

MISSOULA POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL



<i>Subject:</i> K-9 UNIT (POLICE SERVICE DOGS)		
<i>Effective Date:</i> 6/8/2017	<i>Original Date:</i> FALL 1995	<i>Next Review:</i> 6/8/2019
<i>Chapter</i> 10	<i>Policy #</i> 10.80	<i>Distribution:</i>
<i>References:</i> <i>Use of Force; Special teams deployment</i>		

I. Purpose

It is the purpose of this policy to provide all members with protocols and guidance in the use of K-9 (Police Service Dogs) to their fullest capability in furtherance of the Department's law enforcement mission.

II. Policy

The Missoula Police Department has authorized the existence of a K9 Unit whose primary mission is to provide specialized support to Uniform Patrol, the Detective division and other specialty units, such as SWAT. Its role shall be to locate evidence, contraband and suspects; as well as provide protection and backup for Officers and support personnel of the Department.

Each K9 team shall do their best to turn the police service dog's greater senses of smell, hearing and sight to the advantage of the Department. The police service dog is valued first as a locating tool and second as an apprehension tool in keeping with the Department's Use of Force Policies. Unlike other force tools, the police service dog is capable of being recalled by the handler.

III. Definitions

K9 or Police Service Dog- A dog selected and trained for official police functions.

Patrol K9 – a police service dog trained and used for handler protection, tracking, building searches, evidence searches, suspect apprehensions, SWAT applications and under extreme circumstances locating lost persons.

Dual Purpose K9 – a police service dog trained as a Patrol K9 and another function such as narcotics or explosives detection.

K9 Team – Consists of a trained police service dog and their trained Officer handler.

IV. Procedures

A. Prerequisites for Patrol K-9 deployment:

1. Severity of crime at issue. A Police K-9 may be used to locate and apprehend a suspect if it is reasonably believed that the individual has either committed or is about to commit a criminal offense.

2. Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of law enforcement officers or others.
3. Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.
4. A supervisor may order a handler to deploy or not deploy the K-9, but will assume all responsibility for doing so.
5. Police Service Dogs will only be used to search for missing persons when the risk of a possible contact is clearly outweighed by the risk of life threatening exposure or injury.

B. Prerequisites for K9 Drug Sniffs:

The Montana Supreme Court has decided case law establishing that K9 sniffs are not searches, per se; yet the use of a Police Service Dog to perform a sniff requires particularized suspicion of a controlled substance to do so without express consent.

C. Requesting K9 Assistance

1. Any Officer who can show the above criteria have been met may request the assistance of an on-duty K-9 Unit.
 - a) If there is no K-9 Unit available, the K-9 Supervisor will be contacted. The K-9 Supervisor will determine if an off-duty K-9 Unit should respond to the scene. If the K-9 Supervisor is not available, the Shift Commander will contact a K-9 team directly.
 - b) The K-9 handler should have the ultimate authority not to deploy the dog. The handler shall evaluate each situation and determine if the use of a Police Service Dog is technically feasible.
2. Requests for the K-9 Unit to assist with Search/Arrest Warrants will go through the K-9 Supervisor. When there is no K-9 Unit Supervisor available, the Shift Commander will make the determination.
 - a) Pre-scheduled warrant service is preferred and encouraged.
3. Outside agency requests:

The Department's Mutual Aid Policy applies in full to providing K9 assistance to other Agencies.

- a) Agencies requesting Missoula Police K-9 teams outside of Missoula County must first be approved by the On-Call Staff Officer.
- b) Agencies requesting Missoula Police K-9 teams inside Missoula County should be processed through the K-9 Supervisor. If the K-9 Supervisor is not available, the Shift Commander will determine if the K-9 Unit will respond.
- c) All the above prerequisites must be present prior to granting the assistance requested.

- d) At least one Missoula Police Officer will accompany the K-9 team as a cover officer. The K-9 team may request more cover officers depending on the severity of the crime. The request will be made through the available shift commander.

D. K9 Contacts

1. Citizen Contact with the K-9

- a) All contacts will be provided immediate medical attention, no matter how slight the contact is.
- b) The on-shift Supervisor and K-9 Supervisor must be informed.
- c) Photos will be recorded using a digital camera, including:
 - Photos of the actual injury.
 - Photos of area in question if an injury is not visible.
 - Photos of physical location the contact took place.
- d) A supervisor shall conduct a recorded interview with the contacted person.
- e) A Use of Force form must be completed by the Supervisor. If the K-9 Supervisor is not available, the Shift Commander will accomplish this task.
- f) If the injury is serious, on-call Staff must be notified.

2. Contact with Police personnel

- a) Medical attention is encouraged if necessary.
- b) The K9 Supervisor and the Shift Commander must be informed.
- c) A Workman's Compensation form will be completed as needed.
- d) Photos will be recorded using a digital camera, including:
 - Photos of the actual injury.
 - Photos of area in question if an injury is not visible.
 - Photos of physical location the contact took place.
- e) Notification to on-call staff when any significant injury or circumstances.

E. Additional Handler Responsibilities

During a normal duty work week, five (5) hours of K9 handlers' time worked is allocated to care of their assigned police service dog and equipment.

1. K9 Vehicle

- a) Each K-9 Team for the Missoula Police Department is assigned a properly equipped patrol vehicle.
- b) The K-9 Officer will be responsible to ensure regular care and maintenance of the patrol vehicle.
- c) The K-9 vehicle will be kept at the K-9 Officer's home unless otherwise specified.

2. K-9 Housing

- a) The department provides each police service dog with an appropriately sized kennel, dog house, food and water bowls.
- b) The police service dog will be kenneled at the K-9 Officer's residence and should always be kenneled when the handler is not present to exercise control over the dog.
- c) The kennel environment shall be kept sanitary and conducive to proper rest for the police service dog while not in service.
- d) K-9 Handlers shall consult with the K-9 Supervisor about care for the police service dog while on vacation or extended leave.
- e) The K-9 handler shall ensure the police service dog receives proper medical care from department-approved veterinarians.
- f) The K-9 Handler will provide the K-9 Supervisor with documented rabies vaccine so the K-9 Supervisor can update current license with the Animal Control.
- g) The K-9 handler is responsible for the safety of his or her family members, friends invited into his or her premises, and members of the public, when the police service dog is at home, or otherwise not functioning in a police capacity.
- h) Negligent care or control of an assigned police service dog may result in relief from K-9 assignment.

3. K-9 Log

- a) Each handler will maintain a separate log each for training, application, patrol and narcotics detection.
- b) Each K-9 Handler will complete a separate file for K-9 Application resulting in a K-9 Contact. The file will include but not be limited to:
 - All related Officers Reports
 - Use of Force Form
 - Photos of crime scene, suspect, and photo log
 - Transcript of taped interview with persons who were contacted. (interview completed by K9 Supervisor or shift commander).

F. **K-9 Demonstrations**

1. All requests must be directed to the K-9 Unit Supervisor.
2. Demonstrations will be completed as directed by the K-9 Supervisor in a manner determined by the Handler and the K-9 Supervisor.