

Title: GFPD 4 - K-9 Unit

Document Owner: Joseph Boisclair (Chief of Police)	Date Created: 05/20/2016
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NYS Law Enforcement Accreditation Standards: 33.3, 42.4, 43.6	05/11/2022:

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Purpose: To establish the department’s policy in regards to the utilization of the K-9 Unit.

Policy:

- A. The K-9 unit will serve as a supplement to patrol and investigative functions.
- B. Use of the K-9 is considered non-lethal force.
- C. K-9 teams shall consist of the handler and the K-9.
- D. K-9 teams will successfully complete all phases of K-9 training as mandated by the Glens Falls Police Department, consisting of at least, but not limited to, those standards set forth by New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services. Teams will re-certify once every three years with a certified K9 instructor.
- E. K-9 handlers will train 8 hours per month in the disciplines of Narcotics Detection and Patrol/Tracking. It will be responsibility of the handler to maintain K-9 training and deployment records.

Operation: K-9 Teams can be utilized for the following functions.

- A. Building searches
- B. Searches for suspects, prowlers, fugitives, escapees or missing persons
- C. Detection of certain controlled substances, to include cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine, if so certified.
- D. Locating evidence, weapons or other contraband, if so certified
- E. Handler protection, if so certified
- F. Cadaver search, if so certified
- G. Crowd control
- H. To assist in the security of the entire facility of the Glens Falls Police Department.

K-9 Teams will NOT be utilized for the following:

- A. Searching any persons for contraband or narcotics
- B. Building searches for known armed/barricaded suspects
- C. Any search or situation that represents a clear and evident danger to the K-9 team.
The K-9 handler and supervisor at the scene will make the final determination.

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Requests for Service:

A. Any member of the department at the scene of an incident may make a request for the use of the K-9 when the prevailing circumstances indicate that the use of the K-9 may be beneficial. Requesting officers will notify the sergeant or lieutenant on duty of the request.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

E. Requests to activate off duty K-9 personnel may only be authorized by the rank of lieutenant or above.

F. Requests by other law enforcement agencies will be directed to a shift supervisor on duty. The shift supervisor shall determine the specific nature of the request and will notify the administrative on-call, if after hours, who will decide if a K-9 team will be assigned.

Dog Bites:

A. Accidental Bites

1. The shift supervisor shall be notified and will immediately respond to the scene.
2. The shift supervisor at the scene will ensure that the person bitten receives the proper medical attention, including hospitalization, if requested.
3. Photographs will be taken of the injury.
4. The handler shall prepare and submit an Incident Report regarding the occurrence.
5. The shift supervisor shall immediately notify the Chief of Police or designee.

B. Non-accidental Bites

1. The shift supervisor shall be notified and will immediately respond to the scene.
2. The shift supervisor at the scene will ensure that the person bitten receives the proper medical attention, including hospitalization, if requested.

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3. Photographs will be taken of the injury.

4. The handler shall prepare and submit a Use of Force Report as per the Use of Force policy. All handlers will follow NYS Penal Law Article 35 whenever a K-9 is used to apprehend a suspect.

5. The shift supervisor shall immediately notify the Chief of Police or designee.

Selection and Responsibility of K-9 Handlers:

A. K-9 handlers will be sworn officers as chosen by the Chief of Police.

B. K-9 handlers will be responsible for providing appropriate care to their dog, which will include, but not limited to, proper grooming, feeding, shelter, and patrol ready status. K-9 handlers will report any illness or injury of their dog, and will obtain treatment by an authorized veterinarian.

C. K-9 dogs will be relieved from duty from the recommendation of an authorized veterinarian.

D. K-9 handler will ensure, both on and off duty, which precautions are taken to prevent injury to the dog or any person who may come into contact with the dog.

E. Except in emergency situations or during training, the K-9 handler will not allow others to control their dog while on duty.

F. Upon completion of each K-9 assignment, the handler will submit a Canine Report and forward the original report with the incident report and submit a copy to the office of the Chief.

G. K-9 handler will complete and submit a Training Report to the Chief of Police on a monthly basis.

H. K-9 equipment is the responsibility of each K-9 handler and will be kept in a state of operational readiness. The handler will be responsible for requesting and maintaining the following equipment:

1. Leads, leashes, and collars.
2. Tracking harness
3. Protective equipment, e.g. – bite sleeves, scratch pants, etc.
4. Equipment and substances relating to specialized scent detection, i.e. Narcotics.

I. When K-9 dogs are boarded in a kennel for any purpose, the Chief of Police or designee, shall be notified of the location and duration of the stay.

J. K-9 handlers shall be in uniform when responding to a call out. Handlers shall not respond for the performance of official duty in civilian clothing.

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K. While at home, K-9 unit dogs shall be kept in a secure location, and officers will take every precaution to avoid accidental escape of the dog. If an accidental escape or loss of any K-9 should occur the on duty OIC shall be immediately notified.

L. All veterinary visits shall be documented by the assigned handler and maintained by the Assistant Chief.

M. All K-9 dogs shall have an annual physical, and a fecal sample shall be submitted to the designated veterinarian.

General Guidelines for Department Members:

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D. Do not give orders to the K-9.

E. The handler is the expert on his dog. For this reason, he is the final authority on when his dog can and cannot be used.

F. Do not offer food to a police K-9 without the handler's permission.

G. Avoid yelling or horseplay around the K-9.

H. Police K-9's are possessive of their vehicles. Care should be taken when entering or exiting any K-9-unit vehicle. Never enter the K-9-unit vehicle without permission from the handler.

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Authority:



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