



City of Racine Police Department

Policy and Procedure

Number: 1113

Subject: Use of Department Canine Team		
Date Issued: 8-9-85	Effective Date: 04-30-10	Revision Number: 4

POLICY:

The trained canine is a legitimate tool in law enforcement. All members of the Department must be aware that the use of a canine in making or maintaining an arrest constitutes the use of force. It is imperative that the canine handler is fully cognizant of all the facts and circumstances' surrounding the situation before a decision is made to use a canine for other than deterrent patrol.

METHOD:

The Department canine is intended to be used for deterrent patrol, building searches, drug detection, and tracking of missing or lost persons or to assist in the apprehension of a fleeing felon or when a suspect poses an immediate threat to the handler or a third person. The canine is not to be used in crowd control situations, nor shall the canine be used in a bite situation for any misdemeanor.

Permission of the Chief of Police must be obtained before a canine is used for any purpose other than those mentioned herein except where emergency conditions preclude such advance permission. A Supervisor must approve the use of the canine team outside of the City of Racine.

The Drug Detection canine team can be made available for a Patrol investigation. Permission must be obtained through the Special Investigations Drug Unit Supervisor; if the Special Investigations Drug Unit Supervisor is unavailable, permission may be obtained through the Shift Commander.

1. The canine handler must bear in mind when canine assistance is requested, that he alone is responsible when using canine force in making an arrest, unless relieved of that responsibility by a Supervisor.
2. Patrol canine handlers shall perform regular patrol duties and respond to calls for service when not actively engaged in a canine assignment.
3. Patrol canine handlers will respond to duty immediately when required.
4. In building searches, canine handlers will give audible verbal warning to the effect that a canine will be entering the premises.
5. The Drug Detection canine team shall perform regular Special Investigations Drug Unit duties.

RELATED PROCEDURES:

- [601 – Use of Deadly Force/Discharge of a Firearm](#)
- [1112 – Canine Team - Guidelines](#)
- [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](#)
- [Table of Contents](#)

RELATED CITY ORDINANCE:

Section 2-411 Use of Police Dogs