



City of Racine Police Department
Policy and Procedure

Number: 1112

Subject: Canine Team - Guidelines		
Date Issued: 09-12-86	Effective Date: 04-30-10	Revision Number: 4

POLICY:

Members of the Department in need of services provided by the canine teams shall follow protocols that are in place to ensure the safety of Department members, the safety of members of the community, as well as the safety of those targeted as suspects. The canine teams shall be used whenever possible for both a tool for enforcement actions as well as public relations.

PROCEDURE:
**MEMBER/
EMPLOYEE:**

Upon coming into contact with a Department canine, these guidelines must be followed:

1. Personnel shall pet Department canines only in presence of, and with the permission of the canine handler.
2. Under no circumstances shall personnel tease or harass a Department canine.
3. Whenever possible, officers shall comply with the directions of the handler when it is necessary for the handler to direct officers in a tactical situation.
4. Except in emergency circumstances, or with prior approval of an assigned handler, personnel other than handlers shall not give commands to Department canines.
5. In the event a canine handler is injured and the canine is preventing officers and rescue personnel from providing aid, the following steps shall be taken:
 - a. Immediately notify a Supervisor.
 - b. Have the nearest available canine handler respond to the scene.
 - c. If the canine and the injured handler are in their patrol vehicle, call out to the handler and see if the handler can control the canine or get out of the vehicle.
 - d. If the canine and handler are out of their vehicle, open the vehicle's caged area and stand back. The canine may instinctively return to the vehicle.
 - e. Do not try to coax the canine out of the vehicle.
 - f. Do not try to get the canine to bite or pursue you, even if you have access to protective bite equipment.
 - g. If the handler's injuries appear to be life threatening, take action deemed necessary to render aid.

**RELATED
PROCEDURES:**

- [716 – Command Responsibility at Police Situations](#)
- [1113 – Use of Department Canine Team](#)
- [1114 – Canine Team: Executing a Drug Search Warrant](#)
- [1115 – Canine Team: Building Searches](#)
- [1116 – Canine Team: Miscellaneous Searches](#)
- [1117 – Canine Team: Documenting Canine Use of Force](#)
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