



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

320 - CANINES

GENERAL ORDER: 2022-XX
ISSUED: November 21, 2022

EFFECTIVE: November 21, 2022

REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:
Assistant Chief Nicole Waldner
DATE: October 7, 2022

ACTION: Amends General Order 2021-21 (September 20, 2021)

WILEAG STANDARD(S): 5.2.1. 5.3.1, 6.1.2

ROLL CALL VERSION

**Contains only changes to current policy.
For complete version of SOP, see SharePoint.**

320.05 POLICY

It is the policy of the Milwaukee Police Department to utilize canines as a valuable supplement to police resources, due to their superior senses of smell and hearing and their physical capabilities. 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.

The primary use for department canine units is as a finding tool, and not as an apprehension nor as an extraction tool. If a canine is used for the purpose of apprehension, canine handlers shall only use ~~only~~ the force necessary to effectively maintain control of a situation and protect the safety of police members and the public. A patrol canine handler shall only deploy a canine to locate, apprehend, and control a suspect in accordance with SOP 320.20(E) of this policy.

320.60 DEPARTMENT FACILITY DOG

A. The primary goal of the Facility Dog Program is to improve officer wellbeing by having the facility dog(s) provide therapy in an effort to reduce the stress and anxiety of our members as the facility dog(s) serve as one element of the department's officer wellness program. The Facility Dog Program will also serve those who are victims or witnesses of criminal incidents or have endured emotional injury.

B. Facility dog(s) will be selected based on the following, but not limited to, criteria:

1. Temperament
2. Medical history
3. Breed type
4. Age
5. Background

6. Any other factors that are deemed suitable to determine if the dog will be an effective facility dog.

Note: The dog shall be acquired from a breeder, shelter, or other reputable source.

C. FACILITY DOG PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

1. Each facility dog will be managed by a sworn member as designated by the Chief of Police, or his or her designee.
2. The handler will be responsible for the dog to include basic care and maintenance in accordance with SOP 320.40.
3. The handler will be provided supplies for the facility dog and only equipment approved by the department shall be utilized for the facility dog.
4. The responsibilities associated with the handler will be completed in addition to the handler's normal duties.
5. A facility dog handler may be removed from the program at any time at the discretion of the Chief of Police, or his or her designee.

D. TRAINING

1. Any member assigned as a facility dog handler by the Chief of Police, or designee, will be required to complete training with the facility dog.
2. The department's facility dog shall not be trained in any aggression tactics or used as any level of force.

E. Department members may request the presence of the department's facility dog(s) by contacting the department's Wellness Team coordinator. The types of situations where the facility dog may provide facility services include, but are not limited to:

1. Department members who have witnessed or experienced a traumatic event to include critical incidents and incident decompression.
2. Traumatized persons to include witnesses/victims of crime (such as grief for loss of loved ones).
3. Community events to build community trust, build relationships, and increase awareness of the department's efforts for employee and community wellness.
4. Other similar situations where it may be appropriate to use a facility dog.

F. The facility dog's handler shall assess all requests for use before utilization and the following criteria shall be taken into consideration and includes but is not limited to:

1. Scene safety, including the environment and status of the scene for the facility dog.
2. Individual is willing to interact with the dog.
3. No other animal in the area that cannot be safely and securely separated.
4. Individual does not appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

G. The facility dog shall not be utilized in:

1. Areas where subjects with dog related allergies are present.
2. Areas where persons who have a fear of dogs are present.
3. Locations where the existence of a zoonotic disease is known or suspected to be present.

H. The facility dog shall be transported in a department vehicle suitable for transporting and maintaining the dog comfortably. A department vehicle that is transporting a facility dog shall not engage in any emergency response driving or vehicle pursuits.

I. Handlers shall immediately contact a supervisor in all cases where a person is bitten or injured, or claims to be injured, by a department facility dog, and shall request medical attention. If a bite or injury occurs as a result of the facility dog's actions, the facility dog's handler shall file a *Department Memorandum* and document the incident. The *Department Memorandum* shall be forwarded for review to the commander of the Training Division.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.B.N.' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

JEFFREY B. NORMAN
CHIEF OF POLICE