



NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES



CANINE UNIT 400.02

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APPROVED: _____


Chief of Police

SUPERSEDES: 02-23-22

CFA: 14.11

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I. PURPOSE

To outline the general mission of the Canine Unit in support of the Uniform Patrol function, and to describe the duties and responsibilities of its members.

II. POLICY

The Canine Unit will provide support to Uniform Patrol and other units, as well as other police agencies when available and upon request. Canines will be used to facilitate the search for suspects, narcotics, and any other canine-specific search capability and certification. The Canine Unit will abide by all legal standards and all applicable Departmental policies and procedures in the performance of their duties, to include the Department's philosophy of respect for the sanctity of all human life, the concept of proportionality, the Decision-Making Model, and all other guidelines set forth in the Response to Resistance policy, 300.16. When available, the Canine Unit will also consist of an emotional

support dog in an effort to support officers and other persons experiencing a crisis or in need of emotional support to reduce anxiety and stress. The Canine Unit will also consist of a bloodhound dog, whose primary function is to search for and locate missing persons.

CFA 14.11A

III. SCOPE

This policy applies to all sworn members of the Department.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. Canine Deployment - A canine is brought to the scene of an active incident, is removed from the vehicle, and is used to assist as trained for law enforcement purposes. The mere presence of a canine at a crime or incident scene does not constitute a deployment.
- B. Canine Team – An officer/handler and his or her assigned police canine.
- C. Canine Apprehension – Gaining control and custody of a suspect that is the direct result or clearly due to the deployment of a canine.
- D. Emotional Support Dog – A dog trained to be a calming presence to people who are experiencing a natural or man-made crisis, or an emergency. The Emotional Support Dog, while possessing obedience training, is not trained to locate persons who have committed crimes, or any of the other detection functions that a police dog is trained to perform. The sole purpose of the Emotional Support Dog is to provide comfort during a crisis or emergency event.
- E. Bloodhound Dog- a large scenthound with an unmatched sense of smell. It is often used as a police dog to track and locate missing persons or a lost victim.
- F. Language Clarification:
 - Should: Indicates a general or expected action, absent a rational basis for failing to conform.
 - Shall or Will: Indicates a mandatory action.

V. GENERAL

- A. The Canine Unit, consisting of all canine teams, is assigned to the Uniform Patrol Section with oversight by the Uniform Patrol Section Major, or his/her designee
- B. All sections of this policy apply to the Emotional Support Dog team, except areas specifically addressing detection, apprehension, and bloodhound certified dog activities and training requirements.
- C. Generally, canine teams will be dispatched to the following calls as the primary unit:
 - 13 - Special Information/Assignment
 - 14 - Conduct Investigation
 - 15 - Meet/Assist and officer
 - 19 - Traffic Stop
 - 20 - Traffic Detail
 - 21 - Stolen Tag
 - 22 - Stolen Vehicle
 - 25 - Alarm
 - 26 - Burglary
 - 27 - Theft (Not in Custody)
 - 28 - Criminal Mischief
 - 29 - Robbery (where a perimeter has not been set)
 - 32 - Assault
 - 34 - Disturbance
 - 35 - Intoxicated Person
 - 37 - Suspicious Incident
 - 38 - Suspicious Person
 - 41 - Sick/Injured Person
 - 52 - Narcotics Investigation
 - 55 - Weapons Violation
- D. In the event no units are available, canine teams may be dispatched to other priority calls until other units become available. Canine teams may then become the back-up unit and another unit will become the primary unit.

VI. HANDLER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Canine handlers are responsible for the 24-hour care, maintenance, and

protection of their assigned police dog. Based on the circumstances of an incident, canine teams may be called to duty at any time. The following are some of the specific duties and responsibilities for canine handlers (these are representative and should not be considered all inclusive): **CFA 14.11C**

- A. Handlers will maintain their canine both, on and off duty, in a safe and controlled manner. Canines shall never be allowed off lead, unless engaged in Department-authorized work, training, or exercise in a controlled environment.
- B. During their normal course of duty, the canine handlers are under the direct supervision of the Uniform Patrol Section Shift Supervisor. Matters that involve or affect the general operation of the Canine Unit will be directed and supervised by the Uniform Patrol Section Major, or his/her designee.
- C. Misuse or abuse of the police dog, or City-issued equipment, may be grounds for disciplinary action and/or immediate transfer from the Canine Unit.
- D. Canine handlers will not permit other officers or civilian personnel, who are not qualified by virtue of training or familiarization, to handle or otherwise have control of their dog.
- E. Canine handlers are required to keep all documentation, including certifications and training logs up to date and available for inspection upon request.
- F. Canine handlers are required to keep all equipment clean and in good condition at all times.
- G. Canine handlers will not permit a police dog to be used for non-police related purposes under any circumstances without the express written permission of the Uniform Patrol Section Major.
- H. Except in emergency situations, i.e., a canine handler is injured, no other officers will utilize any vehicle specifically marked for "K-9".
- I. Police dogs will be brought to off-duty jobs only with the approval of the Uniform Patrol Section Major.

VII. HANDLER SELECTION AND CERTIFICATION

A. Canine Unit vacancies will be filled in accordance with Department policies and the current Collective Bargaining Agreement. Consideration will also be given to the applicant's living arrangements and two-year profile, to include:

CFA 14.11B

1. Performance Evaluations
2. Use of sick leave
3. Discipline
4. Use of force history
5. Vehicle accident history

B. Qualification criteria for Patrol, Emotional Support, and Bloodhound handlers will include the successful completion of the below-listed physical requirements:

1. 65 lb. carry and lift over a fence: Consists of the continuous movement of a 40 yd. walk/sprint with weight, lift weight over the fence, and jump the fence (5 repetitions).
2. 1-mile run to be completed in 9 minutes or less.
3. 100-yard dash completed in 20 seconds or less.
4. 5-foot barrier hurdle.
5. 40 push-ups in 90 seconds.
6. 30 sit-ups in one minute or less.
7. Canine physical contact work.

C. Members selected for the Canine Unit will meet the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) K-9 Guidelines by attending, and successfully completing, a certified canine school approved by the Department. All canines and canine handlers will attend a department approved training program prior to being utilized.

CFA 14.11D

D. All canine handlers will renew their Patrol and Detection Canine Certifications annually.

E. A physical ability requalification will be conducted annually to ensure all handlers continue to meet the entrance qualifications for physical fitness. This will ensure handlers can perform their duties and minimize the risk of injury during training and deployment.

- F. The Uniform Patrol Section Major, or his/her designee, will conduct an annual review of all handlers' performance evaluations. Each handler must receive an overall evaluation rating of Exceeds Objectives, or greater, and must not receive a rating lower than Exceeds Objectives in the categories of Dependability and Initiative.
 - 1. If the handler receives an overall rating of Expected Performance, or a rating of Expected Performance in Dependability and Initiative, the handler will have four (4) months to bring their performance to the prescribed level required of a canine handler for the Department.
 - 2. If the handler fails to improve their performance during the four (4)-month period, they may be transferred from the Unit.
- G. All controlled substance detection dog handlers will be certified by an independent testing authority after completing their initial canine school, and prior to being placed in service. Vendor certifications will only be considered as a secondary certification. **CFA 14.11D**
- H. All canine handler's certification and annual re-certification documentation will be forwarded to the Training Unit. Annual re-certification for the detection of controlled substances will be conducted within the Canine Unit in accordance with the original testing standards or equivalent.

VIII. DUTY HOURS AND DRESS

- A. Canine duty hours will be assigned by the Uniform Patrol Section Major to the patrol shifts, but will be flexible to provide for special assignments.
- B. Canine handlers will work 35 hours and have five hours of dog care per week (Garcia Ruling).
 - 1. Each canine handler will be scheduled based upon needs for service.
 - 2. The Department allows each canine handler 30 minutes of dog care during regular workdays.
 - 3. During the canine handler's regular day off (RDO), each handler will

schedule one hour for dog care.

3. Each canine handler will be scheduled to work three, ten-hour workdays.
4. Each canine handler will be scheduled to work a five-hour training day per week, usually scheduled on Wednesdays. The training day may be subject to change as approved by the Uniform Patrol Section Major, or his/her designee.
 - a. Trainings will include scenario-based trainings, legal updates, and policy updates, as needed. **CFA 14.11E**
5. Canine teams may be granted additional in-service training time during their regular workday, unless needed for an emergency call(s).
6. No work will be performed outside normal duty hours without prior supervisory approval and documentation in Executime.

C. The canine handler will wear the assigned police uniform or other apparel approved by the Chief of Police, or his/her designee.

1. Class A uniform will consist of:
 - a. Dress blue (long sleeve and tie) for major functions with award ribbon(s) to be worn over name tag, when approved by the Uniform Patrol Section Major.
2. Class B uniform will consist of:
 - a. A green fatigue shirt with North Miami Police and “K-9” patches on the sleeves.
 - b. Green BDU fatigue pants.
 - c. Black nylon gun belts and accessories.
 - d. Boots or approved footwear.
 - e. Department approved baseball cap.
 - f. Tactical vest and any additional authorized equipment.
3. Class C uniform will consist of:

- a. A black polo shirt with a police decal on the front and "POLICE CANINE" on the back.
- b. Green BDU fatigue pants.
- c. Black nylon gun belts and accessories.
- d. Boots or approved footwear.
- e. Department approved baseball cap.
- f. Tactical vest and any additional authorized equipment.

4. Canine handlers may wear an optional ribbon with the letters "K-9."
5. When working an off-duty assignment, the handler may wear the Class "B" or Class "C" duty uniform.

IX. REPORTS AND FORMS

The following reports/forms will be utilized by members of the Canine Unit to document their activity:

- A. Canine Monthly Training Log - Provides a permanent record of the training activity for each dog in the Unit. Both, initial and in-service training will be documented. The Log is maintained by the individual handler and will be turned in monthly to the Uniform Patrol Section Major, or his/her designee, and will become part of the handler's Canine Unit file.
- B. To document the Canine Unit's activity, and to facilitate the search of said activity within the Agency's records management system, canine handlers shall complete an incident report whenever a canine is deployed for law enforcement purposes on any call, to include requests to assist another agency. Regardless of the type of case, the canine handler will request a case number for the incident report and will request that the Communications Unit cross-reference the incident case number with the offense case number originating the canine assistance request.
 1. Canine handlers will indicate on the "Call Type" section of the incident report the nature of the canine use, i.e., "K-9 Apprehension, K-9 Article Found, K-9 Physical Contact" etc. All activity will be documented, including surrenders and whether a suspect or article is located, or not. Requests and utilization of the Emotional Support Dog and

bloodhound will be labeled as such.

CFA 14.11F

2. Incident reports will include all actions taken, to include:

- a. What led the officer to believe the suspect was dangerous, if applicable.
- b. De-escalation tactics deployed, if feasible, to include the warning(s) issued.
- c. If applicable, the reason why and the manner in which the canine made physical contact with the suspect, so that any prior injuries (such as from jumping fences or running through shrubbery) are not attributed to the canine encounter.
- d. The bloodhound handler will author a Supplemental report indicating what measures were utilized to track and/or locate the missing person.
- e. The Support dog handler will document their actions to include, type of encounter and the number of persons the canine interacted with.

CFA 14.11F

C. Transfer of Ownership - Whenever a dog is retired from service, the appropriate Resolution and Release of Liability form shall be completed by the City Attorney.

X. CANINE SELECTION

A. North Miami Police dogs are selected from dogs offered to the Department by an approved kennel. A knowledgeable canine handler will test each dog to determine if the dog has the desired characteristics. The following positive characteristics may be considered as standards for a police work dog candidate:

1. A dog of general confirmation weighing at least 60 pounds is needed and should be between one and three years of age.
2. The dog should display the “dual temperament” characteristic of the German Shepherd or similar breed.
3. The canine shows no signs of unwarranted or unpredictable aggressiveness.

- B. A dog that possesses the desired attributes will be taken to the City-approved veterinarian and given a comprehensive examination to include:
 - 1. Full body X-ray (the dog must be free of hip dysplasia).
 - 2. Laboratory tests - The dog is checked for internal parasites and treated, if necessary.
- C. Upon successful completion of the veterinarian examinations, the dog is assigned to a handler and will attend a state-approved canine school.

XI. HANDLER DOG CARE RESPONSIBILITIES

The following are the duties and responsibilities of a canine handler in the care of his/her assigned dog: **CFA 14.11C**

- A. Feeding - The dog will be fed daily, preferably at the same time each day, but not immediately prior to his/her tour of duty.
 - 1. The vitamin supplement and coat conditioner should be given at mealtimes.
 - 2. Fresh water must always be available.
 - 3. A dog will not be fed during its tour of duty.
- B. Grooming - The dog's coat must be brushed and combed daily.
 - 1. Nails must be kept close-clipped.
 - 2. Flea and tick medication, as prescribed.
- C. Sanitary precautions - The handler is required to clean his/her yard daily of droppings.
 - 1. The dog is to be provided with shelter.
 - 2. Every reasonable precaution is to be taken to maintain a high standard of health and conditioning for the dog.
- D. Bathing - The handler is required to bathe his/her dog when needed.
- E. Unattended in vehicle - Every effort will be made to ensure that when a dog is left unattended inside the police vehicle, that the inside of the vehicle remains cool, and the vehicle alarm system is turned on.
 - 1. There shall be ample fresh water for the dog.
 - 2. The rear windows should be at least partially open.

3. If possible, the vehicle will be placed in the shade.
- F. Fresh water will always be available when the canine is in a City vehicle.
- G. Kenneling – Handlers must make arrangements for their assigned dogs while on leave and out of town. The dogs shall be left at a City approved commercial kennel, at the City's expense, after obtaining permission from the Uniform Patrol Section Major, or his/her designee.

XII. CANINE USE CRITERIA & PROCEDURES

- A. The deployment criteria for the use of a Patrol Canine team in search of a suspect will be as follows:
 1. Violent misdemeanor
 2. Any felony
 3. Subject is a threat to the public or officer(s)
- B. The following are some situations where the use of a dog is NOT justified:
 1. To purposely intimidate, coerce, or frighten a suspect.
 2. To apprehend traffic violators (except felony cases).
- C. If the deployment criteria are met, and officers reasonably believe that the suspect sought is contained in a general area, officers may request the Communications Unit to have a North Miami canine team respond, if one is available. If so, the officer making the request will notify the on-duty shift supervisor of his/her request to have a canine team respond.
- D. Regardless of the type of search/deployment conducted, if the dog indicates the possible presence of a hidden offender, or the handler is otherwise alerted of the suspect's location (such as by aviation support), alternative efforts will be taken into consideration, if safe and feasible, to effect the apprehension without a canine physical contact.
- E. In order to afford an offender the opportunity to surrender, if time and circumstances permit where there is no immediate danger posed to officers or other persons, the following STANDARD WARNING will be issued by the handler, TWICE, prior to releasing the dog:

“North Miami Police Canine. Come out now, or I will release my dog and he will bite you.”

1. The Standard Warning must be given in a loud, clear voice, or over the

PA system so that all individuals who may be affected by the operation are aware of the presence of the dog and its potential use as trained.

2. The handler will wait an appropriate amount of time to allow the suspect to surrender.
3. Handlers should repeat the Standard Warning when changing locations.
4. Where there is reasonable belief that the suspect only speaks a language other than English, attempts will be made to obtain the assistance of an officer fluent in that language, if available, and if the exigency of the situation permits.

F. The bloodhound canine team will be utilized in cases where a search is needed to track and locate a small child, missing person, and/or lost victim.

G. The support canine team will be utilized for community events, visits to schools, nursing homes, private institutions, departmental units to promote wellness, and incidents and events with the likelihood of stress.

H. It will be the handler's discretion when and how the canine is deployed based on this and all other applicable Departmental policies, training, legal guidelines, and other State, local and Federal laws.

I. Canine handlers are in the best position to know the abilities and limitations of their dog. An agreement should be made between the canine handler and a field supervisor as to the use of the canine. If this cannot be readily accomplished, the field supervisor, or designee, will contact the Shift Commander immediately to have the matter resolved.

J. Handlers are responsible for their canine at all times, including when the canine is off-lead, and are accountable for any force that results from their use.

1. Handlers may only use that degree of force that is objectively reasonable to apprehend or secure a suspect as governed by the standards in *Graham v. Connor*; that is, handlers shall consider the following:
 - a. The severity of the crime.
 - b. Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others in the immediate area.
 - c. Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to

evade arrest at the time.

K. PERSON SEARCHES PROCEDURES: **CFA 14.11A**

1. Perimeter – A perimeter shall be established if the deployment criteria for a canine team is met, or there is reasonable belief that the suspect could be involved in the incident matching the deployment criteria. If so, officers at the scene will establish a perimeter to contain the suspect.
 - a. Once a perimeter is established, all other officers will remain outside the search area, unless directed to enter by the canine handler or supervisor, or in the case of an emergency.
 - b. When a perimeter is established, and a canine handler is on the scene, there will be communication between the canine handler and the supervisor prior to a search being conducted, or the perimeter broken down.
 - c. The canine handler will confirm that an arrestable offense has been committed, and the deployment criteria is met. The canine handler will obtain a description of the offender(s) and verify the establishment of the perimeter before initiating a search.
2. Area Searches and Tracking - The canine team can search an open area and track a suspect. In tracking situations, the dog will be on lead, utilizing the six (6) foot, fifteen (15) foot, or thirty (30) foot lead, depending on the terrain to be tracked, and the tracking harness will be in place. When summoned to do an area search, the canine handler will contact the necessary personnel at the scene prior to commencing a search and will do the following:
 - a. Prior to commencing the search, a back-up officer will be requested to search with the canine team. At that time, the handler will address with the back-up officer the following:
 - 1). Positioning with the team.
 - 2). Coverage responsibilities.
 - 3). Conducting the arrest, to include searching and handcuffing the suspect.
 - 4). When utilizing a Bloodhound Canine, conducting the recovery of a missing person, to include the tracking and locating.
 - 5). Maintaining communication with perimeter personnel.

- b. If, during the search, the dog alerts to the possible presence of a hidden offender, every effort will be made to effect the apprehension without canine physical contact. When safe to do so, the Standard Warning will be announced to afford the offender the opportunity to surrender prior to releasing the dog.
 - c. The canine handler is responsible for coordinating the apprehension with the back-up officers in the area.
- 3. Enclosed Areas - When searching an enclosed area, or fenced-in open area, the canine handler may conduct the search off lead only if the following criteria can be met:
 - a. The area is sufficiently small enough that the handler can maintain visual contact with his/her dog at all times.
 - b. The fence or wall surrounding the area has been visually checked to ensure that the dog cannot escape or jump the fence.
 - c. The handler has made every reasonable effort to ensure that no authorized persons are within the area. This will include announcing the Standard Warning to afford the offender the opportunity to surrender prior to releasing the dog.
- 4. Building Searches - The canine team can search the interior of any building utilizing the dog's ability to locate a hidden suspect.
 - a. This search may be done off-lead only if the following criteria can be met:
 - 1). The handler believes the offender is within the building to be searched.
 - 2). The handler has made every reasonable effort to ensure that no authorized persons, or officers responding to the scene, are within the area, and the Standard Warning has been issued.
 - a). Whenever reasonably possible, the building's owner should be contacted to determine whether there may be tenants, or others in the building, and to ascertain the building's layout.
 - 3). Prior to commencing a search, the canine handler will ensure that a secure perimeter exists.

- b. When conducting the building search, the handler will remain close to his/her dog as much as possible.
 - c. Whenever feasible, a canine team should be utilized to conduct this type of search.
- 5. Chases (on foot) - When the dog is released to prevent the escape of a suspect whom the handler has probable cause to arrest for a criminal offense, (i.e. felony, violent misdemeanor, and/or threat to the officers or the public.) prior to releasing the dog, and throughout the chase, the handler will ensure that:
 - a. No other persons, either police or citizens, will be endangered by the release of the dog.
 - b. When safe to do so, the Standard Warning will be announced affording the offender the opportunity to surrender prior to releasing the dog.
 - c. The dog has seen the offender and knows that the person is the one to be chased.
 - d. The handler will maintain visual contact with the dog throughout the chase. In the event that visual contact is about to be lost, the handler will immediately recall his/her dog.
- 6. In all situations where the offender sought is known to be armed, utilization of the canine will be at the discretion of the canine handler. If the location of the armed offender is known, a S.W.A.T. call out may be initiated. Under no circumstances will the life of the police dog be placed needlessly at risk.
 - a. Bloodhounds and Support Canines **will not** be utilized for these circumstances.
- 7. Whenever a search situation arises, a canine handler (on duty) will respond to the scene to determine if a canine search is feasible.

J. CROWD CONTROL/RIOTS:

- 1. Canine Unit dogs will not be utilized for the sole purpose of crowd control (i.e., containment or dispersal), unless authorized by the Chief of Police, or his/her designee.

2. Canine teams may respond as backup when appropriate; however, canines will remain in the patrol vehicle.

K. NARCOTICS SEARCH:

1. Handlers with assigned dogs trained and certified in narcotics detection will ensure that they operate in accordance with legal guidelines.
2. Handlers utilizing narcotics detection dogs must ensure that the dog does not ingest the substance.
3. Dogs will NOT be used to sniff people or objects in their immediate possession.
4. Narcotics detection dogs can be utilized for the detection of specific types of narcotics.
5. Narcotics detection dogs will be utilized only for official law enforcement investigations, approved demonstrations, or any other event authorized by the Chief of Police, or his/her designee.
6. The handler will determine the type of search to be conducted and whether the search is within legal guidelines.
7. Outside agencies requesting the use of a North Miami Police Department narcotics detection canine team will make the request through the Shift Commander. Following any assistance provided, the handler will complete an incident report.

L. Public Relations Demonstrations: The Canine Unit will demonstrate the abilities of the police work dogs for interested groups with prior approval from the Chief of Police, or his/her designee.

M. Canine teams will avoid vehicle pursuits whenever possible. Should a canine handler initiate a vehicle pursuit, the handler will continue the pursuit as a support unit as soon as another police unit takes the lead and other units become involved. **CFA 14.11A**

N. When the criteria for the use of a canine team is met, but assistance is requested from an outside agency, North Miami officers have a duty to intervene and promptly communicate to the outside agency's handler if at any point throughout the use of said canine any actions conflict with our

Response to Resistance policy.

- O. Reasonable efforts will be made to avoid using a dog to apprehend a person known to be a juvenile; however, the severity of the crime, and the safety of the handler, backup officers and the public will remain the handler's primary concern.
- P. The Uniform Patrol Section Major will be knowledgeable of the Agency's canine usage and will review any significant increases in response to resistance activity, or significant decreases in the rate at which subjects are found. Training will be recommended, as needed.

XIII. GUIDELINES FOR CANINE PHYSICAL CONTACT SITUATIONS

- A. When a canine makes physical contact with an arrestee, the canine handler will:
 1. Remove the canine from the suspect as quickly and safely as possible once the suspect no longer poses a threat to officers or anyone else on the scene.
 2. Render first aid, if necessary, and request Miami-Dade Fire Rescue respond to treat the suspect's injury.
 3. Remain on the scene and contact the shift supervisor to respond.
 4. Have the area of the body where the canine made physical contact with the offender photographed. Additionally, an overall picture shall be taken, which shows not only the contact area, but the suspect's full body and face.
 5. Complete an incident report.
- B. Supervisors will:
 1. Conduct a review of the canine physical contact/response to resistance incident and complete a Supervisor Control of Persons Inventory.
 2. Take the required photographs.
 3. If the canine team is from another agency, obtain a copy of the

assisting agency's canine use report and attach it to the North Miami Police Department report.

C. Accidental canine physical contact situations:

1. The canine will be removed from the citizen as quickly and safely as possible.
2. The canine handler will render first aid, if necessary, and request that Miami-Dade Fire Rescue respond to treat the person's injury.
3. If requested, the handler will assist the citizen to notify a friend or relative.
4. The following notifications will be made as soon as possible after the canine physical contact occurs:
 - a. On-duty supervisor, who will respond to the scene.
 - b. The on-duty supervisor will notify the Chief of Police, or his/her designee, through the chain of command.
 - c. Risk Management.
5. The handler will obtain the name, address, and telephone number of the citizen affected by the canine physical contact.
6. The canine handler will complete an incident report.
7. Have the area of the body where the canine made physical contact with the citizen photographed. Additionally, an overall picture shall be taken which shows not only the contact area, but the citizen's full body and face.
8. Copies of all reports will be forwarded to the Chief of Police via the chain of command.

D. Following canine physical contact, handlers must be cognizant of the biohazard potential and the need to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and hose down their dogs as soon as possible. In addition, handlers will decontaminate any affected areas following the guidelines set forth in the Infectious Diseases policy, 300.05.

XIV. REQUESTS FOR CANINE TEAM ASSISTANCE BY OUTSIDE AGENCIES

When practical, the North Miami Police Department will respond to requests for canine team assistance from outside agencies. The following guidelines govern these requests:

- A. The canine team will respond to requests for assistance from other agencies with prior approval from an on-duty supervisor.
- B. Upon arrival at the scene of the call, and prior to the commencement of any search, the canine handler will ensure the following:
 1. Contact the highest-ranking officer on the scene from the requesting agency.
 2. Ascertain from the highest-ranking officer the full facts surrounding the need for a canine.
 3. Determine if the use of a City of North Miami canine team is appropriate according to North Miami Departmental policy.
 - a. If it is not, the canine handler will explain to the officer in charge why the dog cannot be used.
 - b. If there is still a question, the canine handler will request a supervisor to respond to the scene and resolve the conflict.
 - c. The supervisor will refuse service to the other agency and return the canine team to the City if the search requested does not meet our Agency's deployment criteria.
 4. The canine handler will complete an incident report, which will include the requesting agency's name, case number, the name of the supervisor requesting, and the actions taken.

XV. USE AND CARE OF CANINE VEHICLES

Each canine handler is assigned a specially designed and marked North Miami Police vehicle on a twenty-four (24) hour basis. The following is a description of the special equipment in the vehicle and a set of guidelines and procedures for the daily use and care of assigned vehicles.

- A. Vehicle cage - All canine vehicles are equipped with a metal cage behind the front seat, separating the passenger area from the rear canine area. This cage is meant to prevent the canine from exiting his compartment unless specifically permitted to do so by the handler.
 - 1. At the request of the handler, the cage may be modified to one that opens and closes.
 - 2. The cage will be approved by the Department and will be constructed so the opening can be secured with minimal effort to prevent the dog from exiting the rear compartment.
 - 3. Training will be conducted to ensure the handler can exercise complete control over his/her dog to prevent any injury to citizens, other officers, or the dog.
- B. Rear passenger doors - The rear passenger doors of the vehicle may be equipped with electrical releases and springs which force the door open, allowing the dog to exit the rear compartment. The electrical releases may be operated from the driver's compartment of the vehicle, or by a remote device carried by the canine handler.
- C. Each canine vehicle will be equipped with a Department-authorized emergency alarm system. It is the responsibility of each canine handler to check each system daily to ensure that the alarm system is functioning properly.
- D. Both sides of the rear of the vehicle will be marked "WARNING POLICE WORK DOG". Other lettering may denote specialization (i.e., narcotics detection) and will be displayed on the rear of the canine vehicle. No other stickers, signs, lettering, additions, or modifications to the City vehicle will be made without the express approval of the Chief of Police, or his/her designee.
- E. The City vehicle will be cleaned during duty hours in accordance with established Departmental take home vehicle policies.

XVI. CANINE UNIT EQUIPMENT

Each handler is responsible for the equipment issued to him/her. No equipment will be used, except that which is issued by the Department to the Canine Unit.

A. The following is a list of equipment each canine handler will be issued upon assignment to the Canine Unit:

1. 6-foot nylon lead
2. 6-foot leather lead
3. Traffic lead
4. 15-foot tracking lead
5. 30-foot nylon lead
6. Choke collar
7. Pinch collar
8. Leather work collar
9. Bite sleeve
10. Leather tracking harness
11. Leather muzzle
12. Stainless steel water and food bowls
13. Food storage containers
14. Kennel and doghouse
15. First aid kit
16. Ballistic vest for the dog

The above equipment will be replaced as it becomes worn, or is no longer functional.

B. The City of North Miami provides the following services and equipment:

1. All pre-service and in-service training for dogs and handlers.
2. All dog food, maintenance, and equipment costs.
3. All medical costs for the dogs, including an annual physical examination.
4. A North Miami Police canine vehicle on a 24-hour basis. Each vehicle is equipped with a remote-control door-opening device and an air conditioner failure system alarm (Hot-N-Pop).
5. If housed outside, a kennel and run for the shelter (to be constructed at the handler's residence).
6. Boarding costs for the dog when the assigned handler is on leave.
7. All necessary training aids for detection dogs in order to maintain proficiency.

XVII. CANINE SYNTHETIC NARCOTICS STORAGE/TRAINING

A. One or more of the dogs utilized by the Department may be trained to detect drugs. To maintain a high level of proficiency and credibility, training in narcotic scent detection will be done using synthetic narcotics. The following procedures are to be followed when using synthetic narcotics for canine team training:

1. Synthetic narcotics will be stored in a locked safe located in the locked Canine office. Access to the safe rests with the Canine Unit Supervisor and the canine teams. Synthetic narcotics will be utilized for training purposes only.
2. The handler will make the determination as to which synthetic narcotic(s) is utilized for training. Upon completion of the training, the synthetic narcotic(s) will be placed back into the appropriate container and re-secured in the safe.
3. Canine handlers will maintain a log of all narcotics detection training.

I. A yearly inspection of all synthetic narcotics will be completed by the Canine Unit Supervisor, or designee canine team, and will be replaced as needed.

XVIII. RESTRICTIONS

RESTRICTIONS: The Support and Bloodhound Canine are prohibited from and will not be utilized to:

1. Intimidate, coerce, or frighten any person.
2. Affect the arrest of any person.
3. Physically engage a subject.
4. Agitate other dogs. If an interaction were to occur, the handler will immediately bring the situation under control by all practical means.

XI. RECRUIT TRAINING

During orientation, new officers will be trained in this policy and provided examples of situations when a canine team would be useful (or would not be useful), and how to avoid contaminating a scene where a police canine may be tracking.