


<p>RABUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</p>  <p>General Order Number: 8.01</p>	<p>Date of Issue</p> <p>02/23/2016</p>	<p>Effective Date</p> <p>02/23/2016</p>	<p>Revision Date</p>
<p>Subject: EXPOSIVES DETECTION CANINE</p>	<p>Amends:</p>	<p>Rescinds:</p>	
<p>Index as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bomb Dog Court Services Division Explosives Detection Canine 	<p>State Certification Standards:</p>		
<p>Special Instructions:</p>			

PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to prescribe the policy for the Rabun County Sheriff's Office in the operation of the explosives detection canine unit (bomb dog).

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office that the explosives detection canine unit shall be utilized in the performance of specialized operations to enhance the law enforcement, investigative, and crime prevention capabilities of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office. Specifically in the area of "Bomb threats", evidence recovery, investigations, clearing of structures under a "Bomb threat", evidence recovery, investigation of suspected explosives or components, and other related matters.

DISCUSSION

The explosives bomb dog may be utilized for searches for explosives when a bomb threat or credible information is received indicating the presence of explosives or components of explosives. The commander or designee who is responsible for the building or structure to be searched must give prior authorization for the search. A search may also be conducted when legally authorized under exigent circumstances.

I. PROCEDURES

The Explosives Detection Canine Unit Officer reports directly to the Sheriff or Chief Deputy. This officer shall be responsible for the canines':

- A. Supervision;
- B. Staffing;
- C. Equipment;
- D. Training;
- E. Supplies;
- F. Veterinarian services;
- G. Record keeping; and
- H. Other related services.

II. EXPLOSIVE DETECTION CANINE UNIT HANDLER

- A. The Explosive Detection Canine Handler shall be responsible for the operational control and care of the canine. These duties shall include the following:
 - 1. Maintain physical control of the assigned canine at all times,
 - 2. Provide for the appropriate daily care, feeding, exercise, and grooming of the canine,
 - 3. Complete appropriate routine scent recognition training with the canine,
 - 4. Maintain operational control of the canine by ensuring that it is used only for tasks it has been authorized for through appropriate training or certification,
 - 5. Provide for the appropriate routine veterinarian care of the canine,
 - 6. Ensure that the canine is deployed properly. This shall include:
 - a. Determining whether a situation justifies bomb dog use,
 - b. Determining appropriate tactical deployment of canine,
 - c. Coordinate with other canine units if needed,
 - d. Coordinate with other law enforcement elements as needed, such as field incident supervisor(s), patrol, investigations, etc,
 - e. Providing for necessary rest, water, feeding periods and other considerations during deployment,
 - f. Determining if and when to terminate a deployment.
 - 7. Inspect and provide for maintenance of storage magazine ("bunker");

8. Maintain appropriate security and key control measures for storage magazine;
9. Ensure that proper records and documentation are kept on the following:
 - a. Feeding & routine care of the canine;
 - b. Veterinarian care;
 - c. Routine training of canine and handler;
 - d. Training aids inventory and use;
 - e. Storage magazine ("bunker") maintenance & key control;
 - f. Equipment inventory, condition, and replacement needs;
 - g. Vehicle & transport unit; and
 - h. Deployment / operational data and statistics.

B. Training Requirements

The explosives detection canine and handler shall maintain:

1. Any required state mandated standards; and
2. The handler shall also keep any other qualifications or training current that are necessary to maintain the sheriff's office standards for both canine and handler.

C. Canines are to be transported only in vehicles specially designed or modified for canine transport. This can include:

1. Canine cage or transport unit in rear of vehicle; and
2. Markings such as "K-9 unit" or other markings as approved by unit commander.

D. Vehicles transporting training aids must be properly secured and monitored when containing canines and / or training aids.

E. Only the handler or unit commander may transport the canine and or training aids unless during an emergency situation that dictates otherwise. If such a situation arises, the handler or commander will designate another such person to transport.

F. The following equipment should be transported with canine:

1. One German steel "choke" collar;
2. One regular collar;
3. One 6 foot lead;
4. One rake brush;
5. One shedder brush;
6. One k-9 1st aid kit;
7. One water bowl; and
8. One muzzle.

G. General Canine Guidelines

1. Canines shall not be handled or given commands by anyone other than assigned handler. Should the assigned handler become injured or unable to command the canine, another handler and the

unit commander will be contacted for assistance. If the canine is presenting a danger to the community, or there is a risk of loss of the canine, it may be secured pending arrival of assistance.

2. Canines shall not be used for breeding, participation in shows, exhibitions, or non-law enforcement demonstrations except those authorized by the sheriff or his designee.
3. Canines shall not be agitated or disturbed unless by authorized persons as part of training.
4. No one shall pet or touch the canine in any manner without prior permission of, and under direct supervision of, the handler. Anyone requesting permission to touch the canine should be advised that the canine is potentially dangerous if improperly approached or handled.

H. Explosives Detection Canine Team Utilization

The explosives detection canine team should be available on a 24-hour on call basis to conduct the following search types. Canine teams should not be used to respond to minor complaints but may be assigned to duties other than searches with approval of the unit commander or sheriff.

I. Types of Searches

1. Building Searches

These types of searches are extremely difficult due to the large physical area and presence of numerous distractions. Air currents within structures are difficult to assess due to the presence of heating and air-conditioning vents, drafts, etc., and may cause any or all of the following scent detection problems to occur:

- a. Scent detections that may appear false,
- b. Scent detections accompanied by an inability to locate source,
- c. General scent detections on airborne scent throughout an area or structure.

2. Field Searches

3. Vehicle Searches

J. All requests for use of the explosives detection canine from outside agencies must be directed to and approved by the unit commander.

K. Requests from schools, civic organizations, media, and other private organizations for a canine unit for demonstrations or other events will be referred to the sheriff's public information officer and the canine unit commander for approval.

L. All such groups shall be advised of the dangers of improperly approaching or handling a law enforcement canine and of the need to obtain permission from the handler prior to contact with the canine.

M. Canine Bites And Injuries

If the canine bites or otherwise injures any person the handler will:

1. Secure the canine so it does not present a danger to the community;

2. Render first aid as needed;
3. Summon medical treatment for the bitten / injured individual;
4. Immediately advise the Sheriff;
5. Take color photographs of the injuries if possible; and
6. Complete an incident report.



By Order of the Sheriff: **Chad K. Nichols**
Sheriff, Rabun County