



# Faribault County Sheriff's Office

Office: (507) 526-5148 • Fax: (507) 526-3051  
320 Dr. H. Russ Street • Blue Earth, MN 56013

## 1600 CANINE (K9) UNIT POLICY

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Approved By:	Mike Gormley, Sheriff; Scott Adams, Chief Deputy

### PURPOSE:

To establish procedures and regulations governing the training, use and administration of a police service dog team employed by the Faribault County Sheriff's Office. This team will be referred to throughout this manual as "K9" team. This Standard Operating Procedure shall define the authority and responsibility for their use.

Utilization of a properly trained police service dog represents a highly cost effective and reliable asset to law enforcement personnel by utilizing the canine's acute olfactory senses. The police service dog also provides a psychological deterrent by their presence at the scene of various law enforcement operations.

Areas of potential deployment for the K9 team may include, but are not limited to:

- Evidence Searches/Article Recovery
- Tracking/Trailing of lost/missing persons, suicidal persons, and suspects who flee from law enforcement.
  - K9 Team may track any suspect for handler/officer protection purposes, or public safety purposes.
- Narcotics/Controlled Substances Detection
- Handler/Officer Protection

### PROCEDURE:

#### Authority and Responsibility

- A. The Sheriff, or Chief Deputy in his absence, is responsible for the general supervision of the K9 team assigned to support narcotics detection functions, and other specialty services the K9 Unit provides, within the Faribault County Sheriff's Office.
- B. The K9 Unit supervisor shall be responsible for the following:
  - a. General supervision of the K9 team when on duty and available, and when the K9 team is called out while off-duty to provide K9 services.
  - b. Review and inspection, bi-annually of the K9 team's training and deployment(Call Out) records.
  - c. Coordinating all community relation demonstrations.
  - d. Approval and coordination with other law enforcement agency's requests for assistance using the Faribault County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit.
- C. The individual K9 Handler may authorize the use of their assigned canine for narcotics detection, tracking or trailing, article search/evidence recovery, and handler/officer protection types of calls. It shall be the responsibility of the handler to ensure that practical safety precautions are taken at the time of the K9 deployment, including briefing to other law

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enforcement personnel, explaining the canine's abilities and limitations.

- D. In circumstances where the use of the K9 team is being considered, the final decision to deploy the K9 shall rest with the individual K9 Handler, as only the handler truly knows the abilities and limitations of their canine and their ability to safely and legally perform the task at hand.
- E. Once the K9 Handler has made the decision to deploy his/her canine on the scene of a law enforcement operation, the K9 Handler shall assume the responsibility for the control and operational management of the scene until the K9 deployment is complete, and/or they are relieved by a supervisor.

## Law Enforcement K9 Team Deployment

- A. Tracking/Trailing of Lost/Missing Persons, suicidal persons, and suspects who flee from law enforcement.

Ground scent tracking and wind scent trailing can be useful for following lost/missing individuals, suicidal individuals, and/or fleeing suspects when the presence of other persons, vehicles or extreme weather conditions do not impair the scent. Personnel requesting the assistance of the K9 team, to assist in this type of search, should secure an appropriate perimeter if possible to avoid contamination of the scent trail.

- B. The Faribault County Sheriff's Office K9 is a dual purpose certified canine, but the dog will not be used to apprehend a fleeing suspect, unless authorized by a supervisor.

## Narcotics Detection

- A. Types of Controlled Substances

The Faribault County K9 Handler is equipped with a certified narcotics detection canine and he/she is prepared to assist in the detection of the following controlled substances:

<u>K9 Zeus</u>	<u>K9 Kilo</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Marijuana (K9 Zeus Only)</b></li><li>• <b>Hashish (K9 Zeus only)</b></li><li>• Cocaine HCl and Cocaine Base (Powdered and "Crack" Cocaine)</li><li>• Heroin</li><li>• Methamphetamine</li><li>• MDMA</li><li>• Other controlled substances containing derivatives of the above</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cocaine HCl and Cocaine Base (Powdered and "Crack" Cocaine)</li><li>• Heroin</li><li>• Methamphetamine</li><li>• MDMA</li><li>• Other controlled substances containing derivatives of the above</li></ul>

- B. Areas of Deployment

The Faribault County K9 may be deployed in the following situations, but not limited to:

- a. Narcotics sniffs 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 relation demonstrations,
- f. Article Searches/Evidence Recovery,

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- g. Assistance of other law enforcement agencies in any of the above or below scenarios,
- h. Other searches of private businesses and homes that are authorized by the Sheriff, or the Chief Deputy in the Sheriff's absence,
- i. Tracking/Trailing of lost/missing persons, suicidal persons and fleeing suspects,
- j. Handler/Officer Protection scenarios, such as arrest warrants, and tracking of fleeing suspects;

Any other deployment scenario that isn't listed above, please ask the K9 handler if his/her dog can be deployed in the manner that you need,

The Faribault County Sheriff's Office canine is a certified dual purpose/patrol dog, through the Dogs for Law Enforcement organization, and any other utilization of the dog that isn't listed above must be approved through a supervisor.

### **C. Possessing Controlled Substances for Training**

It shall be the policy of the K9 Unit that no deputy shall possess controlled substances for training purposes, with the following exceptions:

- That the deputy possesses a valid Drug Enforcement Administration Agency permit to keep and store controlled substances, or...
- That the controlled substances have been seized by a bona fide law enforcement agency and are legally possessed and made available for the purposes of training by that agency.
- All other narcotics related training shall be conducted using scent articles provided by a person possessing a valid DEA permit, and through the use of pseudo narcotics. Any handler may possess and use pseudo narcotics.

### **Training and Monthly Reports**

- A. The K9 Handler shall be required to certify his/her K9 by a bona fide trainer before it is authorized to be deployed for active duty.
- B. The K9 Handler shall attend weekly and/or monthly maintenance training with his/her assigned canine.
- C. The K9 Handler shall maintain files on his/her dog using a preapproved training form. These files shall be made available upon request, and for inclusion in the dog's permanent file, and for audit and review purposes.
- D. K9 Unit training reports, field deployment (Call Out) and narcotics reports will not be destroyed without the specific permission of the sheriff, or chief deputy in his absence. These records are the property of the department and not the individual handler.

### **General Purpose**

- A. Any certified deputy meeting or exceeding the posted requirements may apply for a posted vacancy in the K9 Unit.
- B. The handler assigned to the K9 Unit shall obtain dog food, maintain vet records and provide general care for their assigned K9 at the department's expense.
- C. The handler will ensure that no unauthorized people tease or otherwise harass their canine, unless specifically directed to do so in a training environment.

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- D. Handler's will ensure that 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 or cancel the deployment at any time if they notice a significant safety issue.
  
- E. Anytime the K9 team is called out while off duty, the K9 Handler shall notify their immediate supervisor as soon as reasonably possible.