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| Policy Name: | POLICE SERVICE DOGS | | |
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| Issued By: | COMMUNITY POLICING BUREAU | Approved By: | SURREY POLICE BOARD |
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RELATED POLICIES

AD 2.2 Complaints and Professional Standards

OP 2.1 Use of Force

OP 2.4 IIO Notification

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. Surrey Police Service (SPS) will enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Lower Mainland District Integrated Police Dog Service (LMD IPDS) for the operational use of Police Service Dogs (PDS).
- 1.2. To ensure the operational deployment of LMD IPDS follows the provisions of *British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards, Standard 1.4 Police Service Dogs*.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This policy applies to all SPS Members.

3. POLICY

- 3.1. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RCMP, SPS, and other municipal police agencies in the region will govern all aspects of the resourcing, funding, and management of the LMD IPDS.
- 3.2. LMD IPDS will investigate and maintain conduct of all Police Dog calls for service within the Lower Mainland.
- 3.3. LMD IPDS will be subject to the command of the Lower Mainland Investigative Service Officer in the RCMP for operational and administrative direction.

3.4. SPS Members seconded to LMD IPDS will be subject to the command of, and accountable to, the Officer in Charge of LMD IPDS, which includes but not limited to: training, kenneling, animal management and administration.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1. LMD IPDS and its participants are subject to RCMP Policy and Operational Guidelines which follow *British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards*. Permitted uses of a PSD are:

- i. tracking or searching for persons who may have committed, or be about to commit, an offence;
- ii. apprehending persons by police dog bite or display;
- iii. tracking or searching for missing or lost persons;
- iv. searching for drugs;
- v. searching for explosives/firearms;
- vi. searching for evidence;
- vii. crowd control;
- viii. community relations and other demonstration events; and
- ix. other uses approved by the Director, Police Services.

Building and Area Searches

4.2. If a PSD is used for a building or area search, the following applies:

- i. Frontline units will contain the building or area (vehicle engines off);
- ii. if practicable, the PSD Handler vehicle will be the first unit into the area to be searched; and
- iii. a Frontline Member will accompany the PSD Handler during the search, if requested.

Warnings Prior to a Search

4.3. PSD Handlers must give a loud verbal warning prior to using their police dog to search for a person, unless there are exigent circumstances.

4.4. PSD Handlers must identify themselves as a police officer with a PSD, and tell the person that they may be bitten if they do not comply with police instructions.

4.5. PSD Handlers, after providing a warning above, must allow a reasonable time, based on the totality of the circumstances, for a person to show themselves.

Responsibilities of the PSD Handler

- 4.6. PSD Handlers must ensure that their PSD is always under control by commands and/or physical restrictions, or other relevant action.
- 4.7. PSD Handlers must take reasonable steps to ensure that the PSD does not bite when it would be reasonable to search for, locate, arrest or apprehend a person without a bite, including but not limited to:
- i. shortening the length of the leash;
 - ii. maintaining visual contact with their PSD; and
 - iii. recalling the PSD.
- 4.8. PSD Handlers must deploy their PSD on a leash, unless the environment/terrain or the risk involved would make this unreasonable.
- 4.9. PSD Handlers must inspect all PSD equipment on a weekly basis to ensure it is in good working order and replace any faulty equipment.

Tracking

- 4.10. If a PSD is needed for tracking, LMD IPDS should be called immediately. Unless required by circumstances, Frontline Members should not start a search before the PSD arrives.
- 4.11. Frontline Members must set up a perimeter and maintain the perimeter until cancelled by a Frontline Supervisor after consultation with the PSD Handler.
- 4.12. A Frontline Member will accompany the PSD Handler during a search, if requested by the PSD Handler.

Authorizing use of a PSD

- 4.13. Prior to authorizing use of a PSD, the Supervisor will consider:
- i. the seriousness of the offence;
 - ii. whether the circumstances of the incident indicate that the PSD could reasonably be expected to locate and apprehend the offender (e.g., time delay of the offence and time delay for PSD response, weather conditions, pedestrian traffic in the area); and
 - iii. whether the deployment would be reasonably expected to assist in bringing a dangerous situation under control.

Arrests

- 4.14. Whenever practicable, a Member other than the PSD Handler will take custody of suspect(s).
- 4.15. PSD Handlers must consider the following prior to and during each deployment of a PSD, and conclude, on reasonable grounds, that the risk of a bite is justified:

- i. whether there is lawful authority to arrest;
- ii. that no lesser use of force would be appropriate or effective; and
- iii. the totality of the circumstances, including, but not limited to:
 - a. the seriousness of the offence believed to have been committed or about to be committed;
 - b. the potential risk to any person, including the person being apprehended;
 - c. the identity of the person being apprehended, if known;
 - d. whether the person could be apprehended at a later time;
 - e. the age of the person being apprehended, in particular whether the person is reasonably believed to be a young person, or elderly;
 - f. whether there is a weapon involved;
 - g. whether the person being apprehended has a history of violence or has demonstrated violence or threatened violence; and
 - h. any injury likely to result from a PSD bite.

4.16. PSD Handlers must not allow a PSD to bite a person, and must not allow a PSD to continue to be deployed if it could reasonably be expected that the PSD would bite a person, unless:

- i. the person is causing bodily harm to a police officer, a third party, or the PSD;
- ii. the PSD Handler is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that the person's behaviour will imminently cause bodily harm to a police officer, a third party, or the PSD; or
- iii. the person is fleeing or hiding and there are reasonable grounds for their immediate apprehension by a PSD bite.

Warnings Prior to a Bite

4.17. PSD Handlers must give a loud verbal warning prior to permitting their dog to bite, unless such a warning would be impractical or place anyone, including the PSD Handler-dog team, at risk of bodily harm.

4.18. Whenever practicable, the PSD Handler must identify themselves as a police officer with a PSD and tell the person that they may be bitten if they do not comply with police instructions.

4.19. PSD Handlers ensure that their PSD releases a bite as soon as reasonably possible. When determining when it is reasonable to have a PSD release the bite, the PSD Handler must consider:

- i. that a person may struggle from pain or fear in response to a police dog bite;
- ii. that a person may not be able to remain completely passive, or may not be able to completely comply with police officer directions while being bitten; and
- iii. that these behaviours, of struggling due to pain or fear or the inability to completely comply with directions due to pain or fear, on their own, are insufficient reasons to not have the PSD release the bite.

Searching for / Apprehending Children

- 4.20. A Member will not request LMD IPSD to search for or apprehend a person, if the person is reasonably believed to be twelve (12) years old or younger unless:
- i. the Member has reasonable grounds to believe that the child poses an imminent risk of grievous bodily harm or death to any person, including themselves; or
 - ii. the child is missing or a lost person.

PSD Bites – Procedures and Reporting

- 4.21. A Supervisor must attend the scene as soon as possible, unless it is unreasonable for the Supervisor to attend due to distance, or other circumstances which make attendance impracticable.
- 4.22. If the person bitten is taken into custody, the arresting Member will be responsible for transporting or arranging transport for the person to the hospital, for tetanus and any other treatment recommended by the attending medical health professional, and for maintaining guard of the arrested person until relieved of the responsibility of custody.
- 4.23. If the person bitten is not taken into custody, the person will be offered transportation to the hospital for treatment. If the person refuses transportation, the arresting Member will note this in their notebook and the PRIME-BC report.
- 4.24. If the person bitten is under 18 years of age, the parent or guardian must be notified of the incident.
- 4.25. The PSD Handler and/or the investigator will note the nature and location of any injury and any other damages. The Supervisor or Lower Mainland Integrated Forensic Identification Services will photograph all PSD bites. If the person who was bitten refuses to have their injury photographed, this refusal must be noted in the PRIME-BC report.
- 4.26. The PSD Handler will submit a Subject-Behaviour Officer-Response (SBOR) report in PRIME-BC as soon as possible, but must be initiated within forty-eight (48) hours.
- 4.27. Where injury occurs that may meet the mandate of the Independent Investigations Office (IIO), the Supervisor will notify the Duty Officer and they will notify the IIO and the Professional Standards Section (PSS). If the incident occurs outside Surrey, the Supervisor will notify the Duty Officer of jurisdiction.
- 4.28. Any injury requiring an individual to be transported to hospital or medical facility and to be seen by a medical health professional must be reported and appropriate documents provided to PSS. The Supervisor will notify the SPS Duty Officer who will notify PSS. The incident will be reported in the SPS Operational Report. This is required for instances that occur in Surrey as well as in outside jurisdictions.

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

“Frontline Member” means a Member assigned to a Patrol function with the Community Policing Bureau.

“LMD IPDS” means Lower Mainland District Integrated Police Dog Service, a regional service deploying Police Service Dogs and PSD Handlers in the Lower Mainland.

“Member” means a sworn police officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“OCC” means the Operational Communications Centre.

“PRIME-BC” means the Police Records Information Management Environment, the provincial police records management system.

“PSD” means police service dog.

“PSD Handler” means a police officer who is trained to handle police service dogs.

“PSS” means the Professional Standards Section of Surrey Police Service.

“SBOR” means Subject Behaviour Officer Response, a use of force template in PRIME-BC.

“Secondment” means an SPS Employee’s temporary reassignment to an external agency or unit.

“SPS” means Surrey Police Service.

“Supervisor” means a Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, Superintendent, Deputy Chief Constable, Chief Constable, and any other person acting in a Supervisory capacity who is accountable for a particular area or shift on behalf of SPS.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCES

British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards, Standard 1.4 Police Service Dogs

Police Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 367