

RESOLUTION #99-7

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING
A CANINE POLICY FOR THE BOISE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

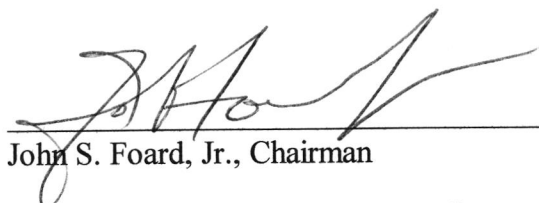
WHEREAS, the Boise County Board of Commissioners has received a version of the Boise County Sheriff Department Canine Policy; and

WHEREAS, diligent review and discussion of the new policy has been held by the Board, Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Resolution # 99-7, shall be known as the Boise County Sheriff Department Canine Policy.

That Boise County reserves the right to make any changes deemed necessary.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Boise County Board of Commissioners in open session on the 1st day of December 1998.



John S. Foard, Jr., Chairman

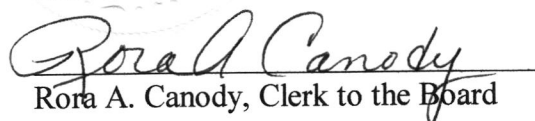


John N. Dyer, Commissioner



Harold E. Raper, Commissioner

Attest:



Rora A. Canody, Clerk to the Board

**BOISE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
CANINE POLICY**

POLICY NO. _____

DATED: 11-16-98

Canine Unit

The purpose of this policy is to set forth Departmental policies and procedures regarding the Canine Unit. These policies and procedures will govern Department Personnel as well as the use of Tracking Dogs, Narcotics Detection Dogs, Bomb Detection Dogs and Police Dogs.

I. INTRODUCTION

Properly trained tracking, narcotics detection, bomb detection and police dogs are valuable law enforcement tools. Appropriate deployment of these dogs enhances the safety of both deputies and citizens while increasing the Department's ability to capture criminals, find lost or missing persons, and locate items of evidence. The efficiency with which these dogs complete these tasks can greatly reduce the number of hours usually required by deputies to perform such duties.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Canine

The term "Canine" means all dogs used by this Department for Tracking or Searching, Narcotics Detection, Bomb Detection, Apprehension of Criminal Suspects or Protection of Department Personnel, and Public Relations and Education.

B. Properly Trained Canine

The term "Properly Trained Canine" means a dog that has undergone training to perform specific tasks and has been certified by a P.O.S.T. canine evaluator as meeting current P.O.S.T. canine standards.

C. Reasonably Necessary Force

The use of force is reasonably necessary when it is used to accomplish lawful objectives and to the extent necessary in light of the circumstances confronting deputies and employees.

III. DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

A. The Boise County Sheriff Department authorizes the deployment of properly trained canines under the following circumstances:

1. Assist deputies in searching for and arresting criminal suspects.
2. Assist deputies in searching for lost or missing persons.
3. Pursue and apprehend criminal suspects who are attempting to evade arrest.
4. Provide protection to canine handlers if attacked by a suspect.
5. Assist deputies in locating items of evidence.
6. Assist deputies in locating explosive devices.
7. Assist in public relations and education appearances for the Department.

- B. The Boise County Sheriff Department canine handlers will consider the following factors when determining whether to deploy a canine to bite a criminal suspect:
1. The seriousness of the crime.
 2. The suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of deputies or citizens.
 3. The suspect is actively resisting arrest or evading arrest by flight.
 4. Attempting to use a lesser degree of force would place deputies or citizens at undue risk
- C. Handlers shall use only that amount of force which appears reasonably necessary, given the facts and circumstances perceived by the handler at the time of the event, to effectively bring an incident under control.
1. The reasonableness of force used is judged from the perspective of a reasonable deputy considering the totality of the circumstances occurring at the time of the incident.
- D. Canines will not be utilized in crowd control situations or public disorders. Further, they will not be used to maintain or restore order during incidents involving interpersonal conflict such as family disputes or similar disturbances.
- E. Canine handlers are required to maintain proper control over their dogs at all times. Canines will be under the direct supervision of their handlers, kenneled, or in their assigned vehicles. The dogs will not be left unattended at any time where they can harm a citizen or another member of the department.
- F. Canines trained by the Boise County Sheriff Department will, upon retirement from active duty, be placed with careful consideration for department liability.
- G. In the event a canine bites any person, the handler or field supervisor on scene shall insure arrangements are promptly made for appropriate medical treatment
- H. Any occurrence (other than during training) which results in a person being bitten by a canine will be reviewed by the Canine Unit Review Board.
1. The Canine Unit Review Board will consist of the Canine Unit Coordinator, the Chief Deputy (or his designee), a Patrol Division Lieutenant, the Subject Handler, and a Private Citizen appointed by the County Board of Commissioners.
 2. The function of the Canine Unit Review Board shall be to:
 - a. Review canine deployments resulting in the apprehension of a criminal suspect to insure adherence to Departmental guidelines and policies.
 - b. Review all occurrences (other than training) which resulted in a dog bite to any person
 3. The Canine Unit Review Board shall determine if a dog bite was justified, unjustified, or accidental.
 - a. A bite shall be deemed justified when all pertinent Departmental policies and guidelines have been followed and the use of force was appropriate for the incident.

- b. A bite shall be deemed unjustified if a violation of policy occurred, the use of force was not appropriate for the incident, or negligence was involved.
 - c. A bite shall be deemed accidental if there is no violation of Departmental guidelines, but a person sustained a dog bite despite all reasonable efforts by the handler to avoid the bite from occurring.
4. The findings of the Canine Unit Review Board are not to be deemed punitive in nature. The findings of the Canine Unit Review Board will be forwarded to the Sheriff who will take appropriate action.

IV. CANINE UNIT ASSIGNMENT

- A. The Canine Unit is the operational responsibility of the Canine Unit Coordinator who will assign the canine handlers to a Shift Supervisor for duty assignments.
- B. The Canine Unit will be staffed with canine handlers whose dogs have been certified for duty.
- C. Deputies assigned to the Canine Unit will be assigned to a shift by the Shift Supervisor. The deputies will work an area assigned by the Shift Supervisor.
 - 1. Canine handlers will be responsible for:
 - a. Maintaining themselves, their dogs, and their equipment at the level necessary to properly function as a canine team.
 - b. Participating in scheduled training sessions.
 - c. Deploying their dogs in a manner consistent with departmental policy.
 - d. Maintaining proper training and deployment records.
 - e. Reporting any deficiencies in their dogs or their equipment to the Canine Unit Coordinator.
- D. A deputy with the minimum rank of Corporal or Specialist shall be designated by the Sheriff as the Canine Unit Coordinator.
 - 1. The Canine Unit Coordinator will be responsible for:
 - a. Scheduling and monitoring training sessions for the unit.
 - b. Working with and observing the handler/canine teams during actual deployments.
 - c. Arranging for the purchase of dogs and equipment, with the approval of the Sheriff, for the unit.
 - d. Checking training and deployment records of the canine handlers.
 - e. Updating policy and procedures for the unit.

2. The Canine Unit Coordinator may designate another handler to coordinate training sessions in his absence.

V. HANDLER SELECTION

- A. All Handlers will be active members of the Department or it's Reserves.
- B. The following criteria are minimum qualifications for prospective canine handlers:
 1. Full time Boise County Sheriff Department Deputies, Currently Certified as Law Enforcement Officers by the P.O.S.T. Academy,
 2. Boise County Sheriff Department Reserve Deputies, Currently Certified by the Department as Level Two or Higher.
 3. Exhibits the ability to work independently and unsupervised.
 4. Exhibits the ability to maintain a calm, professional demeanor during stressful situations.
 5. Exhibits an ability to communicate professionally with the public.
 6. Exhibits the ability to render effective testimony in court.
 7. Exhibits proficiency in report writing and record keeping skills.
 8. Has the proper facilities at his residence to house and care for a canine.
 9. No sustained excessive force complaint in the past three years.
 10. No written reprimand within the last year or suspension within the last three years.
 11. Canine handlers must agree to a minimum of a two year assignment to the Unit. During this time they will not be considered for promotions or transfers outside the Unit.
- C. The selection process for canine handlers will consist of:
 1. A pass/fail physical agility test. Consisting of a one and one half mile run completed in less than 17 minutes, 25 pushups, 35 sit-ups, 5 overhand pull-ups. All canine handlers will be required to pass the physical agility test yearly. Failure to pass the test will result in removal from the Unit.
 2. An oral interview with a board consisting of the Chief Deputy (or his designee), The Canine Unit Coordinator, A Patrol Sergeant, and a canine officer from another agency.
 3. The results of the physical agility test and the oral board will be forwarded to the Chief Deputy who will make assignments to the Unit.

VI. HANDLER DECERTIFICATION

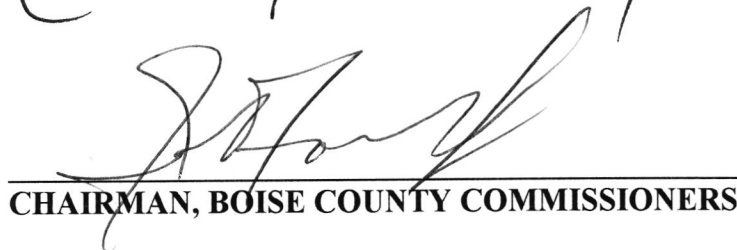
- A. A handler shall be considered for decertification and removal from the Canine Unit for any of the following:

1. A substandard personnel evaluation.
2. Failure to certify his canine on two occasions.
3. An established pattern of failure to attend unit training sessions.
4. Failure to progress in training as documented by the Canine Unit Coordinator.
5. Any documented willful and deliberate improper use of the dog.
6. Failure to satisfactorily complete a physical agility test.
7. Failure to maintain proper training records.
8. Exhibiting a pattern of unsafe tactics during actual deployments.

CANINE POLICY ACCEPTED AND APPROVED BY:


SHERIFF


CHIEF DEPUTY


CHAIRMAN, BOISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS