



Policy and Procedure

Number: 1115

Subject: Canine Team: Building Searches		
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- POLICY:** To establish a procedure for effective use of the Department Canine Team during building searches.
- PROCEDURE:** When the Canine Team is dispatched to or discovers a possible intruder within a building, the following steps shall be taken:
- MEMBER:**
1. Responding officers will seal off the building by all means possible.
 2. Members assigned to the perimeter will not enter the building while the Canine Team is searching unless specifically requested to do so by the canine handler or supervisor.
- COMMUNICATIONS:**
1. When notifying a property owner that their building is open or has been broken into, the member shall obtain a “No consent to be in the building” statement from the owner. Request permission from the building owner to use canine.
 2. Advise the canine handler that the “No consent” statement has been obtained.
- SUPERVISOR:**
1. Upon the arrival of the Canine Team, brief the handler on the search situation and advise him of any exits where the suspect may seek escape or areas, which could conceal the suspect.
 2. Do not allow other personnel into the building during the Canine Team’s search unless the handler requests other personnel to accompany him or requests immediate assistance.
- CANINE HANDLER:**
1. Upon arrival at the search location, confer with the supervisor to determine that the building perimeter has been properly secured.
 2. Prior to beginning the building search, a “CANINE WARNING” shall be given
 - a. The canine warning shall consist of a verbal notice given in the direction of the suspect via loud voice, bullhorn, or vehicle P.A. system, warning that a canine shall be released if the suspect does not surrender
 - b. The handler shall provide an adequate time lapse for surrender prior to releasing the canine.
 3. While conducting the search, keep perimeter personnel advised of your location as you move through the structure.
 4. If a suspect is apprehended by the Canine Team, request assistance from perimeter personnel.
 5. Apprehended suspects shall be turned over to the reporting case officer for booking, unless the on-scene supervisor would specify otherwise.
 6. Upon completion of the search and/or apprehension, prepare a Supplementary Report (Form 95) detailing all involvement and action taken.
- NOTE:** The canine handler responding to a request for service shall be in charge of that portion of the operation relating to the use of the canine. A supervisor may take charge at his/her discretion. If a canine handler is requested to commence an action he/she feels he/she cannot or should not perform, the handler shall advise the commanding officer or supervisor. If the supervisor or commanding officer allows the order to stand, the handler shall attempt to comply.

**RELATED
PROCEDURES:**

[400, 2.f.\(2\) – Rules of Conduct, Duty to Obey, Conflict of Order](#)
[1112 – Canine Team Guidelines](#)
[1113 – Use of Department Canine Team](#)
[1116 – Canine Team: Miscellaneous Searches](#)
[1117 – Canine Team: Documenting Canine Use of Force](#)
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