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## **BLOODHOUND PROCEDURE**

### **3091.1 PURPOSE**

It is the purpose of this policy to provide guidelines for the management of the Department's Bloodhound teams and the use of Bloodhounds in field operations.

### **3091.2 INTRODUCTION**

A Bloodhound team provides another resource for officers and investigators to utilize during criminal and non-criminal investigations. Bloodhounds can be trained to trail an individual's unique scent. Among other things, the Bloodhound team can locate or provide a direction of travel of suspects/missing persons, identify or eliminate suspects with scent evidence obtained at crime scenes, identify vehicles previously occupied by suspects and lead officers/investigators to areas or residences frequented by suspects or missing persons.

### **3091.3 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. To promote service and safety in the community through the efficient use of Bloodhound teams.
2. To reduce the resources and time spent in searching for suspects and missing persons.
3. To minimize risk to missing persons by locating them quickly.
4. To increase the number of suspects apprehended after the commission of a criminal act.

### **3091.4 CHAIN OF COMMAND**

1. Bloodhound teams will be assigned to the K9 Unit, organizationally in the Field Operations Bureau.
2. Direct supervision of the Bloodhound teams will be the responsibility of the Canine Sergeant. Overall administrative responsibility shall be that of the Canine Commander.
3. Functional control of the On-Duty Bloodhound teams is that of the On-Duty Watch Commander and/or a field sergeant.

### **3091.5 REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE**

#### **3091.5.1 DEPARTMENTAL**

1. Officers and detectives are encouraged to request an on-duty bloodhound team if their assistance would be beneficial.
2. Requests for off-duty Bloodhound teams shall be made via the on-duty Watch Commander.
3. If a Santa Ana Police Bloodhound Team is unavailable to respond, bloodhound teams may be provided by outside agencies.

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### 3091.5.2 OUTSIDE AGENCIES

1. All requests for assistance of on-duty Bloodhound teams from outside agencies shall be routed through the on-duty Watch Commander for approval. The Watch Commander shall ascertain from the requesting agency the circumstances that led to the request and evaluate them for the suitability of utilizing a Bloodhound.
2. If the Watch Commander approves the request for assistance, an available Bloodhound team shall be dispatched to the requested location. A sergeant may be dispatched to the location at the request of the Bloodhound handler or Watch Commander or as deemed appropriate.
3. The Watch Commander shall apprise the Bloodhound Handler of the facts of the case as related by the requesting agency. The Bloodhound handler shall be responsible for verifying these facts upon arrival at the requested location. If the actual facts differ from those related to the Watch Commander, the handler and/or assigned sergeant shall contact the Watch Commander for further direction.
4. Bloodhound Handlers will deploy their dogs under the guidelines set forth by this department and not that of the outside agency.
5. Bloodhound Teams will not be called in while off-duty to assist outside agencies without the approval of the Field Operations Deputy Chief.

### 3091.6 DEPLOYMENT

1. Upon request of a bloodhound team, the primary investigating officer should provide the handler with relevant case information. Some of the facts necessary include but are not limited to:
  - A. Type of incident
  - B. Whether any subjects are outstanding
  - C. If any subjects are armed, violent or at risk
  - D. The subject's last known location and direction of travel
  - E. The date and time the subject was last seen
  - F. The scent item or evidence available
  - G. Any potential contamination of the scent evidence
  - H. Weather conditions and wind direction at the time the subject fled
  - I. The number of officers available to assist with trailing
2. The Bloodhound Handler will evaluate the circumstances to determine suitability to utilize a bloodhound.
3. The Bloodhound Handler must communicate a plan of action with his/her search team and direct the actions of search team members in order to effect a safe and thorough search with the Bloodhound.
  - A. Safety concerns of a bloodhound team include vehicular traffic, potentially violent suspects, stray animals and other environmental hazards.

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4. If a criminal suspect is being sought, a minimum of three officers will be used to assist the Bloodhound Handler with search team operations unless circumstances are such that this is impractical or unsafe.
  - A. The search team should include cover officers and an arrest team
5. Bloodhound tracking often requires intense physical movement and maneuvering, as such, search teams should be selected accordingly.

### **3091.7 PUBLIC RELATIONS**

1. All requests for public relations activities shall be reviewed and approved by the Canine Sergeant.
2. All personnel assigned to public relations duties shall prepare themselves, their dogs and all equipment in such a manner as to present a professional image.
3. Bloodhound Handlers will take into consideration the capabilities and limitations of the individual dogs in conducting public relations demonstrations.

### **3091.8 EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Bloodhound Handlers are responsible for the care and condition of all equipment issued to them.
2. Assigned vehicles are to be kept clean and in good operating condition.
3. Bloodhound Handlers will wear authorized police uniforms and duty weapons whenever operating assigned police vehicles.
4. While off-duty, assigned vehicles will be kept in a secured garage at the Handlers' residence.
5. Assigned vehicles shall not be used for personal use.
6. Bloodhound Handlers shall monitor their police radios whenever driving their assigned vehicles.
7. All requests for equipment shall be approved by the Canine Sergeant prior to being purchased.
8. Assigned vehicles should be equipped with a spare tire when traveling outside the local area.
9. All weapons and sensitive equipment shall be removed from the vehicle and properly secured when the vehicle is left unattended or when leaving the unit for service or repair.
10. Officers shall not make any modifications, remove equipment from, or add equipment to Department owned vehicles without written authorization from the Canine Sergeant.
11. While on-duty, bloodhounds shall be kept within the rear portion of the police vehicle or in the Department Kennels when not under the Handler's immediate control.

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12. Handlers shall clean up after their bloodhounds at all times and dispose of waste in an appropriate manner and in an appropriate receptacle. This includes all private and public areas.

#### **3091.9 DOG CARE/MEDICAL ATTENTION**

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Bloodhound Handler to keep his/her dog in such physical condition that the dog is able to perform the duties expected of a police bloodhound.
2. Any indication that the dog is not in good physical condition shall be immediately reported to the Canine Sergeant.
3. All veterinary care, not of an emergency nature, shall be cleared by the Canine Sergeant and should be scheduled for on duty hours, if possible.
4. In the event emergency veterinary services are required, the Handler will notify the Canine Sergeant as soon as practical.
5. Dogs will be fed their daily meal at the completion of their tours of duty; or in the event this is impractical, the Handler should feed at a time, which will allow the maximum period possible preceding their tour of duty.
6. Dogs will be groomed daily and are to be thoroughly examined by their handlers. (Such examinations will include eyes, ears mouth, nostrils, feet and general body condition.)

#### **3091.10 CANINE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP/RETIREMENT**

When it becomes necessary to retire a bloodhound for any reason, the following guidelines will be followed:

1. The Bloodhound shall be deemed surplus equipment. The ownership of the dog shall be transferred to the last Handler, provided he/she wishes to keep the dog by Resolution to the City Council
2. In the event the last Handler declines to accept the dog, it may be placed with the previous Handler or another qualified dog handler/trainer from another agency or other qualified individual. If no one wishes to adopt the Bloodhound, it may be euthanized with the approval of the Chief of Police.
3. A contract releasing the City of all liability must be signed by the Chief of Police and the officer taking possession of the dog.

#### **3091.11 DEPARTMENT KENNELS**

1. Kennels at the Santa Ana Police Department are available for police dogs to be housed on a temporary basis.
2. Handlers will be responsible for the cleanliness of the kennel after each use.
3. On-duty officers will be responsible for the daily feeding of police dogs and the cleaning of kennels when dogs are housed at the Santa Ana Police Department for any significant period of time. The Canine Sergeant will coordinate this procedure.

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4. Only Santa Ana Police dogs may be placed in the Department Kennels, due to the possibility of disease.
5. Handlers shall ensure kennels are secured before leaving the dogs unattended in the facility.

### **3091.12 HOME KENNELING**

1. Handlers must have the approval of all adult persons residing in their residences in order to house a bloodhound in their home.
2. Residents must be made aware that the Bloodhound is not a pet, but a trained working dog belonging to the City and assigned to the Handler.
3. As a condition of the assignment, handlers must agree to allow representatives of the Department on their property for the purpose of inspecting areas where the dog is kenneled and the Police Canine unit is housed.
4. Kennels at the Handlers' homes shall be kept in clean and sanitary condition at all times.
5. While off-duty, bloodhounds shall remain under the Handler's immediate control, be kept in an approved kennel at the Handler's home, or boarded with the approval of the Canine Sergeant.
6. Handlers are not to involve themselves in any off-duty activities with their dogs which may discredit the Department.
7. Handlers will not intentionally use their bloodhound/police canine for breeding purposes.
8. The city dog license shall be attached to the dog's collar while at the Handler's home.
9. Handlers will be compensated for canine care and maintenance as outlined in the POA MOU that is in POA effect at the time.

### **3091.13 SUMMARY**

Scent evidence and bloodhound teams have been used by law enforcement for the past century. Properly utilized as an investigative aid, bloodhound teams provide another avenue for locating missing persons, assist with police investigations, and present an appealing innovation to the public.