POLICY/PURPOSE:
Canines are used to supplement law enforcement operations. They are able to help locate individuals and contraband, and to apprehend criminal offenders. A properly trained canine, at the direction of its handler, can be more effective in certain situations than an officer. It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Police Department (CRPD) to utilize canines in those situations where a canine may be more effective than an officer, or when the risk dictates that a canine should be used to avoid jeopardizing the safety of an officer.

PROCEDURE:

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS:
The primary functions of the Canine Section include but are not limited to:

- Perform narcotics and explosive searches
- Respond to open doors on alarms
- Respond to suspicious persons calls
- Respond to felony-in-progress calls
- Respond to vehicle and foot pursuits
- Perform area searches and tracking
- Apprehension of suspects
- Provide backup to patrol units
- Provide high visible foot patrol when necessary
- Perform Canine demonstrations
- Recovery of evidence

SELECTION PROCESS:
Each candidate will undergo a selection process in order to become a canine handler in accordance with the Position Vacancies and Transfers directive.

When a canine is removed from service due to retirement or disability, it will be at the discretion of the Chief of Police to decide if the retired canine’s handler will receive a new canine, or if the department-wide selection process described in the Position Vacancies and Transfers directive will be implemented.

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF CANINES: [41.1.4a]
Canine handlers will be responsible for their canine’s actions.

In all circumstances, the canine officer (handler) is responsible for determining if a situation justifies canine use and the appropriate tactical measures that should be taken based on their knowledge, training, and experience.
Area Searches:
- The canine is trained to seek out persons.
- The use of the canine for such searches of buildings, structures and terrain will be conducted either on or off leash.

Call Out Procedure:
- Requests for canine assistance by outside agencies will require approval by the shift commander.
  - Notation of any such assistance will be included in the Watch Report.
- The canine handler will report without delay to the officer in charge of the scene when called out.
  - If the canine handler performs any duties other than consultation, that officer will leave a supplement to their actions.

Drug Searches:
- The canine will not be used to routinely search people.
- Canine units will assist in the detection of drugs in vehicles, a residence or other structures only after there is reasonable suspicion to warrant the use of the canine.
  - Schools
  - Packages
  - Buses
  - Hotels

Equipment: [41.1.4d]
Canine Officers will be issued the following equipment:
- K9 Specific Uniforms
- Collar
- Muzzle
- Badge for K9
- Food and Water Bowl
- Brushes
- Leashes

Juveniles:
Canines will not deploy on offenders who are known to be juveniles, unless the juvenile is a suspect who is violent, thought to be armed, or is suspected of committing a serious misdemeanor or above offense.
- Refer to Guidelines for Non-Apprehension Use for additional information where canines may be utilized.
Non-Apprehension Use:
Because canines have senses far superior to those of humans, they may be effectively used to track or search for non-criminals (e.g., lost children or individuals who may be disoriented or in need of medical attention.) In such circumstances it will be necessary for the handler to evaluate the conditions and the ability of the canine to determine the feasibility of such an application.

Absent a change in circumstances that present an imminent threat to officers, the canine, or the public, such applications should be conducted on-leash or under conditions that minimize the risk of the canine biting or otherwise injuring the individual, if located.

Release of Canine:
Canine handlers may release their canine when such release is necessary to:
- Protect a citizen or police officer from physical attack.
- Pursue and apprehend a person whom the canine handler has reasonable grounds to believe has committed a serious misdemeanor or above when other means of apprehension would be less effective or place a person in jeopardy.
- Search a structure or enclosure for the purpose of locating a hidden person suspected of a crime

Structure Searches:
Prior to searching a structure or enclosure a canine handler will:
- Give the following verbal warning “This is the Cedar Rapids Police Canine. Anyone inside the building (enclosure or area) sound off and make your presence known or I will send in my police dog and you will be bitten”. This is done twice. After the second announcement, the handler will say “This is your final warning.”

Tracking:
- When responding to a request for a track of a suspect or prowler, a canine handler will request the Communication Center to request units to secure the perimeter in order to contain the suspect.
- Other police officers should not pursue, trail or search the area, so as to leave the area undisturbed for a canine to search.
- The canine is trained to track a person and to indicate on any objects that person may have left or dropped near the track.
- The canine can also track lost or missing persons.

Vehicle Pursuits:
- Canine units may initiate or follow in vehicle pursuits and will follow the directives pertaining to same.
- Canine units may deploy during pursuits which are initiated from traffic infractions or misdemeanors.
When there is probable cause that a serious misdemeanor or above has been committed (i.e. a drug transaction is observed, a stolen vehicle, domestic assault, etc.) a canine may be deployed during a vehicle pursuit.

There may be extenuating circumstances in which canine deployment would be proper during pursuits initiated from infractions or misdemeanors (i.e. armed suspect, violent suspect, etc.).

Engagement and Apprehension:
The canine will be permitted to engage and apprehend in situations where effectiveness dictates:

- In the pursuit of a fleeing person suspected of committing a serious misdemeanor or above.
- To subdue a person who physically resists arrest.
- To apprehend a person who has committed a serious misdemeanor or above and attempts to elude capture.
- Each canine handler will give a verbal warning to a fleeing suspect before the canine is released. The warning must be loud and clear. The warning must inform the subject that the dog will be released and is trained to bite if he fails to stop and/or surrender.

Vehicles:
Each canine handler will be assigned a permanent vehicle. Refer to the Special Purpose Vehicles directive for additional information.

**TRAINING [41.1.4b]**
Initial training of the canine and the handler’s will vary and depend upon their capabilities and ability to meet and maintain certification. Before assignment in the field, each canine team shall be trained and certified to meet current recognized national standards or Agency-approved certification standards.

Each handler will ensure that they train a minimum of 16 hours per month.

- Each handler will document and maintain training that they conduct.
- The Canine Commander will ensure that all handlers are achieving the minimum number of hours of training.

**Controlled Substance Training Aids**
Controlled substances used for canine training shall be obtained from the Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A.) Special Testing and Research Laboratory and at times from Found Property in Evidence. The current D.E.A. procurement process will be followed.

- Individual canine handlers will be issued and personally sign for controlled substance training aids for training use from the Command Vault and shall be responsible for the training
POLICY TITLE:  Canine Section  STANDARD/REF #:  41.1.4

APPROVED BY:  Wayne Jerman, Chief  REVIEWED DATE:  01/17/19

REQUIRED REVIEWERS:  Canine Section Commander; Special Operations Commander  REVISED DATE:  01/17/19

aids they are assigned until such time as the training aid is returned to the control of the Command Vault.

- All controlled substance training samples will be stored in locked cases at all times, except when used for training. The cases shall be securely locked in a canine handler's assigned patrol vehicle or stored in the Command Vault. The canine handler who signed for controlled substance training aids shall maintain positive control over access to these training aids at all times. Keys or combinations to storage cases or vaults in which controlled substance training aids are stored shall remain in the handler's possession at all times.

- The Canine Section Commander shall be notified immediately of any damaged or lost controlled substance training samples.

AFTER-ACTION PROCEDURES:  [41.1.4a]

- Whenever a canine is utilized for defensive or apprehension purposes, the canine handler will notify an on-duty commander. The canine handler will document such action in their written reports which is also tracked in the current, canine software program.

- Whenever anyone is bitten by a canine, either by accident or relative to an incident:
  - An on-duty commander shall be notified immediately.
  - The on-duty commander and the canine handler will ensure the following minimum steps are taken:
    - Ensure immediate medical treatment is obtained for the affected person.
    - The Canine Commander will be notified as soon as possible.
    - The canine handler, assisting officers and any assisting officers will complete the appropriate reports/paperwork.
    - Any civilian witnesses should be interviewed and asked to provide a written statement of their observations.
    - Photos are taken.
    - If an employee is bitten, follow the City of Cedar Rapids Work-Related Injury/Illness Procedure.
    - If a canine bites anyone off-duty, the handler will contact the Canine Commander as soon as practical.

CARE AND HOUSING:  [41.1.4c]

- Department canines will be housed outside or inside of the handler's residence.
- A canine handler may take their canine with them when on vacation or otherwise away from home. If the canine does accompany the handler away from home, the handler will be responsible to exercise proper care regarding the safety of other persons with whom the canine may come in contact.
All medical attention shall be rendered by the designated canine veterinarian, except during an emergency or if a specialist is required. The Canine Commander shall be notified as soon as possible when emergency care for the canine is required.

- The canine will not be used for breeding purposes.
- Canine handlers are responsible for their canine’s actions at all times.