of force that is reasonable to effect or maintain an arrest as described by this departments use of force policy. When determining to use the canine as a force option, the handler should take into consideration all the information known at the time.
- c. A canine apprehension refers to a canine handler intentionally releasing or directing a canine to physically apprehend a criminal suspect.
- d. The canine handler utilizing a canine to physically apprehend a suspect will give, when possible, an announcement (warning) that the canine will be sent to make the apprehension prior to releasing the canine. The announcement shall include a warning that the officer or canine handler is ordering the suspect to surrender. If the suspect fails to surrender, the canine handler will release the canine and they will be bitten.
- e. The decision to use a canine to physically apprehend a criminal suspect will be based on the circumstances known to the canine handler at the time and will be based on the following:
  - i. The severity of the crime.
  - ii. Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of officers or others.
  - iii. Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.
- f. When the canine is used for a physical apprehension, the canine shall be removed from the suspect immediately after the officers have gained control of the suspect.
- g. Members of the department will not approach or interfere with the canine in any way without the permission of the canine handler.

#### **4. Training**

- a. Canine handlers will be members of the United States Police Canine Association and the department will maintain the handler's annual USPCA membership.
- b. Handlers and their canine partners will be trained in conformance with the standards set forth by the United States Police Canine Association, (USPCA).
- c. Newly appointed canine teams will be certified at a regional USPCA sponsored PDI event within one year of completion of the basic canine handler course. Thereafter, the handler and canine will maintain a USPCA PDI certification annually.
- d. If the canine is trained in narcotic detection, the handler and canine will be certified at a regional USPCA sponsored event and maintain a USPCA Narcotic Detection certification annually.
- e. During their scheduled shift, canine handlers will complete monthly training and deployment logs and submit them to the Chief of Police. Canine handlers are expected to log at least 16 hours of recurring training per month unless there are extraordinary circumstances that would preclude them from doing so.

#### **5. Canine Handler Responsibilities**

- a. The canine handler will be responsible for the tactical use of their assigned canine, unless acting upon the direction of a supervisor.
- b. The canine handler will notify the Chief of Police when their assigned canine physically apprehends or causes injury to any person, whether on-duty or off-duty, regardless of the location of the incident.
  - i. A police report shall be completed for all physical apprehensions.
  - ii. Color photographs shall be taken of all canine bites, preferably by the canine handler when possible.
  - iii. The canine handler will forward a report and any witness statements to the Chief of Police as soon as possible.
- c. The canine handler will offer to make available medical treatment for any person physically apprehended or injured by the canine, whether on or off duty, regardless of the location of the incident.
- d. The canine handler will report any injuries or illnesses suffered by their assigned canine to the Chief of Police.
- e. The canine handler will maintain deployment and training records documenting the canine's activities. These records will be submitted to the Chief of Police.
- f. The canine handler will maintain an appropriate and sanitary kennel, administer food and water, and maintain inoculations and general medical attention to the canine that complies with the City of Hoyt Lakes Ordinance and the City of Aurora Ordinance.
- g. The canine handler shall not enter their assigned canine in any show, trial or exhibition without prior approval of the Chief of Police.
- h. The canine handler shall not use their assigned canine for breeding purposes without prior departmental approval.
- i. The canine handler shall maintain their assigned canine both on and off duty in a safe and controlled manner.

- j. The canine shall never be allowed to run loose unless engaged in agency authorized training or exercise.
- k. The canine handler will be provided with the proper housing, equipment and food for the canine.
- l. Canines purchased by the East Range Police Department are the property of the police department during assigned service and may revert to non-city ownership upon retirement from service.
- m. Under no circumstances will a civilian be transported in the rear of the squad with direct contact with the canine.
- n. The veterinary service for the canine shall include the care and maintenance of the canine and maintain canine medical records.
- o. The public relations and fundraising of the canine shall be the responsibility of the canine handler. The canine handler must get approval for all fundraising from the Chief of Police or from the East Range Public Safety Board d/b/a East Range Police Department.
- p. The canine handler must maintain equipment and supplies for the canine unit.
- q. The canine handler is required to train and maintain proficiency with the canine, as described by this policy and procedures.

## **6. Injured Canine Handler**

- a. If a canine handler is down or injured:
  - i. If possible, allow the canine handler to handle the canine.
  - ii. If possible, try to call the canine into the open rear door of the canine squad.
  - iii. If possible, have another canine handler respond to the scene.
  - iv. As a last resort, notify a member of the canine handler family or anyone who knows the canine well.

## **7. Selection of Canine Handlers**

The following are the minimum qualifications for the assignment of canine handler:

1. Must be an East Range Police Officer.
2. Agree to be assigned to the position for a minimum of 3 years.

## **8. Controlled Substance Training Aids**

- a. Controlled substance training aides are required to effectively train and maintain drug detecting dogs. Controlled substances can also be an effective training aid during training sessions for law enforcement personnel and the public. The Chief of Police at his/her discretion may authorize an employee to provide controlled substances to be maintained in the employee's possession for training purposes:
  - i. To any duly authorized peace officer or civilian drug detection canine trainer working under the directions of a law enforcement agency.
  - ii. The controlled substances provided are no longer needed as criminal evidence.
  - iii. As an alternative, the Chief of Police may request narcotics training aids while providing substance abuse training or canine drug detection training from the DEA by filling out the DEA-225 form at [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov).

## **9. Compensation of Canine Handlers**

This information is included in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement between the East Range Public Safety Board d/b/a the East Range Police Department and Law Enforcement Labor Services.

## **10. References and Revisions.**

### **a. REFERENCES**

a. X

### **b. REVISIONS**

a. Initial Policy

b. 03/10/2025 – ERPSB Approval Date