



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT

TRANSMITTAL SHEET

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- 1. Updates, supersedes, or rescinds:

- 2. Explanation of Materials Transmitted:

- 3. Reports Required:

- 4. Delegations of Authority Updated:

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POLICE CANINE

Order Number

36

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose is to provide policy for all personnel assigned to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Police Canine Program and law enforcement managers/supervisors with management oversight of the BLM canine team.

2. SCOPE

This scope applies to BLM Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) assigned a BLM police canine and managers/supervisors with management oversight of the BLM canine team.

3. AUTHORITY

- a. 43 U.S.C. § 1733
- b. 40 U.S.C § 555
- c. 446 DM Chapter 17, 20, 23
- d. General Order 14, 29, 30, 38

4. FILE AND RECORDS MAINTENANCE

Law enforcement records will be maintained in accordance with the Law Enforcement General Orders and Handbooks, and the Bureau Records Retention Catalog.

5. DEFINITIONS

MS-9260 – LAW ENFORCEMENT GENERAL ORDERS
General Order 36

Police Canine: A BLM-owned, dual-purpose canine trained and certified in patrol/narcotics detection function(s).

Police Canine Apprehension: Any law enforcement activity in which a police canine is on scene and plays an active role to subdue a suspect.

Police Canine Bite Incident: Any incident outside training where a police canine causes or is alleged to have caused physical injury by biting a person other than a police canine handler or instructor.

Police Canine Certification Standards: The standards that each police canine team must meet to be certified by OLES.

Police Canine Deployment: The use of a police canine during a law enforcement activity.

Police Canine Handler: A BLM LEO certified by the BLM, Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES), to use a police canine in the performance of their duties.

Police Canine Team: A police canine handler and their assigned police canine that have satisfactorily completed OLES approved police canine training and successfully met the BLM Police Canine Certification Standards.

6. POLICY

6.1. POLICE CANINE DEPLOYMENT

Deploying a BLM police canine for apprehension or detection of narcotics will follow the parameters set forth in this section. The final decision to deploy a police canine will rest with the police canine handler. The police canine handler will continuously evaluate each situation and determine if the use of a police canine is consistent with this general order. BLM police canines will not be scheduled more than 16 hours per shift. The BLM police canine must have eight (8) hours of rest prior to the next shift.

6.2. POLICE CANINE DEPLOYMENT AND APPREHENSION PARAMETERS

6.2.1. POLICE CANINE DEPLOYMENT FACTORS

Police canine handlers may use force in accordance with General Order 14 (Use of Force) to apprehend a suspect. All decisions to use a canine must be consistent with *Graham v. Connor* (490 U.S. 386 ([1989])) and include the following considerations:

- a. The severity of the crime.
- b. Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of others and LEOs.
- c. Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.

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6.2.2. POLICE CANINE APPREHENSION FACTORS

A canine may be used to locate and apprehend a suspect if the canine handler has reasonable belief that the individual has either committed or is about to commit a serious offense and any of the following conditions exist:

- a. A reasonable belief that the individual poses an immediate threat of violence or serious harm to the public or an LEO.
- b. A need to locate a suspect that has fled the scene of a serious crime, and the LEO has reason to believe the person is hiding in a specific area.
- c. A reasonable belief that the suspect is armed with a weapon.
- d. A need to assist in the arrest of, or to prevent the escape of, a serious or violent offender.

Note: Absent reasonable belief that an individual has committed or is about to commit a serious criminal offense, mere flight from a pursuing LEO should not serve as good cause for the use of a canine to apprehend an individual.

6.3. POLICE CANINE DEPLOYMENT WARNINGS

Prior to a police canine deployment to conduct a search of a structure or area for a suspect, or to stop a fleeing suspect, the police canine handler must loudly announce a statement advising the suspect that a police canine will be released if the suspect does not surrender. A reasonable amount of time will be allowed for the suspect to respond before the police canine is released. When exigent or unique circumstances make the announcement and warning unreasonable or impractical, the canine handler may deploy a canine without the announcement. However, the canine handler must articulate the basis for such exigency in an incident report.

6.4. POLICE CANINE DETECTION

Prior to deploying a police canine for detection, the handler will make a reasonable effort to ensure there are no accidental bites to innocent bystanders. When a police canine is deployed for the purposes of narcotics detection, the handler must maintain control of the police canine by a leash or verbal commands.

6.5. POLICE CANINE POST - DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

6.5.1. SUBJECT CARE

When a bite or injury occurs or is alleged to have occurred during a police canine deployment, the police canine handler will ensure medical treatment for the subject is given as soon as reasonably possible, irrespective of the perceived seriousness of the bite or injury.

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6.5.2. POST- BITE INVESTIGATION

A police canine deployment resulting in a bite will be investigated by the BLM Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) and subject to a Board of Review.

6.6. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS / DETAIL OPERATIONS

BLM canine handlers will support/attend national details that are canine appropriate.

6.7. POLICE CANINE PROGRAM TRAINING

6.7.1. INITIAL POLICE CANINE TEAM TRAINING

BLM police canine teams will complete a police canine training course with instructions in both patrol and narcotics detection operations. This training must be approved by the Police Canine Program Coordinator.

6.7.2. POLICE CANINE PATROL OPERATION TRAINING

Police canine teams will be trained and certified in the protection of the handler and others as well as in locating and apprehending suspects.

6.7.3. POLICE CANINE NARCOTICS DETECTION OPERATION TRAINING

Police canine teams will be trained and certified to detect narcotic odors as approved by the OLES.

6.7.4. POLICE CANINE TEAM INITIAL CERTIFICATION

Following completion of the initial training and prior to the use of police canine on duty, the BLM police canine team must successfully meet the police canine certification standards.

6.7.5. POLICE CANINE MAINTENANCE TRAINING

Police Canine teams will perform maintenance training to maintain proficiency in both patrol and narcotics detection as part of their administrative work week.

6.7.6. ANNUAL POLICE CANINE RECERTIFICATION

All BLM police canine teams must recertify annually in accordance with the police canine certification standards.

6.7.7. POLICE CANINE TRAINING DOCUMENTATION

All police canine training sessions and evaluations must be documented by the handler or person providing the training in the BLM OLES-approved electronic canine Record Management System (RMS).

6.8. POLICE CANINE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All canine deployments will be documented in the OLES approved RMS.

6.9. POLICE CANINE ACQUISITION

OLES is responsible for the purchase and acquisition of all police canines. All police canines are the property of OLES.

6.10. CANINE EQUIPMENT

The BLM will provide each police canine handler with the essential police canine equipment necessary for the care, maintenance, and safe operation of the canine.

6.11. POLICE CANINE CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The police canine handler must ensure that the canine receives proper living conditions, nutrition, grooming, training, medical care, and affection.

6.12. POLICE CANINE HANDLER COMPENSATION

Police canine handlers will be paid a minimum of 60 minutes per day, seven (7) days per week, for time spent performing canine-related duties, such as feeding, bathing, brushing, and cleaning of the kennel or vehicle.