
Canine Equipment / Uniforms / Vehicles

1103.1 INDIVIDUAL HANDLER EQUIPMENT

The CANINE Sergeant should inspect and approve all equipment to be used by individual handlers before being used for training or field deployment. Approval will also apply to any equipment modifications. All equipment will be in good working order and e-collars should be fully charged during on-duty hours and training. Any damages to equipment and/or requests for repairs/replacements will be documented and forwarded to the CANINE Sergeant.

The following equipment should be issued to each handler. A list of department issued CANINE equipment should be provided to Personnel and Training and is to be maintained in department training files. Some of the issued equipment include:

- Muzzle
- 36-40" leash (or equivalent based on handler's waist size)
- Pinch collar
- 40' leash (long line)
- Dog toy or other reward
- Deployment bag (with Molle-style capability/shoulder strap)
- Tracking harness suitable for rappelling
- Tactical ballistic vest (same as SWAT) with carrier
- Narcotic training aids (if certified as narcotic detection team)

1103.2 TEAM EQUIPMENT

The CANINE Sergeant should inspect and approve all equipment to be used by the CANINE Unit as a team before being used for training or field deployment. Approval will also apply to any equipment modifications. All equipment should be in good working order and inspected annually by the CANINE Sergeant. Any damages to equipment and/or requests for repairs/replacements will be documented and forwarded to the CANINE Sergeant.

The following team equipment should be maintained and available for use by the CANINE Unit as a team or individually:

- Bite Suits
- Scratch pants
- Hidden sleeves
- Jute sleeve
- Outer jacket to cover a uniformed officer who is going to agitate.

Union City Police Department

UCPD Procedures Manual

Canine Equipment / Uniforms / Vehicles

- “Police CANINE Training” signs (2 minimally)
- Police K9 Training Signs

The handler shall ultimately be responsible for the health and welfare of the CANINE and shall ensure that the CANINE receives proper nutrition, grooming, training, medical care, affection and living conditions. The handler will be responsible for the following:

- (a) Unless required by a particular application, the handler shall not expose the CANINE to any foreseeable and unreasonable risk of harm.
- (b) The handler shall maintain all department equipment under his/her control in a clean and serviceable condition and when not on duty shall maintain the CANINE unit in a garage, secured from public view.
- (c) When a handler takes a vacation for extended number of days off, the assigned CANINE vehicle should be maintained at the Police Department facility.
- (d) Handlers shall permit the program manager to conduct spontaneous on-site inspections of affected areas of their residence as well as the CANINE unit, to verify that conditions and equipment conform to this procedure.
- (e) Any changes in the living status of the handler which may affect the lodging or environment of the CANINE or equipment shall be reported to the Unit supervisor as soon as possible.
- (f) When off-duty, CANINES shall be maintained in kennels, provided by the City, at the homes of their handlers. When a CANINE is kenneled at the handler's home, the gate shall be secured with a lock. When off-duty, CANINES may be let out of their kennels while under the direct control of their handlers.
- (g) The CANINE may be permitted to socialize in the home with the handler's family for short periods of time and under the direct supervision of the handler.
- (h) Under no circumstances will the CANINE be lodged at another location unless approved by the Unit supervisor or Watch Commander.
- (i) When off-duty, handlers shall not involve their CANINES in any activity or conduct unless approved in advance by the Unit supervisor or Watch Commander.
- (j) Whenever a CANINE handler anticipates taking a vacation or an extended number of days off, it may be necessary to temporarily relocate the CANINE. In those situations the handler shall give reasonable notice to the Unit supervisor so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

1103.3 UNIFORMS

The uniforms listed below are approved for use by CANINE handlers while performing their patrol CANINE duties, training, or assisting SWAT/SEU with an operation. If assisting SWAT with an operation, the sergeant in charge of the operation will specify the uniform to be worn.

Reference the Union City Police Department Uniform Specifications for additional information on authorized CANINE uniforms.

Union City Police Department

UCPD Procedures Manual

Canine Equipment / Uniforms / Vehicles

1103.4 VEHICLES

The patrol vehicles utilized by the CANINE Unit will be marked and equipped as follows:

- Marked black-and-white patrol vehicle, marked with clearly as a CANINE Unit. [REDACTED]
- A steel mesh partition with a sliding door, to allow CANINE access to the front of the CANINE unit will be installed on a case-by-case basis as determined by the CANINE Sergeant.
- The rear passenger windows and rear window should be tinted.

1103.5 TAKE HOME CANINE VEHICLES (POLICY 318)

- CANINE Officers may take their vehicle home at the discretion of the Chief of Police.
- All policies related to the use and safe operation of a police vehicle shall be adhered to by the handler.
- The CANINE handler shall not use the CANINE vehicle for personal use.
- The vehicle shall be parked in a garage and in a manner that provides for maximum security of the vehicle and equipment.
- Ordinary course of travel to and from work on assigned duty days are not compensable. This does not pertain to emergency callouts.

1103.6 REVISIONS

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