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## NARCOTICS DETECTION CANINE

### 3092.1 PURPOSE

This procedure sets forth the guidelines for the selection, training, and deployment of the Santa Ana Police Department's Narcotic Detection Canine (NDC). Police Officers are continuously confronted with suspects who use new and innovative ways to conceal narcotics. To assist officers, the Department deploys NDCs who are specially trained canines capable of detecting narcotics and are available for use by officers who believe there may be narcotics concealed in a particular location, vehicle, or container/compartment. NDCs are trained to detect the scents of marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine. NDCs are assigned to the Special Investigations Division.

### 3092.2 PROCEDURE

#### 3092.2.1 HANDLER SELECTION/RESPONSIBILITIES

The guidelines outlined in the Department's Canine Policy shall apply to the NDC handler selection and their responsibilities. [See attachment: Policy 309 - Canines.pdf](#)

#### 3092.2.2 NDC SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Labrador Retriever, or other suitable working breeds, 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 years of age.
2. The canine must be in excellent health with a full medical certification from a licensed veterinarian, including X-rays showing no hip dysplasia.
3. The canine must be guaranteed to have a sound temperament and disposition suitable for narcotics detection work with psychological characteristics suitable for normal urban deployment including public relations activities.
4. A written unconditional guarantee of one (1) year on the canine's performance and a one (1) year guarantee against hip dysplasia is required.
5. Training records and medical records, including hip X-rays, must accompany the canine at the time of delivery.

#### 3092.2.3 PRE-SERVICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Before being utilized in the field, the NDC shall complete the following training requirements, regardless of whether the canine is trained by an outside vendor or specified Division personnel:

1. Basic obedience training includes, but is not limited to, the commands of sit, down, stay, and heel, which should be performed both on and off-leash.
2. A minimum of 200 hours of narcotics detection training. No pseudo narcotics may be utilized at any time during that training. The canine must be able to detect the odors of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine and give a passive alert upon finding these substances.
3. During pre-service training, the canine should be exposed to various search environments that replicate actual field search conditions including, but not limited to

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searches of vehicles, residences, commercial buildings, storage facilities, luggage, parcels, and open field areas.

4. Training in narcotic detection should also include varied amounts of substances. In terms of quantity, the canine should be able to detect identifiable residue and demonstrate success at various amounts up to multi kilograms. The canine must show proficiency in detecting substances at various heights from ground level to 6 feet high. Detection of buried narcotics is desirable.

### 3092.2.4 CERTIFICATION / ON-GOING TRAINING

The canine must be certified following the California Narcotics Canine Association (CNCA) requirements upon completion of initial training and must be certified annually by an official of the CNCA.

On-going/in-service training consists of, and may be accomplished by, the following means:

1. Individual Team Training - Each Canine Handler is expected to train with their dog a minimum of four (4) hours weekly. This training includes detection training and exercising, and playing with the canine to keep the canine motivated.
2. Department Level Training - All Narcotic Canine Teams may train together as designated by the Santa Ana Police Department K-9 Sergeant. At this training, Division Canine Teams may take advantage of SAPD's K-9 training schedule's narcotic search curriculum.
3. Other Agency or Vendor Training - This training includes training with other law enforcement/military agencies or professional canine trainers arranged by the SID canine handlers. Individual handlers must receive approval from the Narcotics Unit Sergeant before arranging or engaging in training with members of other law enforcement agencies or with professional canine trainers. Canine handlers may also attend various seminars and continuing professional training (CPT) courses as appropriate.
4. Canine Trial Competition - Narcotic Canine Handlers are encouraged to participate in various canine trial competitions throughout the state. This training aims to allow canine handlers the ability to interact with Narcotic Canine Handlers from other agencies and observe canine handling techniques of other handlers. This also provides handlers with the opportunity to interact with professional trainers and receive evaluations of their handling techniques. Handlers who desire to participate in trials shall submit a Request for Training through the unit sergeant when the event is held outside of Santa Ana. Use of a City vehicle for transportation to such events outside of the City must be submitted through the unit sergeant for approval by the Special Investigations Division Commander.

### 3092.2.5 TRAINING AIDS

NDCs shall be trained using actual narcotic substances. The actual narcotic training substances shall be used exclusively for the following purposes:

1. Training that gives the canine the experience in finding narcotic substances.

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2. Providing the canine with scent awareness incidental to an actual field search.

NDC handlers shall follow all controlled substance procedures outlined in the canine policy. The following substances and amounts shall be used for training purposes:

1. Cocaine (powder) - 2 ounces
2. Heroin (tar) - 2 ounces
3. Marijuana - 2 ounces
4. MDMA - 2 ounces
5. Methamphetamine (Ice) - 2 ounces
6. Opium - 2 ounces

The training aids shall remain in the custody of the handler until they are no longer usable. The handler is responsible for ensuring their assigned training aids are adequately secured in the training aids case as described under equipment and secured in the handler's vehicle. They may remain in the vehicle if it is parked in the garage of the handler's residence. If not, the training aids case must be secured in the handler's residence.

1. Damage to any of the packaging shall be brought to the unit Sergeant's attention.
2. The unit Sergeant will determine whether the particular training aid can be repackaged or turned into evidence for destruction and another one issued.

The unit Sergeant will conduct yearly inspections of the training aids and submit a memorandum documenting his/her findings to the Special Investigations Commander. Every two years, all narcotics substance training aids will be returned to Santa Ana Police Evidence for verification by SAPD's Forensics of weight and purity, then returned to SAPD's Property for destruction. A memorandum, drafted by the Vice/Narcotics Unit Sergeant, will document the return.

### 3092.2.6 EQUIPMENT

Certain specialized equipment shall be issued to each NDC Handler. The handler is responsible for ensuring the equipment is properly maintained and in good working order at all times. The following equipment shall be issued to each handler:

- (a) Portable training aid case. This case will be an airtight case ("Pelican" type) which includes glass jars and foam packing for safe and secure storage of training aids.
- (b) A padlock and chain will be provided to lock and secure the training aid case in the handler's assigned vehicle.
- (c) Canine first aid kit including drugs necessary for emergency treatment and a good quality insulated storage container for the first aid kit.
- (d) Canine handling equipment including muzzle, 6-foot leash, 15-foot leash, working collar, choke chain, and a retractable 30" leash.
- (e) Kennel with a padlock and chain and dog house for Detective's residence.
- (f) Toys and chews for the canine.

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- (g) Food and water dishes.
- (h) Current Division handheld radio and cellular telephone.

### **3092.3 REQUEST AND USE OF THE NARCOTIC DETECTION CANINE**

#### **3092.3.1 PATROL / DETECTIVE REQUEST**

Narcotics detection canines can be used in a variety of situations including but not limited to:

- Assisting detectives in the search for narcotics during a search warrant service
- Assistance in obtaining a search warrant by using the narcotic detecting canine in support of probable cause
- Search of vehicles, buildings and any other articles or areas deemed necessary

#### **3092.3.2 SEARCHING PERSONS FOR NARCOTICS**

An NDC trained in an aggressive alert shall **not** be used when searching persons for narcotics. When a narcotic detection canine is desired, officer(s)/detective(s) shall direct their request to the Special Investigations Supervisor. Each situation will be assessed separately to determine if the use of the canine is technically and legally feasible by the NDC handler. For special operations involving Santa Ana officers, the Special Investigations Supervisor and NDC handler should be notified as far in advance as possible. Every effort should be made to use an on-duty NDC when possible. Prior to an off-duty team being utilized, the Watch Commander and Special Investigations Supervisor shall be notified to authorize the call out.

#### **3092.3.3 OUTSIDE AGENCY REQUESTS**

On-duty NDC Teams may be available for use by other law enforcement agencies. Requests by outside agencies for NDC Teams must be requested through the Watch Commander or Special Investigations Supervisor and will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Special Investigations Commander. NDC Teams shall only be used for narcotic detection purposes, not apprehension or tracking.

#### **3092.3.4 PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN UTILIZING THE NARCOTICS DETECTION CANINE**

If an officer has probable cause to use the NDC, there are several steps officer(s)/detective(s) can take before the NDC team(s) arrival. All subjects should be removed from the vehicle and placed in a location where they will not interfere with the NDC's search. The vehicle should have all its windows closed and doors shut; this facilitates the accumulation of scent from hidden narcotics. The officer/detective should not search the vehicle first and then call the NDC. If the NDC locates contraband, the handler will notify the handling/requesting officer. The evidence can then be properly recovered and documented.

If the NDC is requested for the search of a structure, there are steps officer(s)/detective(s) can take before the NDC team(s) arrival. As with a car stop, all subjects should, if practical, be removed from the structure. If not, all subjects should be placed together in a single room, separate from the room to be searched. All windows in the room to be searched should be shut.

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If overhead fans or window air conditioners are operating, they should be turned off. If possible, any animals inside the structure should be removed. The building should not be searched, if practical, before the NDC team(s) arrival. In both cases, once an NDC team is on-scene, the canine handler should be advised of the circumstances. Depending on the situation, the handling officer/detective may wish to accompany the NDC team during the search. If narcotics or contraband are discovered, the handler will notify the officer/detective so the evidence can be properly recovered and documented.

### **3092.3.5 USE OF NDCS ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES**

As of November 17, 2000, pursuant to the Attorney General's opinion, Narcotics Canines are no longer utilized to conduct random searches on school campuses.

Narcotics investigations on school campuses will be limited to specific narcotics criminal investigations with approval from the Special Investigations Division Commander and Investigations Bureau Deputy Chief.

Any narcotics searches on school campuses should be in conjunction with a search warrant signed by a magistrate.

### **3092.4 UNINTENTIONAL BITES OR INJURIES CAUSED BY NDCS**

In the event of an unintentional bite or other injury caused by a narcotic canine, the unit supervisor should be immediately notified if not already on scene. For the purpose of this section a canine bite is an injury where there is a break in the skin, however slight. The following steps should be taken:

Evaluate the injury of the person and ensure they receive prompt and appropriate medical attention.

1. Obtain photographs of the injury, if possible.
2. Obtain any statements from the injured person or any witnesses.
3. A Follow-Up report will be written by the handler detailing the circumstances of the injury.

Every unintentional bite or injury will be reviewed by the Vice/Narcotics Sergeant, as well as the Special Investigations Commander. The Vice/Narcotics Sergeant will document their review and findings in an associated Administrative Report. The Administrative Report and all associated documentation will be uploaded to BlueTeam, which will be categorized as an Inquiry unless there is an allegation of misconduct on the part of the Department personnel, in which case, the BlueTeam will be categorized as a complaint.

### **3092.5 INJURED HANDLER PROCEDURES**

In the event of injury to the handler where the handler is unable to maintain control of the canine, the following actions should be considered by personnel to secure the canine:

1. The canine's attitude will change if the handler is hurt or in danger. The canine will become extremely protective of the handler.

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2. DO NOT rush in on the handler or the canine.
3. Call the handler. If they can, they will call the canine off.
4. It is advisable to have several unit personnel become familiar with the canine by incorporating interaction between them and the canine during downtimes. If the handler loses the capacity to control the canine, one of the unit personnel may gain control and secure the canine.
5. Request the unit supervisor if not present and advise of the situation.
6. If control of the canine cannot be accomplished, request a patrol canine handler or Animal Control assistance.
7. After the canine is secured, another handler or unit personnel will transport the canine to the injured officer's home.
8. If a canine is also injured, advise dispatch to contact a veterinarian and advise them of the emergency. Arrange for the canine to be transported to the veterinarian.

#### **3092.6 REPORTS**

1. Canine Program Activity Reporting
  - (a) Narcotics Canine Handlers shall record work-related activities in their journal. Narcotics Canine Handlers shall also maintain statistical information on the number of searches, amount of illegal substances seized and amount of monies seized as a result of the searches conducted.
2. Follow-Up Reports
  - (a) The canine handlers shall be responsible for completing Follow-Up reports detailing the use of the narcotics detecting canine and the search results, which may include, a sketch of the area searched and where alerts were noted, and the results of a search of those areas alerted on.

## **Attachments**

## **Policy 309 - Canines.pdf**



## Canines

### 309.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for the use of canines to augment police services to the community including, but not limited to locating individuals and contraband and apprehending criminal offenders.

### 309.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Santa Ana Police Department that teams of handlers and canines meet and maintain the appropriate proficiency to effectively and reasonably carry out legitimate law enforcement objectives.

### 309.3 ASSIGNMENT

Canine teams should be assigned to assist and supplement the Field Operations Bureau to function primarily in assist or cover assignments. However, they may be assigned by the Watch Commander to other functions, such as routine calls for service, based on the current operational needs.

Canine teams should generally not be assigned to handle routine matters that will take them out of service for extended periods of time and then only with the approval of the Watch Commander.

### 309.4 CANINE SERGEANT

The canine sergeant shall be appointed by and directly responsible to the Field Operations Bureau Commander or the authorized designee.

The responsibilities of the sergeant include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Reviewing all canine use reports to ensure compliance with policy and to identify training issues and other needs of the program.
- (b) Maintaining a liaison with the vendor kennel.
- (c) Maintaining a liaison with command staff and functional supervisors.
- (d) Maintaining a liaison with other agency canine sergeants.
- (e) Maintaining accurate records to document canine activities.
- (f) Recommending and overseeing the procurement of equipment and services for the teams of handlers and canines.
- (g) Scheduling all canine-related activities.
- (h) Ensuring the canine teams are scheduled for regular training to maximize their capabilities.

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#### **309.5 REQUESTS FOR CANINE TEAMS**

Field Operations Bureau members are encouraged to request the use of a canine. Requests for a canine team from department units outside of the Field Operations Bureau shall be reviewed by the Watch Commander or Canine Sergeant.

##### **309.5.1 OUTSIDE AGENCY REQUEST**

All requests for canine assistance from outside agencies must be approved by the Watch Commander and are subject to the following:

- (a) A sergeant shall be dispatched to the scene along with the canine officer.
- (b) Canine teams shall not be used for any assignment that is not consistent with this policy.
- (c) The canine handler shall have the authority to decline a request for any specific assignment that he/she deems unsuitable.
- (d) Calling out of off-duty canine teams must be approved by the Watch Commander.
- (e) It shall be the responsibility of the canine handler to coordinate operations with agency personnel in order to minimize the risk of unintended injury.
- (f) It shall be the responsibility of the canine handler to complete all necessary reports or as directed.

##### **309.5.2 PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC EVENTS**

All public requests for a canine team shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, approved by the canine sergeant prior to making any resource commitment. The canine sergeant is responsible for obtaining resources and coordinating involvement in the demonstration to include proper safety protocols. Canine handlers shall not demonstrate any apprehension work unless authorized to do so by the canine sergeant. The authorization shall be made in writing.

#### **309.6 APPREHENSION GUIDELINES**

A canine may be used to locate and apprehend a suspect if the canine handler reasonably believes that the individual has either committed, is committing or threatening to commit any serious offense and if any of the following conditions exist:

- (a) There is a reasonable belief the suspect poses an imminent threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any officer or the handler.
- (b) The suspect is physically resisting or threatening to resist arrest and the use of a canine reasonably appears to be necessary to overcome such resistance.
- (c) The suspect is believed to be concealed in an area where entry by other than the canine would pose a threat to the safety of officers or the public.

It is recognized that situations may arise that do not fall within the provisions set forth in this policy. Such events require consideration of the totality of the circumstances and the use of an objective reasonableness standard applied to the decision to use a canine

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Absent a reasonable belief that a suspect has committed, is committing or is threatening to commit a serious offense, mere flight from a pursuing officer, without any of the above conditions, shall not serve as the basis for the use of a canine to apprehend a suspect.

Use of a canine to locate and apprehend a suspect wanted for a lesser criminal offense than those identified above requires approval from the Watch Commander. Absent a change in circumstances that present an imminent threat to officers, the canine or the public, such canine use should be conducted on-leash or under conditions that minimize the likelihood the canine will bite or otherwise injure the individual.

In all applications, once the suspect has been located and no longer reasonably appears to present a threat or risk of escape, the handler should secure the canine as soon as it becomes reasonably practicable.

If the canine has apprehended the suspect with a secure bite, and the handler believes that the suspect no longer poses a threat, the handler should promptly command the canine to release the suspect.

#### 309.6.1 PREPARATION FOR DEPLOYMENT

Prior to the use of a canine to search for or apprehend any suspect, the canine handler and/or the supervisor on-scene should carefully consider all pertinent information reasonably available at the time. The information should include, but is not limited to:

- (a) The nature and seriousness of the suspected offense.
- (b) Whether violence or weapons were used or are anticipated.
- (c) The degree of resistance or threatened resistance, if any, the suspect has shown.
- (d) The suspect's known or perceived age.
- (e) The potential for injury to officers or the public caused by the suspect if the canine is not utilized.
- (f) Any potential danger to the public and/or other officers at the scene if the canine is released.
- (g) The potential for the suspect to escape or flee if the canine is not utilized.

As circumstances permit, the canine handler should make every reasonable effort to communicate and coordinate with other involved members to minimize the risk of unintended injury.

It is the canine handler's responsibility to evaluate each situation and determine whether the use of a canine is appropriate and reasonable. The canine handler shall have the authority to decline the use of the canine whenever he/she deems deployment is unsuitable.

A supervisor who is sufficiently apprised of the situation may prohibit deploying the canine.

Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, assisting members should take direction from the handler in order to minimize interference with the canine.

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#### 309.6.2 WARNINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unless it would reasonably increase the risk of injury or escape, a clearly audible warning announcing that a canine will be used if the suspect does not surrender should be made prior to releasing a canine. The handler should allow a reasonable time for a suspect to surrender and should quiet the canine momentarily to listen for any verbal response to the warning. If feasible, other members should be in a location opposite the warning to verify that the announcement could be heard. If available, warnings given in other languages should be used as necessary.

If a warning is not to be given, the canine handler, when practicable, should first advise the supervisor of his/her decision before releasing the canine. In the event of an apprehension, the handler shall document in any related report how the warning was given and, if none was given, the reasons why.

#### 309.6.3 REPORTING DEPLOYMENTS, BITES AND INJURIES

Whenever a canine deployment results in a bite or causes injury to an intended suspect, a supervisor should be promptly notified and the injuries documented in a canine officer's report. The injured person shall be promptly treated by emergency medical services personnel and, if appropriate, transported to an appropriate medical facility for further treatment. The deployment and injuries should also be included in any related incident or arrest report.

Any unintended bite or injury caused by a canine, whether on- or off-duty, shall be promptly reported to the Watch Commander and the canine sergeant. Unintended bites or injuries caused by a canine should be documented in an administrative report, not in the canine officer's report.

If an individual alleges an injury, either visible or not visible, a supervisor shall be notified and both the individual's injured and uninjured areas shall be photographed as soon as practicable after first tending to the immediate needs of the injured party. Photographs shall be retained as evidence in accordance with current department evidence procedures. The photographs shall be retained until the criminal proceeding is completed and the time for any related civil proceeding or appeal, if applicable, has expired.

Canines used by law enforcement agencies are generally exempt from impoundment and reporting requirements. However, the canine shall be made available for examination at any reasonable time if requested by the local health department. The canine handler shall also notify the local health department if the canine exhibits any abnormal behavior after a bite (Health and Safety Code § 121685).

#### **309.7 NON-APPREHENSION GUIDELINES**

Properly trained canines may be used to track or search for non-criminals (e.g., lost children, individuals who may be disoriented or in need of medical attention). The canine handler is responsible for determining the canine's suitability for such assignments based on the conditions and the particular abilities of the canine. When the canine is deployed in a search or other non-apprehension operation, the following guidelines apply.

- (a) Absent a change in circumstances that present an immediate threat to officers, the canine or the public, such applications should be conducted on-leash or under

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conditions that minimize the likelihood the canine will bite or otherwise injure the individual, if located.

- (b) Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, assisting members should take direction from the handler in order to minimize interference with the canine.
- (c) Throughout the deployment the handler should periodically give verbal assurances that the canine will not bite or hurt the individual and encourage the individual to make him/herself known.
- (d) Once the individual has been located, the handler should place the canine in a down-stay or otherwise secure it as soon as reasonably practicable.

#### 309.7.1 ARTICLE DETECTION

A canine trained to find objects or property related to a person or crime may be used to locate or identify articles. A canine search should be conducted in a manner that minimizes the likelihood of unintended bites or injuries.

#### 309.7.2 NARCOTICS DETECTION

A canine trained in narcotics detection may be used in accordance with current law and under certain circumstances, including:

- (a) The search of vehicles, buildings, bags and other articles.
- (b) Assisting in the search for narcotics during a search warrant service.
- (c) Obtaining a search warrant by using the narcotics-detection trained canine in support of probable cause.
- (d) A narcotics-detection trained canine will not be used to search a person for narcotics unless the canine is trained to passively indicate the presence of narcotics.

#### 309.8 HANDLER SELECTION

The minimum qualifications for the assignment of canine handler include:

- (a) An officer who is currently off probation.
- (b) Residing in an adequately fenced, single-family residence (minimum 5-foot high fence with locking gates) with a yard suitable for a 5-foot by 10-foot kennel.
- (c) A garage that can be secured and accommodate a canine vehicle.

#### 309.9 HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES

The canine handler shall ultimately be responsible for the health and welfare of the canine and shall ensure that the canine receives proper nutrition, grooming, training, medical care, affection and living conditions.

The canine handler will be responsible for the following:

- (a) Except as required during appropriate deployment, the handler shall not expose the canine to any foreseeable and unreasonable risk of harm.

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- (b) The handler shall maintain all department equipment under his/her control in a clean and serviceable condition.
- (c) When not in service, the handler shall maintain the canine vehicle in a locked garage, away from public view.
- (d) When a handler is off-duty for an extended number of days, the assigned canine vehicle should be stored at the Santa Ana Police Department facility or a location otherwise approved by the canine sergeant.
- (e) Handlers shall permit the canine sergeant to conduct spontaneous on-site inspections of affected areas of their homes as well as their canine vehicles to verify that conditions and equipment conform to this policy.
- (f) Any changes in the living status of the handler that may affect the lodging or environment of the canine shall be reported to the canine sergeant as soon as possible.
- (g) When off-duty, the canine shall be in a kennel provided by the City of Santa Ana at the home of the handler. When a canine is kenneled at the handler's home, the gate shall be secured with a lock. When off-duty, the canine may be let out of the kennel while under the direct control of the handler.
- (h) The canine should be permitted to socialize in the home with the handler's family for short periods of time and under the direct supervision of the handler.
- (i) Under no circumstances will the canine be lodged at another location unless approved by the canine sergeant or Watch Commander. This approval shall be made in writing.
- (j) When off-duty, the handler shall not involve the canine in any law enforcement activity or official conduct unless approved in advance by the canine sergeant or Watch Commander.
- (k) Whenever a canine handler is off-duty for an extended number of days, it may be necessary to temporarily relocate the canine. In those situations, the handler shall give reasonable notice to the canine sergeant so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

#### 309.9.1 CANINE IN PUBLIC AREAS

The canine shall be kept on a leash, E-Collar, or under the handler's immediate control when in areas that allow access to the public. Exceptions to this rule would include specific law enforcement operations for which the canine is trained.

- (a) A canine shall not be left unattended in any area to which the public may have access.
- (b) When the canine vehicle is left unattended, all windows and doors shall be secured in such a manner as to prevent unauthorized access to the dog. The handler shall also ensure that the unattended vehicle remains inhabitable for the canine.

#### 309.10 HANDLER COMPENSATION

The canine handler shall be available for call-out under conditions specified by the canine sergeant.

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The canine handler shall be compensated for time spent in the care, feeding, grooming and other needs of the canine in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), and according to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement (29 USC § 207).

### **309.11 CANINE INJURY AND MEDICAL CARE**

In the event that a canine is injured, or there is an indication that the canine is not in good physical condition, the injury or condition will be reported to the canine sergeant or Watch Commander as soon as practicable and appropriately documented.

All medical attention shall be rendered by the designated canine veterinarian, except during an emergency where treatment should be obtained from the nearest available veterinarian. All records of medical treatment shall be maintained in the canine file.

### **309.12 TRAINING**

Before assignment in the field, each canine team shall be trained and certified to meet current POST guidelines or other recognized and approved certification standards. Cross-trained canine teams or those canine teams trained exclusively for the detection of narcotics and/or explosives also shall be trained and certified by the California Narcotic Canine Association (CNCA) or other recognized and approved certification standards established for their particular skills.

The canine sergeant shall be responsible for scheduling periodic training for all department members in order to familiarize them with how to conduct themselves in the presence of department canines.

All canine training should be conducted while on-duty unless otherwise approved by the canine sergeant or Watch Commander.

#### **309.12.1 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PROCEDURES**

Due to the responsibilities and liabilities involved with possessing readily usable amounts of controlled substances and the ever-present danger of the canine's accidental ingestion of these controlled substances, the following procedures shall be strictly followed:

- (a) All controlled substance training samples shall be weighed and tested prior to dispensing to the individual canine handler or trainer.
- (b) The weight and test results shall be recorded and maintained by this department.
- (c) Any person possessing controlled substance training samples pursuant to court order or DEA registration shall maintain custody and control of the controlled substances and shall keep records regarding any loss of, or damage to, those controlled substances.
- (d) All controlled substance training samples will be inspected, weighed and tested periodically. The results of the periodic testing shall be recorded and maintained by the canine sergeant with a copy forwarded to the dispensing agency.
- (e) All controlled substance training samples will be stored in locked, airtight and watertight cases at all times, except during training. The locked cases shall be secured

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in the trunk of the canine handler's assigned patrol vehicle during transport and stored in an appropriate locked container. There are no exceptions to this procedure.

- (f) The canine sergeant shall periodically inspect every controlled substance training sample for damage or tampering and take any appropriate action.
- (g) Any unusable controlled substance training samples shall be returned to the Evidence Section or to the dispensing agency.
- (h) All controlled substance training samples shall be returned to the dispensing agency upon the conclusion of the training or upon demand by the dispensing agency.

#### 309.12.2 CONTINUED TRAINING

Each canine team shall thereafter be recertified to a current POST, CNCA or other recognized and approved certification standards on an annual basis. Additional training considerations are as follows:

- (a) Canine teams should receive training as defined in the current contract with the Santa Ana Police Department canine training provider.
- (b) Canine handlers are encouraged to engage in additional training with approval of the canine sergeant.
- (c) To ensure that all training is consistent, no handler, trainer or outside vendor is authorized to train to a standard that is not reviewed and approved by this department.

#### 309.12.3 FAILURE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE TRAINING

Any canine team failing to graduate or obtain certification shall not be deployed in the field for tasks the team is not certified to perform until graduation or certification is achieved. When reasonably practicable, pending successful certification, the canine handler shall be temporarily reassigned to regular patrol duties.

#### 309.12.4 TRAINING RECORDS

All canine training records shall be maintained in the canine handler's and the canine's training file.

#### 309.12.5 TRAINING AIDS

Training aids are required to effectively train and maintain the skills of canines. Officers possessing, using or transporting controlled substances for canine training purposes must comply with federal and state requirements regarding the same. Alternatively, the Santa Ana Police Department may work with outside trainers with the applicable licenses or permits.

#### 309.12.6 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TRAINING AIDS

Officers acting in the performance of their official duties may possess or transfer controlled substances for the purpose of narcotics-detection canine training in compliance with state and federal laws (Health & Safety Code § 11367.5; 21 USC § 823(f)).

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee may authorize a member to seek a court order to allow controlled substances seized by the Santa Ana Police Department to be possessed by the member or a narcotics-detection canine trainer who is working under the direction of this



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department for training purposes, provided the controlled substances are no longer needed as criminal evidence.

As an alternative, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee may request narcotics training aids from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

These procedures are not required if the canine handler uses commercially available synthetic substances that are not controlled narcotics.