



430-Explosive/Gun Detection Canine DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY

ISSUED: May 8, 2024

EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2024

Warning: This directive is for AAMU DPS use only and therefore should not be construed as a creation of a higher legal standard of safety, or care, in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive will form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of the law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.

430.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide the Alabama A&M Department of Public Safety (AAMU DPS) personnel with guidelines and procedures for the care, use, and management of departmentally owned canine explosive/firearm detection dogs.

430.2 POLICY

It is the mission of the AAMU DPS to partner with members of the University community to maintain a safe environment for Alabama A&M University students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Towards that end, AAMU DPS maintains a trained explosive/firearm-detecting canine and officer/handler to respond to bomb threats or complaints of firearms to assist in making routine checks for planted explosive devices or concealed firearms prior to events drawing large crowds or those which generate controversy. (41.1.4 a, b, c)

430.3 DEFINITIONS

(Not Used)

430.4 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

430.4.1 The AAMU DPS canine handler has a twenty-four hour a day, seven day a week responsibility to properly care for the departmental canine placed in his/her charge and must be willing to make the animal a part of his off-duty family life. (41.1.4 c)

430.4.2 The AAMU DPS canine handler is responsible for keeping his/her canine in the proper physical condition and sufficiently trained so that that the dog may perform all assigned duties.

430.4.3 The AAMU DPS canine handler is responsible for keeping his or her assigned canine transport vehicle clean and sanitary.

430.5. PROCEDURES

430.5.1 General Care

430.5.1.1 The departmental canine handler will perform the following care tasks as needed:

- a complete grooming
- an examination of the animal's eyes, ears, mouth, nostrils, feet, and general body condition
- nail clipping
- bathing
- parasite treatment
- filling and cleaning of water and food bowls
- dispensation of all needed medications
- removal of feces from animal's kennel area

430.5.2 Veterinary Procedure

430.5.2.1 Only the staff at a departmentally-approved veterinary service will be utilized for routine procedures. Another veterinarian can be used only in emergency situations during which time the departmentally- approved veterinary service personnel are not available, or when medical problems beyond the capabilities of the departmentally-approved veterinary service arise.

430.5.2.2 The canine handler will assure that the approved veterinary service performs a complete physical on the animal yearly.

430.5.2.3 The handler will complete the appropriate departmental paperwork pertaining to canine medical treatment and submit it through his or her chain of command.

430.5.2.4 The handler will maintain files of copies of any paperwork he or she generates and the veterinary service generates pertaining to the dog's medical care.

430.5.2.5 All bills for veterinary service should be forwarded to the administrative secretary.

430.5.3 Canine Care and Control

430.5.3.1 Handlers will maintain close control of their canine at all times.

430.5.3.2 The handler will be respectful of and attempt, if possible, accommodate those who are fearful of, or do not like dogs.

430.5.3.3 The handler will clean up any bodily waste or excessive shed hair generated by his canine

430.5.3.4 Canines will not be permitted to drink from a water fountain designated for human use.

430.5.3.5 The departmentally-owned canine will not be used for breeding purposes, unless authorized by the Chief of Police

430.5.3.6 The canine handler will not allow the public to feed his/her dog.

430.5.3.7 The canine handler will assure that the dog wears an approved collar when confined to the kennel or under the handler's direct control.

430.5.3.8 The canine handler will ensure that all vaccinations are up-to-date and are properly documented.

430.5.4 Canine Boarding

430.5.4.1 The AAMU DPS canine may be boarded in a Department-approved facility when the handler will be absent for a 40-hour work week or longer. For short absences, the canine may be left with a certified handler from either Huntsville Police Department or Madison County Sheriffs Office which participates in the local mutual aid agreement.

430.5.4.2 Any handler requests to board the animal must be approved in advance by the Operations Commander.

430.5.4.3 The Operations Commander may, at his discretion, approve other canine care arrangements.

430.5.5 Canine Unit Vehicles

430.5.5.1 Canine/Handler teams will utilize a modified, specially equipped vehicle clearly marked "K-9 Unit." (The Canine Handler must maintain a valid driver's license and be accepted by the Alabama A&M University's automobile insurance carrier. (41.1.4 b)

430.5.5.2 The Canine vehicle will be a fully equipped patrol unit as well-being outfitted with:

- a designated compartment for the canine
- an automatic temperature control gauge
- cooling system
- emergency notification system
- power window and door locks
- (41.1.4 d)

430.5.5.3 The Canine Handler is responsible for the routine maintenance and upkeep of his assigned vehicle. The handler will clean and disinfect it on a regular basis.

430.5.5.4 The Canine Handler is authorized to drive the designated Canine Unit vehicle to, during, and from work, to assigned canine training, canine demonstrations, and to the veterinarian's office in order for the dog to receive medical treatment.

430.5.5.5 The designated Canine Unit vehicle may be driven to court or other departmentally-related assignments.

430.5.5.6 The canine does not have to be in the vehicle in order for the handler to drive it, as long as the usage is in accordance with the above criteria.

430.5.5.7 The canine unit will be parked off of public thoroughfares or public property while at the handler's residence unless there is no other alternative.

430.5.5.8 The dog will be transported in the area of the canine vehicle designated for the animal's transport.

430.5.6 Canine Team Equipment

430.5.6.1 The canine handler may be issued the following equipment;

- Igloo-style plastic doghouse for large dogs
- Outdoor Kennel with poured concrete base or wooden deck
- Leather lead
- Nylon lead
- Stainless-steel food bowls
- Stainless-steel water pail
- Grooming kit
- Extra-large pet porter for transport
- Canine badge-holder and badge
- various reward toys

(41.1.4 d)

430.5.6.2 Canine officers are responsible for the care and condition of all issued equipment

430.5.7 Routine Patrol Response

430.5.7.1 Canine officers may respond to routine patrol calls which do not require the use of the animal when necessary.

430.5.7.2 The AAMU DPS police canine will not be used for crowd control or suspect apprehension. (41.1.4 a)

430.5.7.3 Canine officers should exercise discretion in taking routine traffic enforcement actions. (41.1.4 a)

430.5.8 Prisoner Transportation

430.5.8.1 Only in extreme circumstances should prisoner transport be done in the canine vehicle when the dog is present. (41.1.4 a)

430.5.8.2 Canine officers shall not transport violent or potentially violent prisoners in the canine vehicle. (41.1.4 a)

430.5.8.3 Only under extraordinary circumstances will the canine officer become engaged in vehicular pursuits, due to the chance of injury to the animal. (41.1.4 a)

430.5.9 Non-Canine Officer Conduct

430.5.9.1 Officers not in the Canine assignment should treat the AAMU DPS canine as they would a dog owned by a friend, but should not pet the canine without the handler's permission.

430.5.9.2 AAMU DPS officers will refrain from violent or simulated violent behavior with the canine/officer handler in the canine's presence

430.5.9.3 AAMU DPS officers will defer to the canine handlers wishes concerning interaction with or treatment of the animal.

430.5.9.4 AAMU DPS officers will not use any commands they have heard the canine officer use.

430.5.9.5 Officers will assist the canine handler only when directed by a supervisor

430.5.9.6 Supervisors and officers assisting where a canine is deployed will make every reasonable effort not to contaminate the scene which the canine is charged with searching.

430.5.9.7 Officers assisting a canine will keep loud noises, excessive talking and radio traffic to a minimum.

430.5.10 Canine Bite Investigations

430.5.10.1 When a Department canine bites a person, use of force reporting procedures as outlined in Directive 120 will be implemented. The report will include the following information:

- A detailed account of the incident leading up to the bite
- The circumstances which authorized the use of a police canine

- A description of the nature and extent of injuries, if any, to the subject bitten
- What steps were taken to provide necessary first aid to the bitten person
- Identification information on the person(s) bitten and any witnesses at the scene
- Most current vaccination information

430.5.10.2 The investigation report will be placed in the canine's file and be retained there in accordance with usual file maintenance protocols.

430.5.11 Canine Handler Assignment

430.5.11.1 Sworn personnel interested in appointment as a Canine Handler will possess the following qualifications:

- Three years patrol experience
- Up to one-year continuous experience with AAMU DPS or overall law enforcement experience
- Home ownership or written consent from the assignee's landlord to house the dog on his or her property

(41.1.4 b)

430.5.11.2 Persons selected for canine handler responsibilities will successfully complete a basic canine certification course prior to performing canine operations, and will attend periodic recertification training while they remain in the canine assignment. (41.1.4 b)

430.5.12 Canine Handler Compensation

430.5.12.1 Canine Officers will work hours set by the Operations Commander and will vary throughout the year.

430.5.12.2 Special events for which explosive or large scale event sweeps are needed may necessitate adjusting the canine handler's working hours.

430.5.12.3 Unless very unusual or emergency situations exist, the handler will be allowed five paid hours during each seven-day work period for canine care, such as grooming, veterinarian visits, kennel cleanup and maintenance, vehicle clean-up and maintenance etc.

430.5.13 Public Relations

430.5.13.1 Canines may be used to perform public relations demonstrations to community groups upon authorization from an Assistant Chief of Police or the Chief of Police.

430.5.14 Death of or Serious Injury to a Canine

430.5.14.1 The handler will notify his or her supervisor upon the death of or any serious injury to a departmental canine

430.5.15 Retirement of Canines

430.5.15.1 The determination as to whether a canine should be retired is that of the Chief of Police. The canine handler and departmental veterinarian will provide necessary input.

430.5.15.2 The handler, other department members or the general public may adopt canines that are retired at no cost.

430.5.15.3 The AAMU DPS will assume no further liability for the canine after it is adopted.

430.5.15.4 All records and reports generated on a canine will be maintained in accordance with state records maintenance laws and departmental policies.



Executive Director of Public Safety
Chief of Police

Accreditation Standards: 41.1.4 a, b, c, d, e,