



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-23

Effective: 01/10/19 Review: 01/10/20 Replaces: 09/20/17

2-23 USE OF CANINE UNIT

2-23-1 Policy

Department policy is to utilize the K-9 Unit to search buildings for intruders and to track wanted subjects.

2-23-2 Rules

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A. On-Call Status

K-9 Units are on call 24 hours per day via Communications. If no K-9 Unit is on duty, an on-duty area supervisor must give approval before calling out the K-9 Unit.

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B. Operational Control / Conflict of Orders

1. The K-9 Unit Sergeant will assume operational control of any situation requiring the deployment of the Police Service Dogs (PSD). In the absence of the K-9 Sergeant a Tactical Section Supervisor will be contacted.
2. If the K-9 Unit Sergeant is not present and a Handler is requested by another supervisor to deploy his/her PSD in a manner that the Handler feels is inappropriate, the Handler will inform the supervisor of this and state the reasons for his/her concern and contact a Tactical Section Supervisor. Ultimate authority to deploy a Police Service Dog shall be at the discretion of the individual K-9 Handler.
3. Under no circumstance will a Handler comply with an order that he/she knows to be illegal or violates the civil rights of any individual, or is in violation of the Use of Force Policy.
4. If the Handler is participating in a full tactical activation the authority to deploy the Police Service Dog resides with the Tactical Commander or his/her designee.
 - a. When the Tactical Section is activated for crowd control situations, civil disturbances, and/or riots, K-9 Handlers will not deploy with their police service dogs as a force option. However, this does not preclude K-9 Handlers from being utilized for other tasks at the discretion of the Tactical Commander.

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C. K-9 Unit Searches

1. Building Searches

- a. The primary duty of the K-9 Unit is to search buildings for intruders.
- b. During the K-9 Unit's normal working hours, a K-9 Unit will be dispatched to all commercial and school silent alarms.



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- c. A K-9 Unit will be utilized to search all commercial buildings and schools where a point of entry is found or the suspect is believed to be in the building.
- d. As soon as a point of entry is found, the building will be secured and no one will be allowed to enter the building until the K-9 has arrived.
- e. In the event a commercial business appears secure, the business will be searched by K-9s only after:
 - i. It is determined that there is a strong possibility that the alarm is valid.
 - ii. It would be impractical to conduct a search by officers due to building design.
 - iii. The owner/manager arrives and requests the search, in concurrence with the officer at the scene.
 - iv. Approval has been granted by an on-duty area supervisor.

2. Tracking/Area Searches

- a. K-9 Units can be utilized to track a subject and search for articles associated with the subject in an area.
- b. Officers should remain out of the area to prevent contamination if a K-9 Unit is to be utilized.
- c. The K-9 Unit should be called to the scene as quickly as possible while the subject's scent is still fresh.

3. Apprehension of Fleeing or Resisting Subjects

- a. K-9 Units can be used to apprehend persons fleeing or resisting arrest, when there is reason to believe that the subject(s) has committed a felony.
- b. The decision to utilize the K-9 for apprehension will be based on the threat posed by the subject. The age of the subject (i.e. juvenile) will not preclude the use of the K-9, but should be considered in evaluating the threat the subject poses.