

Policy Development Form
Office of Policy Analysis



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SOP: 2-23 Use of a Canine Unit

Date Completed: 8/9/18

In order to gain a clear understanding of the reason for the policy change, please answer the questions below with as much detail as possible as this information will be shared with internal and external stakeholders interested in participating in APD's policy development process.

Explain the rationale or purpose for the new policy or amended policy? Example: Best practices, case law, liability, conflicts with other policies or regulations, CASA related.

SOP 2-23 Use of a Canine Unit is due for annual review. There are no changes identified by the Special Operations Division at this time. SOP 2-23 will be presented to OPA for additional review to determine if changes are needed.

What is the policy intended to accomplish? Explain the general intent with respect to the specific topic of the policy.

How will the policy be measured to determine its effectiveness? (Example: Will data be collected, if so, in what format and who will maintain the information?)

Please list any references used to draft the policy such as policies from other agencies, case law, directives from the CASA, research papers, etc.

Please submit this form to OPA@cabq.gov

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this form, contact Jolene Luna at 768-2223 or email jjluna@cabq.gov.

Updated 7/25/18



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-23

Effective: 09/20/17 Review Due: 09/20/18 Replaces: 08/6/15

2-23 USE OF CANINE UNIT

2-23-1 Policy

Department policy is to utilize the Canine Unit to search buildings for intruders and to track wanted subjects.

2-23-2 Rules

[7] A. On-Call Status

Canine Units are on call 24 hours per day via Communications. If no Canine Unit is on duty, an on-duty area supervisor must give approval before calling out the Canine Unit.

[7] B. Operational Control / Conflict of Orders

1. The K-9 Unit Sergeant will assume operational control of any situation requiring the deployment of the Police Service Dogs (PSD). In the absence of the K-9 Sergeant a Tactical Section supervisor will be contacted.
2. If the K-9 Unit Sergeant is not present and a handler is requested by another supervisor to deploy his PSD in a manner that the handler feels is inappropriate, the handler will inform the supervisor of this and state the reasons for his concern and contact a Tactical Section supervisor. Ultimate authority to deploy a Police Service Dog shall be at the discretion of the individual K-9 handler.
3. Under no circumstance will a handler comply with an order that he knows to be illegal or violates the civil rights of any individual, or is in violation of the Use of Force Policy.
4. If the handler is participating in a full tactical activation the authority to deploy the Police Service Dog resides with the Tactical Commander or his designee.
 - a. When the Tactical Section is activated for crowd control situations, civil disturbances, and/or riots, K-9 Handlers will not deploy with their police service dogs as a force option. However, this does not preclude K-9 Handlers from being utilized for other tasks at the discretion of the Tactical Commander.

[7] C. Canine Unit Searches

1. Building Searches

- a. The primary duty of the Canine Unit is to search buildings for intruders.



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- b. During the Canine Unit's normal working hours, a Canine Unit will be dispatched to all commercial and school silent alarms.
- c. A Canine Unit will be utilized to search all commercial buildings and schools where a point of entry is found or the suspect is believed to be in the building.
- d. As soon as a point of entry is found, the building will be secured and no one will be allowed to enter the building until the Canine has arrived.
- e. In the event a commercial business appears secure, the business will be searched by canines only after:
 - i. It is determined that there is a strong possibility that the alarm is valid.
 - ii. It would be impractical to conduct a search by officers due to building design.
 - iii. The owner/manager arrives and requests the search, in concurrence with the officer at the scene.
 - iv. Approval has been granted by an on-duty area supervisor.

2. Tracking/Area Searches

- a. Canine Units can be utilized to track a subject and search for articles associated with the subject in an area.
- b. Officers should remain out of the area to prevent contamination if a canine unit is to be utilized.
- c. The Canine Unit should be called to the scene as quickly as possible while the subject's scent is still fresh.

3. Apprehension of Fleeing or Resisting Subjects

- a. Canine units can be used to apprehend persons fleeing or resisting arrest, when there is reason to believe that the subject(s) has committed a felony.
- b. The decision to utilize the canine for apprehension will be based on the threat posed by the subject. The age of the subject (i.e. juvenile) will not preclude the use of the canine, but should be considered in evaluating the threat the subject poses.