

COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES
Wednesday, December 4, 2024
4:30pm-7:30pm

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
AGENDA

Balboa Park Santa Fe Room
2144 Pan American W. Road
San Diego, CA 92101

The Commission on Police Practices (Commission) meetings will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of California Government Code Section 54953 (a), as amended by Assembly Bill 2249.

The Commission business meetings will be in person and the meeting will be open for in-person testimony. Additionally, we are continuing to provide alternatives to in-person attendance for participating in our meetings. In lieu of in-person attendance, members of the public may also participate via telephone/Zoom.

The link to join the meeting by computer, tablet, or smartphone at 4:30pm is:

<https://sandiego.zoomgov.com/j/1610950576>

Meeting ID: 161 095 0576

In-Person Public Comment on an Agenda Item: If you wish to address the Commission on an item on today's agenda, please complete and submit a speaker slip before the Commission hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard. Each speaker must file a speaker slip with the Executive Director at the meeting at which the speaker wishes to speak indicating which item they wish to speak on. Speaker slips may not be turned in prior to the day of the meeting or after completion of in-person testimony. In-person public comment will conclude before virtual testimony begins. Each speaker who wishes to address the Commission must state who they are representing if they represent an organization or another person.

For discussion and information items each speaker may speak up to three (3) minutes, subject to the Chair's determination of the time available for meeting management purposes, in addition to any time ceded by other members of the public who are present at the meeting and have submitted a speaker slip ceding their time. These speaker slips should be submitted together at one time to the Executive Director. The Chair may also limit organized group presentations of five

or more people to 15 minutes or less.

In-Person Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda: You may address the Commission on any matter not listed on today's agenda. Please complete and submit a speaker slip. However, California's open meeting laws do not permit the Commission to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the Commission may add the item to a future meeting agenda or refer the matter to staff or committee. Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. At the discretion of the Chair, if a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, comments may be limited to a set period of time per item to appropriately manage the meeting and ensure the Commission has time to consider all the agenda items. A member of the public may only provide one comment per agenda item. In-person public comment on items not on the agenda will conclude before virtual testimony begins.

Virtual Platform Public Comment to a Particular Item or Matters Not on the Agenda: When the Chair introduces the item you would like to comment on (or indicates it is time for Non-Agenda Public Comment), raise your hand by either tapping the "Raise Your Hand" button on your computer, tablet, or Smartphone, or by dialing *9 on your phone. You will be taken in the order in which you raised your hand. You may only speak once on a particular item. When the Chair indicates it is your turn to speak, click the unmute prompt that will appear on your computer, tablet or Smartphone, or dial *6 on your phone. The virtual queue will close when the last virtual speaker finishes speaking or 5 minutes after in-person testimony ends, whichever happens first.

Written Comment through Webform: Comment on agenda items and non-agenda public comment may also be submitted using the [webform](#). If using the webform, indicate the agenda item number you wish to submit a comment for. All webform comments are limited to 200 words. On the [webform](#), members of the public should select Commission on Police Practices (even if the public comment is for a Commission on Police Practices Committee meeting).

The public may attend a meeting when scheduled by following the attendee meeting link provided above. To view a meeting archive video, click [here](#). Video footage of each Commission meeting is posted online [here](#) within 24-48 hours of the conclusion of the meeting.

Comments received no later than 11 am the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Commission on Police Practices. Comments received after the deadline described above but before the item is called will be submitted into the written record for the relevant item.

Written Materials: You may alternatively submit via U.S. Mail to Attn: Office of the Commission on Police Practices, 525 B Street, Suite 1725, San Diego, CA 92101. Materials submitted via U.S. Mail must be received the business day prior to the meeting to be distributed to the Commission on Police Practices.

If you attach any documents to your comment, they will be distributed to the Commission or Committee in accordance with the deadlines described above.

- I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME (Chair Gloria Tran)
- II. ROLL CALL (Executive Assistant Alina Conde)
- III. PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES
 The purpose of the Commission on Police Practices (CPP or Commission) is to provide independent community oversight of SDPD, directed at increasing community trust in SDPD & increasing safety for community and officers. The purpose of the Commission is also to perform independent investigations of officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths and other significant incidents, and an unbiased evaluation of all complaints against members of SDPD and its personnel in a process that will be transparent and accountable to the community. Lastly, the Commission also evaluates the review of all SDPD policies, practices, trainings, and protocols and represents the community in making recommendations for changes.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (Chair Tran)
 - A. CPP Regular Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2024
- V. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT (Executive Director Paul Parker)
- VI. CHAIR REPORT (Chair Tran)
- VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (Executive Director Parker)
- VIII. SDPD POLICE SERVICE DOGS POLICY (Chair Tran)
 - A. Presentation (SDPD Assistant Chief Mike Holden and Sergeant Zach Pfannenstiel)
 - B. Public Comment
 - C. Discussion
- IX. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE (Chair Tran)
 - A. Community Outreach (Chair Ada Rodriguez)
 1. Meeting on November 21 Report
 - B. Public Comment
 - C. Discussion
- X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (TIME PERMITTING)
- XI. CLOSED SESSION
 - A. Public comment
 - B. Outside Counsel Duane Bennett – Lead CPP into Closed Session
(Not Open to the Public)
 - C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE
 Discussion & Consideration of Complaints & Reports: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 to discuss complaints, charges, investigations, and discipline (unless the employee requests an open public session) involving San Diego Police Department employees, and

information deemed confidential under Penal Code Sections 832.5–832.8 and Evidence Code Section 1040. Reportable actions for the Closed Session items on the agenda will be announced and posted on the Commission’s website at www.sandiego.gov/cpp.

- I. San Diego Police Department Feedback on Case Specific Matters (0)
- II. Shooting Review Board Reports (0)
- III. Officer-Involved Shooting (1)
- IV. Discipline Reports (1)
- V. In-Custody Death (0)
- VI. Case Review Group Reports (2)
- VII. Case-Specific Recommendations to the Mayor/Chief (1)
- VIII. Referrals to other governmental agencies authorized to investigate activities of a law enforcement agency (0)
- IX. Legal Opinion(s) Request & Response (0)

XII. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION (Outside Counsel Duane Bennett)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Materials Provided:

- DRAFT Minutes from Regular Meeting on November 20, 2024
- SDPD Procedure 6.16 – Police Service Dogs

Access for People with Disabilities: As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requests for agenda information to be made available in alternative formats, and any requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for alternatives to observing meetings and offering public comment as noted above, may be made by contacting the Commission at (619) 236-6296 or commissionpolicepractices@sandiego.gov.

Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for auxiliary aids, services, or interpreters, require different lead times, ranging from five business days to two weeks. Please keep this in mind and provide as much advance notice as possible to ensure availability. The city is committed to resolving accessibility requests swiftly.

**COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

4:30pm-7:30pm

**Balboa Park Santa Fe room
2144 Pan American W. Road
San Diego, CA 92101**

Click <https://youtu.be/1oIJg4Eg-iM> to view this meeting on YouTube.

CPP Commissioners Present:

Chair Gloria Tran

1st Vice Chair Dennis Brown
(arrived at 4:36pm)

2nd Vice Chair Doug Case
(left at 6:27pm)

John Armantrout (arrived at
4:40pm)

Bonnie Benitez

Alec Beyer

Cheryl Canson (arrived at 4:55pm)

Stephen Chatzky

Lupe Diaz (arrived at 4:37pm)

Jessica Dockstader

Armando Flores (arrived at 4:37pm)

Brandon Hilpert

Clovis Honoré (arrived at 4:35pm)

James Justus

Dan Lawton (arrived at 4:55pm)

Darlanne Mulmat

Viviana Ortega

Imani Robinson

Gonzalo Rocha-Vazquez

Excused:

Octavio Aguilar

Ada Rodriguez

Dwayne Harvey

Absent:

None

CPP Staff Present:

Paul Parker, Executive Director

Duane Bennett, CPP Outside Counsel (virtual)

Olga Golub, Chief Investigator

Ching-Yun Li, Investigator

Aaron Burgess, Policy Manager

Alina Conde, Executive Assistant

Jon'Nae McFarland, Administrative Assistant

Yasmeen Obeid, Community Engagement Coordinator

- I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Chair Gloria Tran called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.
- II. ROLL CALL: Executive Assistant Alina Conde conducted the roll call for the Commission and established quorum.
- III. PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES: The purpose of the Commission on Police Practices (CPP or Commission) is to provide independent community oversight of SDPD, directed at increasing community trust in SDPD & increasing safety for community and officers. The purpose of the Commission is also to perform independent investigations of officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths and other significant incidents, and an unbiased evaluation of all complaints against members of SDPD and its personnel in a process that will be transparent and accountable to the community. Lastly, the Commission also evaluates the review of all SDPD policies, practices, trainings, and protocols and represents the community in making recommendations for changes.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
 - A. CPP Regular Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2024
 1. **Motion:** Commissioner James Justus moved for approval of the amended CPP Regular Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2024. Commissioner Darlanne Mulmat seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 13-0-0. Yays: 2nd Vice Chair Case, Armantrout, Benitez, Beyer, Chatzky, Dockstader, Hilpert, Honoré, Justus, Mulmat, Ortega, Robinson, and Rocha-Vazquez
Nays: 0
Abstained: 0
Excused/Late Arrival: 1st Vice Chair Brown, Aguilar, Canson, Diaz, Flores, Harvey, Lawton, and Rodriguez
- V. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Virtual Public Comment: “Yusef Miller” (*Timestamp 19:01*) Spoke regarding the SDPD Dog Policy because the Community is very interested in learning more about this topic.

Virtual Public Comment: “Tasha Williamson” (*Timestamp 20:36*) Spoke regarding an incident involving use of force and the response from SDPD Chief.

Virtual Public Comment: “Defund LAPD” (*Timestamp 24:36*) Spoke regarding his complaint and the way the CPP handled the complaint.
- VI. CHAIR/CABINET REPORT
 - Policy Dog Policy presentation will be on December 4th due a last-minute issue.
 - The Final Pursuit Policy Recommendations were sent to the Chief, Mayor, City Council, and media on Monday, November 18th. Outreach also will send out, along with translated versions.
 - Union Tribune has scheduled to release an article (commentary) written by Chair Gloria Tran urging Chief Wahl to adopt the CPP Recommendations.
 - Congratulations to San Diego Deputy Chief Paul Connelly who has just been named Police Chief of Coronado.
- VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- The OCPP job openings have been posted and will be posted for another week. The OCPP current number of applicants for each position are: Deputy Executive Director (over 40 applicants), General Counsel (1 applicant), and Performance Auditor (over 30 applicants).
- The OCPP has a new Investigator who will start December 2nd.

VIII. SDPD POLICE SERVICE DOGS POLICY

- A. Presentation (SDPD Lt. Nick Dedonato and Sgt. Zach Pfannenstiel) – Tabled for future meeting.
- B. Public Comment – Tabled for future meeting.
- C. Discussion– Tabled for future meeting.

IX. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

- A. Rules Committee – Chair Bonnie Benitez reported that the Committee is currently reviewing the Bylaws, is doing some cleanup, and making minor recommendations. The Committee is looking for consistency between the Bylaws and the Ordinance.
 1. Next meeting on December 19
- B. Training and Continuing Education Committee – Chair Darlann Mulmat reported the Committee will focus on role and philosophy. The Committee will review the best ways to leverage the CPP Handbook and wrap up any outstanding issues from the former Ad Hoc Training Committee.
 1. Meeting on December 5
- C. Executive Committee – Chair Tran reported the first meeting will be on December 12th at 4:30 pm at the OCPP offices.
- D. Community Outreach Committee – Staff representative Yasmeen Obeid reported the first meeting will be held on November 21st at the Office of the Commission on Police Practices.
 1. Meeting on November 21
- E. Public Comment
Virtual Public Comment: None
 Commissioner Discussion (*Timestamp 13:58*)

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- James Justus (*Timestamp 15:39*) – Commissioner Justus discussed the pursuit policy recommendations with a community group. The group was happy with the recommendations.

XI. CLOSED SESSION (NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

- A. 1st Vice Chair Dennis Brown led CPP into Closed Session
- B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE
 Discussion & Consideration of Complaints & Reports: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 to discuss complaints, charges, investigations, and discipline (unless the employee requests an open public session) involving San Diego Police Department employees, and information deemed confidential under Penal Code Sections 832.5–832.8 and Evidence Code Section 1040. Reportable actions for the Closed Session items on the agenda will be posted on the Commission’s website at www.sandiego.gov/cpp or stated at the beginning of the Open Session meeting if the meeting is held on the same day.

- I. San Diego Police Department Feedback on Case Specific Matters (0)
- II. Shooting Review Board Reports (0)
- III. Officer Involved Shooting (1)
- IV. Discipline Reports (0)
- V. In-Custody Death (0)
- VI. Case Review Group Reports (3)
- VII. Case-Specific Recommendations to the Mayor/Chief (0)
- VIII. Referrals to other governmental agencies authorized to investigate activities of a law enforcement agency (0)
- IX. Legal Opinion(s) Request & Response (0)

XII. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION (6:41 pm): 1st Vice Chair Dennis Brown reported that there was no reportable action.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

**SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURE**

DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2017
NUMBER: 6.16 – PATROL
SUBJECT: POLICE SERVICE DOGS
RELATED POLICY: 6.16
ORIGINATING DIVISION: OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
NEW PROCEDURE:
PROCEDURAL CHANGE: **MINOR CHANGE**
SUPERSEDES: DP 6.16 –06/10/2016

I. PURPOSE

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for use, deployment, and authority of Police Service Dogs.

II. SCOPE

This procedure applies to all sworn members of the Department.

III. BACKGROUND

The Canine Unit is a centralized unit of the Operational Support Division. The handler and Police Service Dog (PSD) can offer valuable assistance in conducting searches, apprehending suspects, narcotic detection, explosives detection, and provide a psychological deterrence to aggressive acts against officers or other persons. The canine teams are responsible for City-wide coverage and are under the direct supervision of the Canine Unit supervisors.

IV. DEFINITIONS

A. Deployment - the removal of the Police Service Dog (PSD) from the police car for any legitimate law enforcement purpose.

- B. Dog Bite - any gripping of a person's body or clothing by the PSD's mouth, irrespective of injury or damage. It is also defined as any injury to a person or damage to clothing caused by any contact with the PSD's teeth.
- C. Non-bite Injuries - any injury caused by a PSD that is not associated with a bite.
- D. Operational Bite - the PSD is directed to bite a person for any legitimate law enforcement purpose. Operational bites will be classified as "within policy" or "not within policy."
- E. Unintentional Bite - the PSD bites a person without specific direction from the handler. Unintentional bites will be classified as "preventable" or "not preventable."
- F. Intervention - Any use of a PSD where the apprehension or surrender of a suspect is directly attributed, either through statements or obvious facts, to the presence of the PSD.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. The canine handler has responsibility for the PSD and its actions. The handler shall exercise control over his/her PSD at all times. Prior to deployment, the handler must consider:
 - 1. The severity of the crime;
 - 2. The immediacy of the threat; and,
 - 3. If the subject is actively resisting arrest (Graham v. Connor).
- B. A police service dog may be deployed for any of the following circumstances, in accordance with Department Procedure 1.04, Use of Force:
 - 1. For the protection and/or safety of the handler, other Department personnel or other persons.
 - 2. To locate, apprehend or control subjects reasonably believed to be assaultive, violent or dangerous.
 - 3. To apprehend fleeing criminal suspects when the canine handler reasonably believes probable cause exists to arrest the person for a felony.
 - 4. To locate and apprehend concealed felony suspects when it would be unsafe for officers to proceed into the area and conduct the search.

5. To control an actively resistive subject reasonably believed to possess or have immediate access to a deadly weapon.
6. To search for evidence, narcotics, explosives, or other contraband.

C. Guidelines for Use of the PSD in Field Situations

1. During searches, the canine handler will function as the contact officer. Once at the scene, the handler should assume control of the search and direct cover units to support positions, as needed.
2. During field contacts with other officers, the canine handler should function as a cover unit. The handler and PSD should be used to prevent and/or control violent or aggressive acts directed at the handler, officers or other persons.
3. During contacts involving high-risk persons or vehicle stops, the canine handler and PSD should generally function as a cover unit. In the event the handler has assumed the contact officer position, the handler should relinquish this role to the first uniformed unit arriving at the scene. The canine handler will remain at the scene as a cover unit until the incident is under control.
4. The canine handler or canine supervisor shall make the final decision regarding the deployment of the PSD.

D. Apprehension

Police service dogs are trained to locate and control persons on command. When the PSD is used in this manner, each handler will adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Prior to releasing the PSD, the handler must take reasonable steps to ensure the person to be apprehended is the suspect.
2. The handler shall verbally warn the suspect that the PSD is going to be released, unless the handler has specific and articulable facts to indicate making canine announcements would put officers or the public in additional and unnecessary danger. If possible, the handler will give at least two warnings in a loud and clear manner. If the search area is extensive, the handler will give additional verbal warnings at different locations throughout the search area.
3. When practical, the handler will notify Communications Division of the deployment.

4. The handler will not knowingly deploy the PSD to apprehend a subject being pursued on foot by other officers.

E. On-duty Restrictions on Use of a PSD

It is important that each handler understand the civil liability potential incurred by the Department when a PSD is deployed. When a PSD is used to gain control of a subject, it represents a utilization of force as defined in Department Procedure 1.04, Use of Force. To limit liability, the following restrictions apply:

1. Handlers will not allow the PSD to urinate or defecate in or around any inhabited building;
2. Police Department personnel shall not tease or agitate a PSD, nor allow others to do so;
3. Generally, PSDs will not be allowed inside a police facility;
4. Handlers should generally park their vehicles in such a way as to limit public access to the PSD;
5. Generally, a PSD should only be taken into a private residence for officer safety reasons or to conduct a search;
6. Generally, a PSD should not be taken into crowded public places;
7. When the handler is out of sight, or away from the canine vehicle for an extended period of time, the remote receiver door release mechanism shall be in the locked position and all doors locked. The rear windows shall be opened at least halfway and the vehicle heat sensor on;
8. All non-emergency, out-of-county travel utilizing the PSD and/or Department vehicle must have prior approval of the Captain of Operational Support Division;
9. Unless prior approval is obtained from a Canine supervisor, PSDs will only be transported in a marked canine vehicle; and,
10. Except during breaks, or if off-lead deployment is appropriate, PSDs should be on-lead.

F. Off-duty Restrictions on Use of a PSD

1. All restrictions and guidelines outlined previously apply to off-duty use of a PSD.

2. Police service dogs will be housed in a secure, Department-approved kennel.
3. For medical reasons, a PSD may be housed in an enclosed area approved by a canine supervisor.
4. A PSD should not be allowed to move unsupervised in any area that is accessible to the public.
5. When the handler is unable to provide the daily care required for the PSD, the animal will be cared for by either an SDPD canine handler, canine supervisor or taken to the Canine facility and placed in the kennels.
6. While off-duty, handlers may use their PSDs for any legitimate law enforcement purpose in accordance with this procedure and Department Procedure 1.04, Use of Force.
7. Police service dogs are not to be considered as pets and should not be used for the following:
 - a. As a jogging partner in heavily traveled areas (crowded beach, parks, etc.);
 - b. To play with non-immediate family members (neighbors, friends, relatives);
 - c. To play unsupervised with immediate family members;
 - d. Play or associate with other dogs, including family pets;
 - e. Any outside business or enterprise (guard dog, detection dog); and,
 - f. Breeding purposes.

G. Unattended Police Service Dogs

1. As a general rule, while on-duty, a PSD should not be left unattended for an extended period of time. When not under the immediate control of the respective handler, the PSD should be secured in a Department approved kennel or inside a properly equipped canine vehicle.
2. When outside of the canine vehicle, and not in an approved kennel, the PSD should be secured to a solid, fixed object. The handler should take steps to ensure the PSD will not injure itself or someone else. If secured in this manner, the handler must remain in visual contact with the animal at all times.

3. Occasionally, it may be necessary to leave a PSD in a canine vehicle for a short period of time. If the animal is left unattended, the following precautions shall be taken:
 - a. Ensure the PSD has sufficient shade during warm weather;
 - b. Ensure the PSD has an adequate supply of water inside the vehicle;
 - c. The PSD shall be checked at least once every hour to ensure it is not in distress; and,
 - d. When secured in the canine vehicle during warm weather, the vehicle's air conditioning unit shall be on, the rear windows shall be at least halfway down, and the Heat Sensor Alarm System must be active.

H. Training Responsibilities

1. Training is crucial to the overall effectiveness of the Canine Unit and ensures field readiness of the handlers and their PSDs. Canine teams will be continuously evaluated on their performance during training and actual field situations.
2. Attendance at all scheduled training is mandatory. Since training is conducted on a "10-10" in-service basis, handlers will respond to all radio calls that require the use of a canine team.
3. It is the handlers' responsibility to participate in all scheduled training and ensure his/her PSD meets the necessary performance standards. Any handler having a performance or training related problem shall contact their supervisor and a member of the training staff immediately.
4. Any problems that develop between a handler and a training officer will be reported to the training sergeant and squad supervisor as soon as possible.
5. No person shall train a PSD without prior approval of the Canine Unit training sergeant or a member of the training staff.
6. All members of the training staff will participate in academies and all training activities. In an effort to promote development and enhance skill levels, training officers may be required to rotate squads. At the direction of the training sergeant or the Canine Unit Lieutenant, training officers will rotate squads in conjunction with scheduled shift changes.

7. All personnel selected for the position of Training Officer must complete a one-year probationary period.
8. All sergeants and officers selected for the Canine Unit must complete a basic canine academy. Prior to the successful completion of the academy, the member is not entitled to canine specialty pay or a uniform allowance.

I. Reporting Dog Bites

1. In the event of a dog bite or other injury caused by a PSD, on-duty or off-duty, the handler shall notify a Canine Unit supervisor as soon as possible. The handler shall also report the incident to the Department of Animal Control within 24 hours.
2. If necessary, the canine supervisor shall notify the Watch Commander's Office in accordance with Department Procedure 1.04, Use of Force. In addition, the supervisor will document the incident as a use of force with a BlueTeam entry and forward it to the next chain of command. Except for training bites, the handler shall prepare a detailed and accurate report on all bites in accordance with Department Procedure 1.04, Use of Force and Section 4.5 of the Canine Unit Operations Manual.
 - a. In-custody suspects who have been injured shall be examined and treated for their injuries at a designated treatment facility.
 - b. In-custody juvenile suspects shall be examined and treated at a designated treatment facility prior to final disposition. Officers shall attempt to contact a parent or legal guardian to obtain authorization for medical treatment.
 - c. Non-criminal subjects who have been injured shall be offered transportation to the nearest medical facility for treatment. The injured person may seek private transportation to a medical facility.

NEW

J. Emergency Call-out

1. Canine units are available in the field on a 24-hour, 7-day a week basis. When called to a scene, the first canine unit to arrive will determine if additional canine units are required. If there are insufficient on-duty canine units available, a Canine Unit supervisor and the Canine Unit Lieutenant shall be contacted before a call-out is initiated for additional units.
2. The Canine Lieutenant and Special Response Canine (SRC) Supervisor shall be notified anytime a canine unit is requested at any SWAT incident.

K. Detection Dogs

1. Article and explosive detection dogs are available for service or call-outs on a 24-hour basis. Requests for call-outs shall be initiated through a Canine Unit supervisor and the Canine Unit Lieutenant.
2. Requests for detection dogs by outside agencies shall be routed through a Canine Unit supervisor and the Canine Unit Lieutenant.

L. Use of Dog Catch Pole

Each canine handler is issued a dog catch pole, and has received training in its use. Although the County of San Diego Department of Animal Services is the primary responder for calls of aggressive dogs and should be called first, a canine unit can provide assistance and respond to calls involving aggressive dogs if there is a delay in Animal Services' response, or if they are unable to respond.

1. A canine officer, with catch pole, should be requested to assist officers when:
 - a. An aggressive dog has been or will be encountered;
 - b. Communications Division has received a call of an aggressive dog and the San Diego Police Department is responding to the call; or
 - c. Personnel have prior knowledge of an aggressive dog and Animal Services officers are unable to respond.
2. There may be situations where the catch pole will not be appropriate, such as when the animal is engaging or attacking a victim and the use of another force option (e.g., baton, pepper spray (OC), Taser, or firearm) would be more effective. If possible, officers should utilize the time the dog is temporarily incapacitated by the Taser or OC to capture the dog with the catch pole. Additionally, dogs are similar to humans in that OC does not work on all dogs.
3. Officers on scene may be asked to provide cover for the canine handler attempting to capture the dog. They shall stay with the canine handler until the dog has been safely secured.
4. Once the dog has been captured with the pole, it will be placed in a secured location such as:
 - a. Enclosed area, such as a shed, garage, etc.;

- b. Fenced yard;
 - c. Secured room/closet;
 - d. In the back of a police vehicle; or,
 - e. As a last resort, secured by collar and leash to a fixed object.
5. A smaller containment area is preferred, as that would aid in the recapturing of the dog by Animal Services personnel. The dog will remain in the secured location until the arrival of Animal Services to take custody of the animal, if warranted.
 6. In some instances, a non-aggressive dog may be captured with the pole to facilitate a non-dynamic tactical or investigative operation. Examples would be non-high-risk search warrants, arrest warrants, vehicle searches or building searches where the capturing of the dog would prevent the dog from becoming aggressive as officers move through the location conducting a search. The dog should be released at the conclusion of the operation or when it can be moved to a secure location or, if appropriate, controlled by the owner.
 7. If a dog is injured when snaring it, the canine handler should contact his or her supervisor, and have Communications Division contact Animal Services to respond to the scene and take custody of the dog.
 8. Officers need to use caution in dealing with multiple dogs. When capturing one dog, the others may develop a “pack mentality” and attack the officer in defense of the captured dog.

M. Injured Handler Procedures

If a canine handler is injured and unable to move, the PSD will probably remain with the handler. The animal may be confused and possibly feel threatened by anyone attempting to approach the handler. All officers shall consider the following course of action in the event the handler is down and unable to control the PSD:

1. Do not move toward the handler or PSD. Call to the handler. Determine if the handler is injured and capable of taking control of the PSD;
2. Immediately request the assistance of another canine handler or canine supervisor; and,
3. If the handler is unable to assist, or additional canine personnel are unavailable, move the handler’s vehicle or another marked vehicle to a position near the handler and the PSD. Perform the following:

- a. Open the left rear door of the vehicle Drive the vehicle close to the PSD with the open door facing the animal. If using a canine vehicle, make sure the interior sliding screen is closed prior to moving toward the PSD;
 - b. Remain in the car and call to the PSD. In an authoritative voice, tell the PSD, “In Vaggen” (In Wagon) or say, “In the car.” Most PSDs will comply with the command;
 - c. After the PSD has entered the car, quickly exit the car and close the door, trapping the dog in the car. Await the arrival of Canine Unit personnel;
 - d. Once the PSD is secured, do not attempt to re-enter or operate the vehicle; and,
 - e. Only a canine handler or canine supervisor should transport or remove the PSD from the car.
4. The PSD may be destroyed only if the handler’s injuries appear life threatening and/or to prevent injury to other officers or persons.