

USE OF FORCE

POLICY & PROCEDURE NO. 1.01	ISSUE DATE: _____
	EFFECTIVE DATE: _____
MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCED: 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 1.3.3; 1.3.4; 1.3.5	REVISION DATE: _____

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Because of their law enforcement and peacekeeping role, police officers will be required at times to resort to the use of physical force to enable them to fully carry out their responsibilities. Police officers are confronted continually with situations requiring or resulting in the use of various degrees of force to affect a lawful arrest, to ensure public safety, or to protect themselves or others from harm. The degree of force used is dependent upon the facts surrounding the situation the officer's face. Only a reasonable and necessary amount of force may be used. The degree of force the officer is forced to use often depends upon the amount of resistance or threat to safety the situation produces.

The objective of the use of force is to maintain and/or reestablish control over a situation. Control is reached when a person complies with an officer's directions and/or the suspect is restrained or apprehended and no longer presents a threat to the officer or others. Since officers will encounter a wide range of behaviors, they must be prepared to utilize a range of force options that are reasonable and necessary to maintain and/or reestablish control by overcoming resistance to the officers' lawful authority while minimizing injuries.

Because there are an unlimited number of possibilities, allowing for a wide variety of circumstances, no written policy can offer definitive answers to every situation in which the use of force might be appropriate. Rather, this policy will set certain specific guidelines and provide officers with a concrete basis on which to utilize sound judgment in making reasonable and prudent decisions.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the department that: [1.3.1]

- A. Officers use only the force that is reasonably necessary to make a lawful arrest, to place a person into protective custody, to effectively bring an incident under control, or to protect the lives or safety of the officer and others.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Deadly Force*: Any use of force that is reasonably intended or likely to cause death or great bodily harm.
- B. *Non-Deadly Force*: Any use of force other than that which is considered deadly force. This includes any physical effort used to control or restrain another, or to overcome the resistance of another.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Use of Deadly Force

- 1. Officers are authorized to use deadly force to: [1.3.2]
 - a. Protect the officer or others from what is reasonably believed to be a threat of death or serious bodily harm; and/or
 - b. To affect an arrest only if:
 - i. The arrest is for a felony;
 - ii. The officer reasonably believes that the force employed creates no substantial risk to innocent persons; and

- iii. The officer reasonably believes that:
 - [a] The crime for which the arrest is made involved conduct including the use or threatened use of deadly force, or
 - [b] There is a substantial risk that the person to be arrested will cause death or serious bodily harm if such person's apprehension is delayed.
2. Where practicable prior to discharging a firearm, officers shall identify themselves as law enforcement officers and state their intent to shoot.
3. The mere placing of handcuffs on a prisoner will not be construed to be a use of physical force. Use of restraining devices is mandatory on all prisoners, unless in the officer's judgment unusual circumstances exist which make the use of restraining devices impossible or unnecessary (e.g., very young juvenile, handicapped, injured).

B. Deadly Force Restrictions

1. Officers may use deadly force to destroy an animal that represents a threat to public safety, or as a humanitarian measure where the animal is seriously injured when the officer reasonably believes that deadly force can be used without harm to the officer or others.
2. Firearms shall not be discharged as a bluff, or warning shot.
[1.3.3]
3. Officers should refrain from discharging a firearm at a moving or fleeing vehicle unless any occupant is using or threatening to use deadly force. Officers should not shoot when the vehicle is no longer an imminent threat.

C. Use of Non-Deadly Force [1.3.4]

1. Where deadly force is not authorized, officers may use only that level of force that is reasonably necessary to bring an incident under control.

2. Officers are authorized to use department-approved, non-deadly force techniques and issued equipment to:
 - a. Protect the officer or others from physical harm;
 - b. Restrain or subdue a resistant individual, while making a lawful arrest or placing a person in protective custody; and/or
 - c. Bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.

D. Medical Attention

1. After any level of force is used, the officer shall immediately evaluate the need for medical attention or treatment for that person upon whom the force was used and arrange for such treatment when: [1.3.5]
 - a. That person has a visible injury; or
 - b. In the case of use of pepper spray, immediately after spraying a suspect, officers shall be alert to any indications that the individual needs medical care. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, breathing difficulties, gagging, profuse sweating and loss of consciousness; or
 - c. That person complains of injury or discomfort and requests medical attention.

NOTE: Any person requesting and/or deemed in need of immediate medical attention shall be transported in accordance with the departmental policy on *Transporting Prisoners* to the appropriate hospital or medical facility. All medical treatment received shall be noted in the officer's report.

2. Injury to Prisoner

- a. The officer shall promptly notify his/her immediate supervisor of the incident.

- b. The officer shall attempt to locate and identify all witnesses, and obtain and document their statements.
- c. The officer shall prepare and submit all required reports. If more than one officer is involved in a use of force incident resulting in an injury, each officer shall complete a report outlining his/her actions and observations in the incident.

3. *Patrol Supervisor*

- a. If available, the Patrol Supervisor shall immediately respond to the scene of any incident where, as the result of the application of physical force, an officer is injured, or a prisoner has a visible injury, or complains of injury or discomfort and requests medical attention, and
- b. [S]he shall:
 - i. Ensure that officers receive any necessary assistance, including medical treatment, and that any injuries to officers are properly documented;
 - ii. Ensure that the need for medical treatment for the prisoner is properly evaluated and provided;
 - iii. Determine if a detective should respond to the scene and the level of investigative services to be utilized (including photos, measurements and diagrams). If an injury or complaint of pain exists, supervisors are encouraged to obtain photographs; and

NOTE: A photograph showing no injury may be as important as one, which shows injury.
 - iv. File a report on the incident and his/her observations with the officer-in-charge of the police station.

¹ *Com. v. Klein*, 372 Mass. 823, 363 N.E.2d 1313 (1977)

POLICE CANINE OPERATIONS

POLICY & PROCEDURE NO. 1.20	ISSUE DATE: _____
	EFFECTIVE DATE: _____
MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCED: 41.1.4	REVISION DATE: _____

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Because of their superior senses of smell and hearing, physical stamina and agility, trained law enforcement canines are a valuable supplement to police manpower. However, utilization of canines requires adherence to procedures that properly control their use-of-force potential and channel their specialized capabilities into legally-acceptable crime prevention and control activities.

Police dogs are not infallible. Their effectiveness depends largely upon the intelligent application of their capabilities. Police dogs react as trained to situations. Anyone making a sudden or threatening move toward the dog or handler risks the chance of the dog's engaging and causing injury.

The purpose of this policy is to establish a set of guidelines for the proper management and control of the department's canine team(s), as well as the use of police canine team(s) from other police agencies during daily and specialized operations.

This policy will familiarize department personnel with canine operating procedure and policy to ensure the best use of canine teams; the policy will also educate department supervisors on the appropriate uses of canine teams to ensure effective utilization and management in deployment situations.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the department to:

- A. It is the policy of this department to staff, train, deploy, and maintain a canine unit within the department to serve as a support unit in the field to enhance basic patrol and investigative functions.
- B. This department shall utilize the police agency's canine team when it is felt that their use will aid in the apprehension of wanted or escaped persons, tracking, search and rescue operations, seizure of contraband, discovery of explosives, crowd control, locating articles, arson investigation, public relations demonstrations, and other needs of the department.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Canine Team*: A police officer/handler and a specially trained working dog working as a team.
- B. *Passive Alert Dog*: A canine which, when alerting to the presence of controlled substances or other material for which it is trained to search, sits, stands or lies down passively.
- C. *Aggressive Alert*: A canine which, when alerting to the presence of a controlled substance or other material for which it is trained to search, will dig at the source of odor.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Canine Team Utilization

1. CANINE HANDLING

Only officers trained to handle a police canine and authorized by the Chief of Police may handle a canine.

The handler shall maintain control of the canine to avoid injury to persons as well as to the dog.

2. AVAILABILITY

The teams may engage in assignments not listed here with the approval of the shift supervisor.

3. CANINE TEAM DEPLOYMENT

The decision to deploy a canine team is the decision of the canine handler.

The canine handler is responsible for determining whether a situation justifies canine use. The decision on how to deploy the canine team is a decision of the handler. The responsibility for the evaluation of risk and safety of the team lies with the handler.

If an on-scene supervisor disagrees with the handler's tactical assessment to deploy a canine, he may instruct the handler not to deploy the canine.

Arrestees shall not be transported in a vehicle with a police canine unless alternative transportation is not available and immediate transport is essential for safety or security reasons.

4. SOCIALIZING OF CANINE(S)

No canine trained or maintained as a patrol dog shall intentionally be allowed to *come into contact with any member of the general public* or member of an agency utilizing the services of an Ashland Police Department canine for the purpose of socializing without the consent of the canine supervisor or his/her designee. This regulation applies to the following:

To a canine which is on or off duty.

In now way limits contact with the dog handler's immediate family.

To contact that is a direct result of the canine performing an assigned task.

5. MUTUAL AID REQUESTS: When another agency requests the use of the department's canine team:

The dispatcher shall notify the shift supervisor of the request and a brief description of the nature of the incident.

If the request is approved by the shift supervisor, an on-duty canine team will be assigned to respond to the requesting agency. If no team is on duty, the canine supervisor shall be notified, and the canine handler may be called out at the discretion of the canine supervisor.

If the canine handler is off duty and called out to assist another agency, the requesting agency will be billed for the overtime expense incurred by the handler as a result of the deployment.

In the event that a K-9 handler is contacted directly from a member of another agency for K-9 service, the officer shall obtain pertinent information related to the incident, advise the calling party to contact the Ashland Police Dispatcher with a formal request for service, and prepare for their response. The K-9 handler shall also notify the Dispatcher of the request for a K-9 and provide any and all information they have at that time.

Responsibilities of Requesting Officers

Generally

Minimize noise and confusion at the scene to avoid exciting or distracting the canine.

Do not follow or get close to a dog that is working, unless instructed to do so by the handler.

Shut off vehicles *in* the area if feasible to minimize scent contamination by engine exhaust.

In the event that a resident has a pet at the scene, request that the owner remove the pet completely away from the area.

Building Search

Attempt to determine if anyone may be lawfully in the building.

Secure the building to prevent entry by others and to prevent escape.

Tracking/Area Search

Determine the last known location of the suspect. Secure the area from any further scent contamination.

Set up a perimeter to prevent the escape of the suspect. Secure the area from any further scent contamination.

Article Searches

Secure the area where the articles are to be searched for to avoid any further scent contamination.

Leave items in plain view, undisturbed and in place, if possible, and point them out to the handler.

If articles must be recovered, advise the handler of what was recovered and where.

Approaching Canines

Personnel shall not provoke, tease or abuse the canine.

Employees shall not approach the canine without the consent of the handler.

Employees shall not feed the canine without consent of the handler.

Employees shall not provide any commands to the canine.

Employees shall not show the canine to any person(s) without the consent of the handler.

Employees shall refrain from making any threatening gestures, engaging in horse play, or making any motions toward the handler while in the presence of the canine. Such actions may trigger a protective response from the canine.

The handler shall share in the responsibility of keeping personnel aware of these rules and shall report any violations.

B. Canine Operations [41.1.4(a)]

1. CROWD CONTROL

Canine team(s) shall be deployed under department guidelines.

The canine team shall allow open avenues of escape to the crowd.

Canines shall be restrained on a leather leash no longer than six-feet attached to a collar.

Canines shall not be unleashed and sent into a crowd.

2. DRUG DETECTION CANINES

The canine officer shall maintain records that document the use and the proficiency of individual canines in drug detection. This documentation shall be readily available to officers and others who may need it when seeking warrants.

Sniffing in Public Places

Random exploratory sniffing of luggage, packages or other inanimate objects may be conducted in public facilities such as airports or train stations, as authorized by the shift supervisor or other authorized command officer.

Exploratory sniffing in these facilities shall be confined solely to those areas open to the general public and, whenever possible, with the advance knowledge and consent of the appropriate facility manager.

Exploratory sniffing shall be conducted without interference or annoyance to the public or interruption of facility operations.

Sniffing in Areas Restricted to the Public: Canine sniffs conducted in areas restricted to the public, such as baggage staging areas, are considered searches and may be conducted only with reasonable suspicion or probable cause to believe that specific items contain illegal narcotics.

Sniffing at Shipping Facilities: Exploratory sniffing may be conducted on the premises of private shipping companies at the request of the facility manager and with the consent of the Chief of Police.

Sniffing of Persons: Sniffing of an individual's person is permitted only when there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the individual is in possession of illegal narcotics. Sniffing may be conducted using a passive alert dog only.

Use of Drug Detection Canines in Schools: The use of drug detection canines in public schools is permitted only when:

The school's principal or designated authority requests or approves use of the canines;

There is reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal narcotics are being possessed, distributed and/or consumed on the premises, such that the interests of the school are being unacceptably compromised; and

The search is limited to inanimate objects in public areas and the exterior of student lockers unless reasonable suspicion exists to gain admission to lockers and related areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Sniffs of the exterior of residences, either individual dwellings or the common areas of multiple unit dwellings, are to be conducted within the scope of current case law.

Drug-sniffing canines may be used to sniff motor vehicles when:

Reasonable suspicion exists to believe the operator or passengers are in possession of illegal narcotics.

During a valid vehicle stop, the use of a canine to sniff the vehicle's exterior in an exploratory manner is not a search.¹ Unless the canine alerts to the vehicle, the operator may not be detained longer than necessary to conclude the business associated with the initial stop.

Canines may be used in consent searches.

Canines may assist in the execution of search warrants.

3. BUILDING SEARCHES

When the responding officer believes an unauthorized person is in a building, no preliminary building search should be conducted. The officer's responsibility is to secure the building, permitting no one to enter, and to call a canine team, which will enter and search the building.

Evacuate all tenants, workers and others from the facility.

Request that all air conditioning, heating, or other air-blowing systems be shut off so as not to interfere with the canine's scent.

Upon entrance to the building, all exits should be kept secured, and communications limited to those of a tactical nature.

It will be the responsibility of the handler to determine whether or not the canine should be unleashed during a building search. Consideration will be given to the imminent risk of injury to innocent persons within the facility.

Prior to the building search, the handler will verbally announce a warning to anyone inside the building that a K-9 will be released to conduct a search. The handler will urge anyone inside the building to surrender at that time. At least one K-9 warning shall be given by the handler without the canine present. After a reasonable amount of time, at least one additional warning shall be given with the canine present. This warning shall be repeated on each level of all multilevel structures.

If, in the opinion of the handler, it is tactically unsafe to announce the presence of the canine team, and if the on-scene supervisor approves, the canine team may enter the building unannounced.

When apprehending suspects, canines shall be commanded to disengage as soon as it is safe to do so.

Note: When a building has been closed for the night, the odors in the building tend to dissipate. When a person enters the building or opens a door or window, this allows a draft or wind to enter, disturbing the suspect's odor trail and spoiling the scene.

4. TRACKING

Humid, early morning hours with no wind offer ideal tracking conditions.

Tracking on paved streets is difficult because of the odor of the pavement itself.

Wind of twenty miles per hour or more, or heavy rain, makes tracking difficult. Light rainfall frequently provides ideal tracking conditions.

If officers are pursuing or searching for a suspect and contact with the suspect is lost, prior to summoning a canine team the officers should try to pinpoint the location where the suspect was last seen, and avoid vehicle or foot movement in that area.

Back up officers should not respond to the scene, but position themselves around the perimeter of the incident to contain the suspect in the search area.

It is important that the responding officer make certain that no person enters the area used by the suspect to make his departure. Since the subject's odor will be predominant, the entire scene must be free of other contamination. Generally, dogs may be capable of detecting a scent several hours after the suspect has left the area if the scene has not been contaminated.

If material has been dropped by the fleeing suspect, such material and the surrounding area must not be contaminated, since a dog may detect the suspect's odor from the material.

Tracking canines shall be kept on a maximum of 15 feet of leash except in situations that include but are not limited to officer safety, environmental limitations, or exigent circumstance.

5. ROLE OF BACK-UP OFFICERS

The canine team handler may request a back-up officer.

A back-up officer's primary responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

The back-up officer(s) should remain close to the handler in a position determined by the handler.

The back-up officer(s) shall be responsible for all communication between the canine team, on-scene supervisor, and the perimeter officers.

The back-up officer(s) should not go ahead of the canine team unless directed to do so by the handler.

The back-up officer(s) may not become physically involved with any suspect(s) unless requested to do so by the police officer/handler.

The back-up officer(s) shall respond to the police officer/handler's request and instructions while involved in the operation. The police officer/handler is in charge of the canine team(s) during the operation.

Once instructed to do so, it shall be the responsibility of the back-up officer(s) to search the suspect, and remove the suspect from the scene.

In case of injury to the police officer/handler, the back-up officer is responsible for obtaining help, and being aware of the canine.

6. CANINE WARNING

A “Canine Warning” should be given prior to releasing the dog unless, in the opinion of the handler, doing so would cause undue risk to the canine team, its presence or intention.

A warning not only allows a suspect time to surrender; it also alerts any innocent persons of the canine team’s presence and intention.

At least one K-9 warning shall be given by the handler without the canine present. After a reasonable amount of time, at least one additional warning shall be given with the canine present. **NOTE: It is recommended that in a large area or building, that the warnings be repeated.**

If, after a reasonable amount of time, no indication of surrender is given, the K-9 can be released.

NOTE: These situations shall be preceded by verbal canine warnings prior to the K-9 being deployed, except in situations where the officer’s safety would be compromised.

C. Canine Program Administration

1. CANINE CONTACTS

Whenever a canine bites or otherwise injures an individual, it is considered a canine “contact.” Whether or not the canine was acting in the line of duty, the handler shall:

Examine the injury to determine the seriousness of the contact.

Obtain medical treatment for the injured person.

Notify the shift supervisor.

Ensure that color photographs are taken of the injured person immediately showing the injury, affected body areas, and face (for identification purposes).

Reports shall be made for all canine contacts regardless of the severity or circumstances surrounding the contact.

The handler is responsible for completing a supplementary report to the original incident report.

A Use of Force report shall be completed if the canine was used for a track or apprehension.

K-9 Supervisor shall be notified immediately and report forwarded to him/her.

A supervisor shall conduct an investigation and submit the findings to the K-9 Supervisor via the Chain of Command.

2. AFTER INCIDENT REPORT

Following the completion of each incident where a canine is deployed, the handler will complete a utilization report detailing the significant events of the deployment as they relate to the use of the canine.

Such records shall be maintained to document the canine's reliability as well as the handler's experience.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR CANINE HANDLER INCLUDE: [41.1.4(B)]

A minimum of three years of full time law enforcement experience with satisfactory work performance, disciplinary and medical leave records.

Being physically capable of performing the rigorous duties of a dog handler.

Being able to work with a minimum of supervision and being willing to take on the responsibilities and risks that the position entails.

Having the ability to provide the proper motivation for the K-9, both verbally and physically.

Commitment to devote some personal time to maintenance, training, care and socialization of the K-9.

Ability to be on call when a canine team is needed, thereby being available to assist, support and cooperate with other departments and personnel.

Having family support to have a police working dog with a secure outdoor area for the canine that conforms to accepted K-9 requirements at the home.

Making a commitment to remain the handler of the canine for at least five years, preferably for the remainder of the dog's working life.

Possessing a strong desire to work with canines and willingness to care for and train the animal; and

Being able to put the working dog's well being and physical comfort above his/her own.

4. TRAINING FOR CANINE HANDLER [41.1.4(B)]

Officers assigned as canine handlers shall attend and successfully complete a prescribed training program for handling and caring for the police working dog, with specialized training in the dog's specific discipline (patrol, narcotics detection, tracking, etc.).

The canine team supervisor shall ensure that the teams receive at least the minimum training necessary to perform their duties and to maintain current certification.

Canine handlers shall have at least one day of training per month in each specialty and on legal updates.

Handlers shall earn annual certification in each specialty from an independent, nationally recognized organization.

They shall participate in other training programs as appropriate.

The K-9 Supervisor should also be familiar with canine procedures, receive training on legal updates and attend canine-related training programs as appropriate.

5. TRAINING FOR CANINE

The canine must be properly trained and certified prior to being officially assigned to patrol duty and must maintain such certification to remain on duty. All training shall be documented on a department-approved form.

In order to maintain the canine's proficiency and certification in detector dogs, it shall be necessary that the handlers have access to appropriate training aids (controlled substances, explosives, etc.). Canine handlers shall be permitted to possess the types of substances the canines are trained to detect in the performance of their duties.

Training aids should be obtained from an appropriate source (DEA, etc.). They shall be stored in an approved container and in a manner that will prevent odor cross contamination and ensure the safety and security of the training aid.

The canine team supervisor shall maintain a logbook for the purposes of logging the controlled substances in and out.

The canine team supervisor shall conduct a monthly inspection and inventory of all training aids stored by the canine teams for training purposes.

The Chief or his/her designee may conduct unannounced inspections of the controlled substances stored by the canine teams for training purposes at any time.

In the event any controlled training aid used by the canine team is lost or destroyed during training or while in the possession of the handler, the handler shall notify the canine team supervisor or his/her designee as soon as possible.

A report shall be completed by the handler. A copy of the case report shall be forwarded to the Chief and the Office of Professional Standards for further review or investigation as determined by the Chief.

Controlled training aids shall not be destroyed or disposed of by the canine handlers. They shall be returned to the issuing agency, where they can be replaced.

6. USE OF DECOYS

No person shall act as a decoy for training patrol canines unless that person is approved by the Chief or his/her designee. This shall not apply to decoys provided by outside training vendors or agencies.

Decoys shall wear the appropriate safety equipment for the training task at hand, as determined by the handler.

Persons may be used to assist in training tracking dogs at the discretion of the handler.

7. REQUIREMENTS FOR CANINES

The dog assigned to the canine unit is the property of the police department.

No dog will be used for breeding purposes, participation in shows, field trials, exhibitions or other demonstrations unless authorized by the Chief.

Department canines shall not be used for off-duty employment or police details without approval of the Chief.

Any dog utilized by this department that exhibits a tendency to not be controllable by the handler, or when unprovoked, attacks or bites another person, or poses a threat to an individual or public safety shall be removed from service.

Should the handler retire; be promoted, reassigned, or relieved from the program for any reason; or should the canine be retired, injured or relieved of duty for any reason, the canine may be reassigned to another handler, removed from duty, or ownership may be transferred to the handler or otherwise disposed of at the discretion of the Chief.

8. CANINE CARE [41.1.4(C)]

Police canines shall not be used for breeding, participation in shows, field trials, exhibitions or other demonstrations, or for off-duty employment unless authorized by the Chief or his/her designee.

Canine handlers are personally responsible for the daily care and feeding of their animal including:

Maintenance and cleaning of the kennel and yard area where the canine is housed;

Provision of food, water and general diet maintenance as prescribed by the department-authorized veterinarian;

Grooming on a daily basis, or more often as required by weather, working conditions or other factors;

Daily exercise (police canines are not permitted to run at large); and

General medical attention and maintenance of health care records.

Where the handler is unable to perform these and related duties due to illness, injury or leave, the following may occur:

Another canine handler may be assigned to temporarily care for the dog; or

The canine may be housed in a department-approved kennel when the handler is unavailable.

Teasing, agitating or roughhousing with a police canine is strictly prohibited unless performed as part of a training exercise.

Handlers shall not permit anyone to pet or hug their canine without their prior permission and immediate supervision. Should a civilian express a desire to do so, [s]he should be informed that police canines are serious working dogs and that they can be dangerous if improperly approached.

A canine handler may apply to take possession of his/her dog under such circumstances as:

The dog is retired from duty or relieved due to injury; or

The handler is transferred, promoted or retires, and a decision is made not to retrain the dog for another handler.

9. EQUIPMENT [41.1.4(D)]

Specialized canine equipment shall be furnished to the canine handler.

The following list includes but is not limited to equipment needed by the canine team(s):

Canine team cruiser: The interior of the vehicle shall be modified to accommodate the needs of the canine team. The exterior of the vehicle shall be conspicuously marked, "Police K-9."

The following additional equipment shall be provided to each Canine Team:

Six foot leash;

Choke collar;

Fifteen foot tracking line;

Thirty foot tracking line (optional);

Tacking harness (optional);

Slicker brush and rake comb;

Nail Clippers;

Ear and teeth cleaning supplies;

Water/food bowl;

Food (supplied at the expense of the department); and

Medications and supplements as determined by the department veterinarian.

The handler shall be responsible for maintenance and inspection of this equipment.

10. INJURY TO CANINE

Should a canine be injured, the handler shall provide and arrange for the appropriate emergency medical care for the canine.

The handler shall notify the shift supervisor and K-9 supervisor.

The handler shall complete a report to the Chief or his/her designee providing the details of the event and injury and forward to K-9 supervisor.

11. INJURY TO HANDLER: In the event that the handler is injured, incapacitated or killed, the following procedure will be followed:

DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, approach the dog that is protecting the injured handler or attempt to assist the officer, unless it is apparent that the failure to respond to the officer would result in death or serious bodily injury.

Allow the handler to secure the dog if possible. Follow the instructions of the handler regarding ways to render aid.

The dog may be able to be lured into the K-9 vehicle or secured using snares and safety equipment.

If feasible, make contact with another handler to remove the dog or control its actions.

Perform other reasonable actions which allow aid to the injured handler while minimizing injury to the canine.

In the unlikely event that all other efforts to respond to the emergency needs of the officer fail, if time permits, contact the department's approved veterinarian, and attempt to tranquilize the dog. If those efforts are unsuccessful, and the officer is in imminent danger of losing his/her life or compounding an existing injury, the K-9 should be neutralized. If it becomes necessary to shoot the dog, place the shot carefully in order to reduce the animal's suffering. The dog is dutifully protecting its handler. Although this action may seem heartless, human life comes first.

¹ Com v. Feyenard, 445 Mass 72, 833 N E.d 590, 2005.