



<u>Policy Title</u>	Dogs – Use of Force Regarding Operational Use and Deployment
<u>CCMT Sponsor</u>	ACC Specialist Operations
<u>Department/Area</u>	Tactical Support
<u>Section/Sector</u>	Dog Section

1.0 Rationale

The prompt and proper utilisation of a trained police dog has proven to be a valuable resource for police forces across the UK. When correctly deployed they can substantially enhance the safety of both officers and the public, both in terms of protective action and search for vulnerable or wanted persons, property, explosives and/or drugs. Additionally, there is an increased likelihood of suspect apprehension, with a significantly reduced time-scale for any search of an area or building for such suspects.

2.0 Intention

The intention of this policy is to give guidance to police staff in the operational use of police dogs, with particular reference to the use of force.

3.0 General Principles

A police dog used to apprehend is best understood as an instrumentality of force, like a baton, to be judged according to the rules that apply to police use of force generally. It is also to be remembered that the Chief Constable remains vicariously liable for any decisions made regarding the deployment of a police dog by any incident commander. Additionally the handler remains personally liable for their use of force. Substantial force inflicting serious injury must be reasonable and necessary according to the circumstances confronting officers. The issue will be reasonable necessity, as the force used must be proportionate to the apparent need to prevent escape or protect persons.

As applied to police dogs, the reasonable necessity standard means a dog bite is justifiable and lawful force if and only if the threat to officers or the public is serious. The need for force must be sufficient to justify the injury of a dog bite. A dog bite is no different from a laceration inflicted by a

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lawful baton strike. The need for force, not the injury inflicted, makes force lawful or unlawful.

This document will examine the various uses to which Police dogs are put in the service and will separate them into two groups:

- Those not having use of force implications
- Those having use of force implications

Guidelines are given as to their deployment, the actions of the handler and liaison with other officers and supervisors, where a dog deployment is requested. By creating such guidance we will be in a position to provide the public with a more professional approach to the use of such resources and will further provide handlers and supervisors with clear guidelines as to the procedures to be followed. With clear terms of reference it will also enable a distinct and supportive post incident strategy in the event of bites having occurred.

4.0 Challenges & Representations

Head of Tactical Support
Howes Lane
Bicester
Oxon
OX26 2ZA

5.0 Guidance, Procedures & Tactics

- [Section 1 – Use of force and conflict resolution](#)
- [Section 2 – Use of police dogs – use of force](#)
- [Section 3 – Use of police dogs – non use of force](#)
- [Section 4 – Reporting use of force](#)
- [Section 5 – Control of the police dog](#)
- [Section 6 – Warning to subjects](#)
- [Section 7 – Deployment in firearms incident](#)
- [Section 8 – Training](#)
- [Section 9 – Post incident action](#)

6.0 Communication

6.1 Links to Police National Legal Database Other

No links

6.2 Communications Strategy

This policy will be published on the Thames Valley Police policy and procedures intranet site and the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme website. It will also be publicised in Manager's Briefing and through and All User E-mail.

7.0 Compliance and Certification

7.1 Human Rights Certification

(i) Legal Basis

The legal basis for this policy can be found in:-

- Section 3 of the Criminal Law Act 1967
- Sec 117 of the PACE Act 1984
- Common Law

(ii) Human Rights Articles Engaged

This policy has been drafted in audited in accordance with the Human Rights Act 1998.

It is acknowledged that this policy has the potential to engage the following Articles:-

Article 2: Right to Life

Article 5: Right to Liberty and Security

Article 8: Right to Respect for Private and Family Life

Article 11: Right to Freedom of Assembly and Association

In the event that an Article of the Convention is engaged, then the legitimacy for the engagement is provided within the text of the Article:

Article 2: Right to Life

In certain well defined circumstances, there is a positive obligation on the organisation to take preventative operational measures to protect an individual whose life is at risk from the criminal acts of another individual.

Article 5: Right to Liberty

Everyone has the right to Liberty and security of person. No-one shall be deprived of his liberty save in the following cases and in accordance with the procedure prescribed by law:-

- the lawful detention of a person after conviction by a competent court
- the lawful arrest or detention of a person for non-compliance with the lawful order of a court or in order to secure fulfilment of any obligation prescribed by law

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- the lawful arrest or detention of a person effected for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority on reasonable suspicion of having committed an offence, or when it is reasonably considered necessary to prevent his committing an offence or fleeing after having done so.
- The detention of a minor by lawful order for the purpose of educational supervision or his lawful detention for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority
- The lawful detention of persons for the prevention of the spreading of infectious diseases, of persons of unsound mind, alcoholics or drug addicts or vagrants
- the lawful arrest or detention of a person to prevent his effecting an unauthorised entry into the country or of a person against whom action is being taken with a view to deportation or extradition.

Article 8: Right to Respect for Private and Family Life

Everyone has the right to respect for private and family life, his home and his correspondence. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right, except such as in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of:-

- national security
- public safety
- the prevention of disorder or crime
- protecting health or morals
- protecting the rights and freedoms and others

Article 11: Right to Freedom of Assembly and Association

Everyone has the right to freedom of assembly and freedom of association with others, including the right to join trade unions for the protection of his interest. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right, except such as in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of:-

- national security
- public safety
- the prevention of disorder or crime
- protecting health or morals
- protecting the rights and freedoms and others

Actions taken as a consequence of this policy will be applied in an impartial and fair way having due regard for natural justice and human rights.

(iii) Prohibition of Discrimination

By engaging any of the aforementioned Articles, there is the potential to engage Article 14 of the Convention. The enjoyment of the Rights and Freedoms set forth in the European Convention of Human Rights shall be secured without discrimination on any grounds, such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status. Actions taken as a consequence of this policy will be applied fairly and impartially, having due regard to national justice and human rights.

7.2 Equality Impact Assessment

This policy is being assessed for its relevance to equality.

7.3 Diversity (Human Resources)

In the application of this policy, the Force will not discriminate against any persons regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, race or ethnic origin, religion, age or disability.

7.4 Data Protection

All personal data will be managed in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

7.5 Freedom of Information Act

The main body of this document is publicly available by way of the Force Intranet, the Internet.

Appendix C to this document contains tactical information and is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, section 31.

7.6 Protective Markings

This policy has been assessed as NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED.

7.7 Health & Safety at Work

The Health & safety implications of this policy have been considered and the assessments/processes are included within Section 5 Guidance, Procedures and Tactics.

8.0 Monitoring and Review

8.1 Links to Best Value/PPAF/Priorities/Performance Indicators

This policy contributes to the following strategic objectives:

- To equip our front-line staff to deliver on our objectives
- To be ready and equipped to deal with major crime and critical incidents

8.2 Review Process

A review of this policy will be conducted by the Inspector responsible for the Dog Section and this will take place on an annual basis and will examine:

- Changes in legislation
- Court rulings – Domestic, European and Human Rights
- Examples of good practice from other Forces or other organisations
- Changes in Home Office Circulars
- Developments with ACPO Policy Unit
- Representations made by individuals and relevant organisations
- Relevant Race Equality data

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

5.0 Guidance, Procedures and Tactics

Section 1 - USE OF FORCE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

In line with all other use of force advice for Police Officers, there is a common objective designed to clearly identify the reason for use of force.

The Objective of Police Use of Force

Is

To maintain the safety of officers

And innocent persons

BY ESTABLISHING CONTROL

When a police dog is deployed as a use of force response option, this objective remains the same. The same rule of law applies in terms of both Common Law and Section 3 Criminal Law Act 1967, in that any use of force must be reasonable in the circumstances.

Section 3 permits the use of such force in the prevention of crime, or in effecting or assisting in the lawful arrest of offenders or a person unlawfully at large.

The common law allows such force to be used for self-protection or the protection of others and in some circumstances property.

Any use of force is in law an assault and as such must be justified. If not it is unlawful.

When control is established and maintained the officer's use of force ceases, for it then becomes unreasonable.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION MODEL

Before any force is used the officer should satisfy himself or herself that the criteria for the 'use of force' is satisfied.

Criteria for the 'use of force'

1. Justification

All force must be justified. Remember that force as defined also includes the psychological 'use of force'. The level of force used must be reasonable for the resistance encountered in the confrontation.

2. Preclusion

Low level options must have either been attempted and failed, or be considered by the officer to be inappropriate under the circumstances. (e.g., speed of the escalation of violence offered by subject)

The Conflict Resolution Model (CRM) is designed to promote professionalism and understanding of what would be an acceptable response to resistant behaviour during stressful and evolving situations. The CRM achieves this by allowing recognition of:

- The **resistance** offered by the **subject** at that time,
- The different **response options available to the police**
- Other **factors** which **impact** on the situation at that time

It is possible to lay the foundation for an understandable, flexible, useable policy, which will offer not only guidance but also support to police officers. This will be applicable both with empty hand skills and when the officer deploys equipment such as a baton, handcuff or incapacitant spray.

This will allow officers not only to take the correct action in the operational arena but will also enable them to effectively indicate those actions and provide sound justification for doing so.

The Police model is divided into three primary components:

- 1 Profiled offender behaviours
- 2 Reasonable officer responses
- 3 Impact factors

Profiled offender behaviours

➤ **Compliance**

Offender offers no resistance
Complies with officer request

➤ **Verbal Resistance and Gestures**

Offender refuses verbally to comply
Exhibits body language indicating non-compliance

➤ **Passive Resistance**

Offender sits/stands still and will not move as with some protesters

➤ **Active Resistance**

Offender pulls away from or pushes officer - or runs away from the officer
No deliberate attempt to strike or injure the officer

➤ **Aggressive Resistance**

Offender fights with officer/police dog - kicking/punching, wrestling, biting, etc. The important point here is that the subject intends to fight. The officer does not have to receive a strike to prove this point.

➤ **Serious or Aggravated Resistance**

Any assault where there exists the possibility of great bodily harm or death. (Includes production of weapon by offender)

Reasonable Officer Response Options

➤ **Officer Presence**

Includes method of approach
Uniform or plain clothes/pronouncement of office
This will also include the “indirect deployment” of a police dog and handler

Indirect Deployment is defined as “where the dog and handler are deployed at the periphery of an incident, with the dog in the police vehicle, providing a visible deterrent and with the handler observing the incident develop.” In these circumstances the handler can respond with a direct deployment, with the justification for same being as shown at page 5.

➤ **Tactical Communications**

Can be verbal and non-verbal. Can include presentation/drawing of batons. This will also include the “interim deployment” of a police dog handler

Interim deployment is defined as “where the dog and handler are deployed from the vehicle, on foot, remaining at a discreet (safe) distance whilst observing an incident as it develops, thus providing a deterrent on the periphery, whilst at the same time being in a position to escalate to a direct deployment, should the threat to the officers dealing with the incident increase to such a level that the use of a dog to assist becomes reasonable, in line with the conflict resolution model”

➤ **Primary Control Skills**

Use of empty hand skills
Escort position
Arm/wrist-locks
Compliance Techniques
Use of handcuffs
Use of baton for restraint techniques (PR 24)

➤ **Defensive Tactics**

These are techniques which may inflict pain or moderate injury depending on the target area. They generally consist of striking techniques or dynamic takedowns.

They also include:

Handcuff takedown/removal techniques
Blocks/Strikes/Jabs/Punches/Palm heel/Chops
Incapacitant spray
Defensive Tactics; usually associated with strikes to primary or secondary target areas where there is a low to moderate possibility of injury.

➤ **The Direct Deployment of Police Dogs**

In circumstances, or in a manner where the dog is deployed in close proximity to and where it is possible, likely to, or instructed to bite a subject.

➤ **Deadly Force**

Any action which offers the **probability** of serious bodily injury or death, this can include empty hands, batons or firearms. Usually associated with **forceful** strikes to red final target areas. The striking to a red target area is not in itself deadly force. If there was no power used in the strike the possibility of harm may remain but the probability of harm is unlikely. Best practice suggests avoidance to

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the red target area unless other options have failed or considered inappropriate in the circumstances.

It is therefore incumbent on the organisation to recognise that deployment of a police dog in line with this model will require a high degree of justification and supervisors must be cognisant of this fact when requesting such deployment. This will include supervisors at spontaneous public order incidents and the relevant commander's at large scale public order/sporting events, who will liaise with the Public Order Tactical Advisor and the Dog Section Liaison officer.

Impact Factors

The officer's choice of their use of force option is based on their perception of the circumstances.

Factors in addition to offender behaviour which may influence the officer's response include but are not limited to:

Sex - age - size
Relative strength
Skill level
Exhaustion or injury
Numbers
Special knowledge
Alcohol or drugs
Mental derangement
Weapons
Imminent danger
CS contamination
Tactical situation
The likelihood of property being damaged or vital evidence being lost
Being in a position of disadvantage
and
The officers' perception of the subject's willingness to resist or evade capture

This model should not be regarded as restrictive but as flexible with officers choosing the reasonable response option anywhere on the scale using all the information available at that time. It is to be acknowledged that where an offender is fleeing, the handler may not be in a position to assimilate all the information available, when deciding whether or not to release the dog to establish control.

Additional issues directly relating to the use of police dogs as a use of force response include:

- **The Police Service must recognise the limitations of the dog**

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- **Where the dog is deployed in such a role there is a risk of serious injury to subjects and/or officers and litigation is a possibility-**
- **A third party (such as a supervisor) requiring such deployment must take heed of the handlers advice and must defer to the handler in the final decision as to such deployment.**

JUSTIFICATION FOR DEPLOYMENT

In law the use of force by police officers is governed by Section 3 of the Criminal Law Act of 1967. This allows such use of force as is reasonable in the circumstances to effect an arrest or prevent crime.

In addition Section 117 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act of 1984 where any provision of this Act:

Confers a power on a constable only; and does not provide that the power may only be exercised with the consent of some person, other than a police officer.

The officer may use reasonable force if necessary in the exercise of the power. Again, the responsibility for the 'use of force' rests with the individual officer alone and the officer is answerable to the courts, both criminal and civil.

As these comments demonstrate, the court will expect a police officer, to be able to justify a decision to use force and, the level of that force.

In order to provide some guidance as to what force may be considered reasonable and necessary in the circumstances, the minimum amount necessary and the amount proportionate to the seriousness of the case, a Conflict Resolution Model has been adopted

If followed, it is anticipated that the Conflict Resolution Model will enable staff to provide sound justification for their actions.

In order for staff to provide defensible justification for their actions, it is essential that they keep accurate records in any documentation they are required to complete. The Conflict Resolution Model provides a simple framework around which staff can explain how they arrived at their decision to act as they did.

The word reasonable is imperative in use of force issues. In order to give guidance regarding reasonableness the following Section deals with the conflict resolution model.

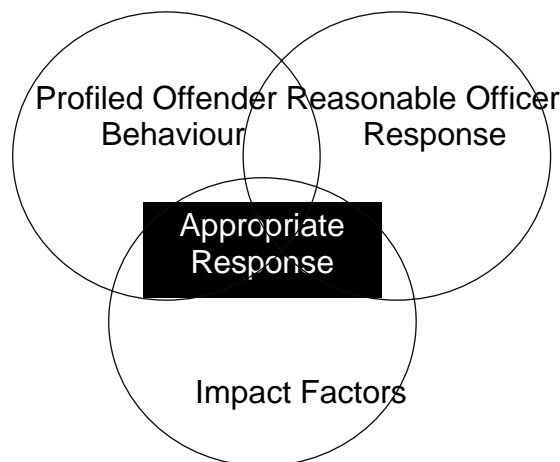
The handler will justify direct deployment utilising the conflict resolution model and should seek to indicate that their perception is that

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- The direct deployment of the Police Dog is necessary to prevent escalation at an incident and such deployment is likely to assist in maintaining the safety of officers and innocent persons and achieving control or
- The offender poses an immediate threat to the safety of officers, innocent persons or the dog itself or
- The offender poses an immediate threat to property or
- The offender is making off or likely to make off and if they evade capture there will be a risk to the safety of other officers/innocent persons or evidence of an offence will be lost
- The offender is unlawfully at large

As with all other use of force, it is for the officer to justify their actions based on their perceptions at an incident, calling on training and experience. It is impossible to dictate to individual officers when they should or should not utilise force to effect control. For this reason there is no list of “appropriate offences” for which a dog may or may not be deployed for this seeks to place unrealistic restrictions on the actions of the handler.

THE CONFLICT RESOLUTION MODEL



Section 2 - USE OF POLICE DOGS - USE OF FORCE

The Police Dog is wholly specialised and now has its own unique place within the conflict resolution model when being deployed in a use of force capacity. A consideration that applies to the deployment of dogs that does not apply to any other use of force is that of control. In any other deployment the officer has complete control of the implement they are using and the decision making process is purely personal.

When the Police Dog is deployed this is not the same. Whether deployed on or off a lead the dog has its own decision making process. Like all animals under threat it may react spontaneously to that perceived threat. Whilst every effort is made during training to ensure the dog only responds to the commands of the handler, this stimulus response reaction remains and must be recognised.

Use of force deployments

Police Dogs are used for the purpose of:

- **Chasing and detaining a person who is making off**
- **Disarming a criminal armed with a firearm or other weapon (offensive weapon per-se or improvised)**
- **Guarding or escorting person following detention**
- **Defending the handler against attack**
- **Defending other officers against attack**
- **Protecting other innocent persons**
- **Protecting Property**
- **Defending itself against attack**
- **Crowd control (spontaneous or pre-planned public order incidents and sporting events)**

Chase and Detain

Handlers and dogs train to ensure the dog is capable of chasing and detaining an offender who is making off and to protect its handler and itself. In a chase and detain situation the dog is sent by the handler after a warning (if practical) is issued for the offender to stop. Such warning is indicated in section 6. The dog is trained to chase and bite the offender on the right arm (acknowledging that the offenders behaviour may determine the area of the bite) and to release on further command of the handler.

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In the chase and stand-off scenario the dog is trained to ensure that on all occasions where the offender stands still, it will bark and remain at a reasonable distance from the subject, keeping them under surveillance, thus preventing their escape and allowing the handler to attend to take the offender into custody.

CROWD CONTROL/PUBLIC ORDER

By its very nature the use of a police dog to assist in such incidents is a sensitive issue and calls for positive and task related training. Crowd dynamics can change dramatically from being compliant and non-threatening, to being extremely volatile and dangerous in a matter of moments. There is an added and substantial risk to the dog (and handler) from missiles, petrol bombs and broken glass. In the main deployments at such incidents are as a deterrent, but it must be recognised that persons in the crowd may continue with their behaviour. In such cases the dog may then be used to establish control. Under such circumstances there is a risk of persons being bitten. Officers are advised that dogs should not routinely be deployed in political demonstrations or industrial meetings. However, where such assemblies become violent or non-compliant, the dogs could be deployed as a last resort (before using potential lethal intervention,) for the purposes of dispersing the crowd and breaking up the assembly.

It is appropriate that public order be divided into two distinct types:

SPONTANEOUS DISORDER

(Regularly experienced in town centre situations largely alcohol related)

Police dogs and their handlers regularly deploy at such incidents and have a calming effect on the participants. This is normally achieved by deployment with the dog from their vehicle, remaining at a discreet (safe) distance from the incident, thus providing a deterrent to persons on the periphery. In this way the handler is in a position to monitor the situation and if necessary assist with a direct deployment of the dog when the situation escalates so as to make such action reasonable.

Whilst it is recognised that because of the nature of the incident it is not possible to demand that the handler complies in every instance where a direct deployment is then made, the following guidelines are considered good practice.

1. Where practicable a warning (shown at section 6) should be given prior to deployment by either the handler or the officer in charge of the incident.
2. The dog may be deployed when the perception is that it is necessary to prevent the situation escalating to one which represents a risk of serious injury or life threatening violence.

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3. The dog may be deployed when the perception is that there is an immediate threat to the safety of officers or other innocent persons.
4. The dog may be deployed when the perception is that there is an immediate threat to the safety of the dog itself.
5. Notwithstanding a request from a supervisor, the final decision as to deployment of the dog will rest with the handler.

SPORTING EVENTS AND PRE-PLANNED OPERATIONS

(Football matches - demonstrations)

Guidance regarding the use of Police Dogs is contained within the ACPO Manual of Guidance on keeping the peace. Tactical considerations, Section 13. Police dogs ([Appendix B](#)).

Police Dogs can be utilised in either indirect or interim deployment and form part of the contingency planning for such incidents/events in a role which allows them to protect vulnerable property, buildings and vehicles and act as a deterrent as follows:

- At relevant transport venues including Railway Stations and coach or car parks
- Along routes of processions/demonstrations or known routes of pedestrians and vehicular traffic for sporting events
- Outside the ground at football matches

Such deployments would allow a reasonable distance between the dog and the crowd being policed. This would allow the handler to monitor the situation and assist by a direct deployment of a dog to assist other officers subject to the following good practice:

1. Where practicable a warning (shown at section 6) should be given prior to a direct deployment by either the handler or the officer in charge of the incident/event
2. The dog may be directly deployed when the perception is that it is necessary to prevent the situation escalating to one which represents a risk of serious injury or life threatening violence
3. The dog may be directly deployed when the perception is that there is an immediate threat to the safety of officers or other innocent persons.
4. The dog may be directly deployed when the perception is that there is an immediate threat to the safety of the dog itself.

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5. Notwithstanding a request from a supervisor, the final decision as to deployment of the dog will rest with the handler.

Whilst Police dogs should not routinely be deployed inside football grounds, their appropriate use as a deterrent to pitch invasion and crowd violence can be a useful tactics to ground commanders.

Where a ground commander seeks to place Police Dogs inside the ground as aforesaid, it would be wise, where practicable to place the dogs and handlers behind other resources, including officers with batons drawn. In the event that those resources were unsuccessful it would then help to show that the deployment of the dogs was reasonable and in line with the conflict resolution model in that lower response options had failed to achieve control.

GROUND COMMANDERS

It is recognised that the ground commander may feel that the situation has developed to such an extent that:

- there is risk of serious disorder, with a resultant threat to the safety of officers and innocent persons
- the direct deployment of the Police Dogs is necessary to prevent an escalation and maintain safety and achieve control.

In such cases the ground commander would rely on the conflict resolution model and authorise the dogs to deploy inside the ground only following consultation with the dog section liaison officer (any officer designated as such by the section supervisor) present and the Public Order Tactical Advisor for their specialist advice.

In such circumstances the ground commander would have regard to:

- The nature of the disorder
- The environment within which the dogs are expected to work
- The capabilities and limitation of the dog in the public order context
- The propensity for and possibility of serious/aggravated violence and the resultant risk of injury to officers and innocent persons
- The believed overall effectiveness of such deployment
- The need to deploy dogs in significant numbers with their handlers

Ground commanders must remain aware of such risks before authorising such deployment. Those reasons must be documented in the Public Order Incident Log, which will include a use of force report.

BRIEFINGS

In addition, because of the nature of such events the necessity for clear briefings is imperative.

In relation to Police Dogs and handlers the following good practice will be adopted

- As well as a general briefing for such operations, there will be a separate (recorded) briefing for the handlers.
- Instructions as to deployment must be specific
- Where handlers have concerns over such deployment they will inform the person undertaking the briefing and document the reasons for their concern.
- Following such consultation there may be a need to amend the instructions to ensure a more appropriate deployment. This will also be documented.
- Notwithstanding such issues, the final deployment of the dog (which constitutes a use of force) rests with the handler.
- Handlers must have a separate debrief at the conclusion of the operation.

[See Appendix E](#)

Section 3 - USE OF POLICE DOGS - NON USE OF FORCE

It is necessary to distinguish those deployments, which are not considered as a use of force. Whilst it is recognised that the dog is an animal that has its own decision making process (especially when under threat), it is subject of a high level of training which seeks to allow the handler to control the dog when it is deployed on or off the lead.

Deployments considered non-use of force

Police Dogs are used for:

- Search for persons
- Search for property
- Search for drugs/explosives and firearms
- Tracking of offenders who have made off from the scene of a crime (as distinct from apprehending an offender who is in the act of making off)
- Displays/presentation for other agencies/community groups

All general-purpose dogs are trained to search for persons and property. When they are searching buildings and open areas they are trained to bark upon finding the person. When searching for property the dogs are trained to indicate the article/s by either retrieving it or by passive indication, which may involve the dog lying down next to it or barking at it.

The reason for the dog barking is to indicate to the handler that it has found the missing person/offender and is not a use of force. Under such circumstances the dog is trained to bite only for self-defence after having been attacked by the person or if the person attempts to evade capture by making off. In such circumstances (where the dog does bite) it becomes a use of force incident and is subject of a report by the handler.

Section 4 - REPORTING USE OF FORCE

The Thames Valley Police have a detailed reporting process, which has allowed an informed and structured approach to use of force and officer safety training. Such information assists in identifying appropriate skills, strategies and equipment for officers.

An officer is required to submit a use of force report Gen 10 when:

- There is officer or offender injury
- Any physical force used except escort position and compliant handcuffing
- A baton is drawn (including those incidents when no strike occurs). The same will apply to incapacitant sprays.

Requirement to report deployment of the police dog as a use of force is categorised as follows:

- **Officer or Prisoner injury**
- **When the dog bites at the discretion of the handler and there is no injury**
- **When the dog bites not at the direction of the handler and there is no injury**
- **When the dog is deployed to achieve control of an immediate threat to the handler, other officers or innocent persons, or the dog itself, whether or not it bites or causes injury**
- **When the dog is deployed to apprehend a fleeing offender/subject, whether or not it bites or causes injury**

Utilising these guidelines it would therefore be necessary for the handler to submit a Gen 10 form on every occasion that they deploy the dog as a **direct deployment**. Such a deployment must conform to the officers training in the conflict resolution and therefore be reasonable in the circumstances.

USE OF FORCE REPORT GEN 10

In addition to the dog bite procedure detailed at Sec 9 officers must submit a Gen 10 in the following circumstances:-

- Any injury caused by the dog
- When the dog bites on the direction of the handler and there is no injury
- When the dog bites other than on the direction of the handler and there is no injury
- When the dog is deployed to achieve control of an immediate threat to the handler, other officers or innocent persons, or the dog itself, whether or not it bites or causes injury.

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- When the dog is deployed to apprehend a fleeing offender/subject, whether or not it bites or causes injury

Therefore it would be necessary for you to submit a form on every occasion that you deploy your dog as an offensive or defensive tactic, i.e.:-

Chasing and detaining a person who is making off
Disarming a criminal armed with a firearm or other weapon
Guarding or escorting persons following detention
Defending the handler against attack
Defending other officers against attack
Protecting other innocent persons
Protecting property
Defending itself against attack
Crowd control (spontaneous public disorder incidents and sporting events)

Deployments considered non-use of force and therefore not requiring a form to be submitted:-

Search for persons
Search for property
Search for drugs, explosives and firearms
Tracking of offenders who have made off from the scene of a crime (as distinct from apprehending an offender who is in the act of making off)

Section 5 - CONTROL OF THE POLICE DOG

When the handler deploys with the dog they are duty bound to maintain control of the dog at all times. It has to be recognised that the issue of total control cannot be achieved, for the dog remains capable of independent thought and action. This places an additional burden on the handler. The training to which the handler and dog are subject seeks to enable the handler to impose their will on the dog, including those times when working in stressful situations. Control can be divided into two distinct areas:

On the Lead

The handler can control the length of lead between themselves and the dog. To an extent, with training, the handler can control the direction in which the dog moves (fanning in front of a hostile crowd). There are two matters that may be beyond the control of the handler

- Spontaneous actions on the part of the crowd or individuals within that crowd
- Spontaneous response from the dog - and to an extent follow up responses

Off the lead

The handler can release the dog, with a specific intent that the dog will complete the task to hand - search of premises or search of open area. The dog may perceive other threats/stimuli and respond accordingly.

Recognising those limitations the handler of a dog is required to maintain control of the dogs.

Duties of the Handler

- Where practicable the handler will be in a position to establish control of the dog, both on and off the lead
- Where practicable, when the dog is off the lead the handler will attempt to maintain visual contact and therefore retain the ability to recall it when necessary

Section 6 - WARNINGS TO SUBJECTS

It is incumbent on the handler, where practicable, to issue a warning that they are about to directly deploy the police dog in line with their training. It is recognised that in spontaneous situations, with immediate threats being presented, this will not always be possible.

Warning 1 Given by the handler to subjects who are making off, or to subjects involved in spontaneous public disorder

“Police officer with a dog - stand still or I’ll send the dog”

(Where practicable this warning should be given twice)

Warning 2 Given by the handler where subjects are believed to be secreted in an area or building

“Police officer with a dog. Come out, or make yourself known to a Police Officer”. Allow reasonable period to elapse and then before the release of the dog the handler will further state “I am now releasing the dog. When it finds you, for your own safety you must remain still and quiet and you will come to no harm”

(Where practicable this warning should be repeated in each different part of the building or area)

Warning 3 Given prior to deployment at the direction of or, by ground/incident commander

“Stop, disperse or Police Dogs will be deployed”

(Where possible this warning should be regularly repeated)

As well as the individual officer giving the warning recording the fact in their pocket book, other officers present who also heard the warning must record the fact in their pocket books.

Section 7 - DEPLOYMENT IN FIREARMS INCIDENTS

Police Dogs and handlers already form part of the response in a firearms incident. The dog is viewed as a non-lethal option in such incidents.

Response at a firearms incident.

Deployments as a less than lethal option in firearms situations will be as per Thames Valley Police Manual of Guidance and instruction on the use of Tactical dogs

Where practicable the handler will issue a warning (Number 1) as shown on preceding page.

Section 8 - TRAINING

Accreditation

Both dogs and handler undergo Initial and Annual Refresher training delivered by Home office/ACPO Qualified Instructors. They undergo continuation training as required, with a minimum of 16 days per year for dogs.

ACPO Recommendations

This Force adheres to the ACPO recommendations as identified in the Home Officer manual of Guidance and handler must comply with its procedures in relation to dog bites.

Documentation

Written assessments of handlers and dogs are maintained. Performance is monitored operationally and the use of force reports are monitored.

Section 9 - POST INCIDENT ACTION

The criteria for reporting the use of force are established and the handler involved will submit the use of force form where applicable.

Where a person subject of a dog bite makes off and is not arrested, the officer will still complete the use of force report. The debriefing of the dog handler will be undertaken as soon as practicable and in accordance with Force Policy. Information on all such incidents will be recorded on the use of force reporting database to enable on-going evaluation. Refer to Sec 4 - Reporting use of force re use of force report Gen 10.

In addition the Police dog bite procedure will be completed as detailed below.

Any additional reporting will be completed in accordance with Force Policy.

Where the incident involved injury to a subject who is arrested the following actions will be taken:

- On arrival at the custody unit the dog handler will brief the custody officer regarding the use of the dog
- The custody officer will record the injuries and arrange for examination by a police surgeon
- The custody officer will arrange for the injuries to be photographed.
- Where an offender wishes to complain the custody officer will arrange for the relevant officer to attend to record the complaint
- The nominated/designated officer will debrief the handler as soon as practicable after the event

At all stages of the post-incident process the handler may liaise directly with appropriate resources in force.

POLICE DOG BITE PROCEDURES

Whenever an officers' police dog bites or injures any person or animal on duty, that officer must submit a 'Police dog bite/injury report' via fax to the nominated officer (dog training sergeant) at Sulhamstead before the end of that tour of duty. If the incident occurs off duty then the information must be left on the answer machine at Sulhamstead on 0118 932 5560, followed by a faxed dog bite report on return to duty. Refer to [Appendix D](#).

A copy of the full statement (preferable) or a Gen 46 report giving a full account, must be sent to the dog training sergeant at Sulhamstead, at the earliest opportunity but no later than 48 hours after the event. Full details must be given on the incident including if applicable, the offence, the power of arrest, any challenges given and any injuries or damage inflicted.

If an innocent member of the public is injured by a Police dog accidentally, all possible assistance should be offered to them at the time, including arranging transport to hospital/doctors/home, etc. It would also assist in Police /public

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relations if your Dog Section supervisor was informed, to arrange a public relations visit as soon as possible.

TACTICAL REPORT WRITING

The test of any professional is the ability to deal with incidents from conception through to conclusion. For the police, this includes the ability to justify their actions to the satisfaction of the judicial system.

The report or statement might be required to be produced in the magistrate court and possibly crown or even civil court. Civil cases can take several years to come to court.

The process to be used in report and statement writing should also be used in the documentation of pocket books.

Best Practice

Following any incident an officer should complete their pocket book before attempting their statement. The pocket book should be a full and complete account of the incident.

Staff should be aware of documented protocols already in place within the Force. These may have an effect on the process and timings of any report completed, (for example Post Firearms shooting Protocol).

Always ensure that care is taken when documenting an incident. Human reaction, perceptual distortion, often brought on by the stress of the situation, will affect the memory and ability to recall key points. Planning the report often helps. A breakdown of the incident into stages often produces a more detailed and structured report.

To assist staff to breakdown an incident the following guide has been produced and issued. It is available as a pocket book size card for ease of reference. The Gen 10 "use of force" report should also be referred to as an aid memoir.

Arrival at the scene:

This should include the deployment, dress code, and method of arrival, i.e., blue lights/sirens, pronouncement of office if not in uniform. Were other staff involved?

Approach

This should include the initial threat assessment based on the information available at that time. Initial contact reactions and considerations. Identify legislation used and procedures considered.

Subject Action

Initial reaction to officer, impact factors level of initial resistance, reaction to officer's communication. Verbal reaction including tone and pitch, which

indicated, 'compliance or non-compliance. Any identifying warning/danger signs exhibited.

Staff Action

All impact factors that are considered, Staff attempts at communication including where and how they stood. Look for signs of recent exertion, injuries, clothing unusual items, which may assist identification. Document any requests commands made to the subject, document the reaction to them, any attempts at de-escalation such as separating parties. Document response escalation techniques such as drawing of a baton or incapacitant spray giving reasons for doing so and the subject or witness reaction to it.

Arrest procedure if applicable including reply following caution. Any force used or considered. Result of the force used, effectiveness. Methods of control attempted and achieved. Handcuff procedure including techniques used and reason for it. Welfare of subject, check handcuffs for tightness and double lock, if not, why not. Document in detail resistance offered by the subject including impact factors which create problems, i.e., drink, drugs, size, strength, etc.

Witnesses

Any other person present for either party, including their intervention if applicable, consider their perception.

Transport Procedure

Statistically 13% of all assaults on police occur within a police vehicle. If the subject's level of violence is such, consider an appropriate form of transport. If this was done, document the reasoning behind this request. If suitable vehicle not available how did the officer overcome the problem? How was the subject placed in the available vehicle? What was the welfare procedure during transport? If the person was considered high risk what contingencies were considered? Document behaviour of subject throughout journey. If force had to constantly be applied, how long did the journey take? any attempts at escape, police action to prevent it, i.e., handcuff, hold down, etc.

Staff should not document aspects that were not applicable to their situation. However, the basis of a good report is that it paints a picture for a person, who was not present at the scene, to be able to understand the problems that were faced and then relate to them in any subsequent proceedings.

Always work on the assumption that a video has been made of the incident and will be produced. Include hearsay within your report, pocket book and statement. Remember the crown prosecution service need to have a picture of the incident.

ACPO MANUAL OF GUIDANCE ON KEEPING THE PEACE

13. POLICE DOGS

PRINCIPLES

1. Support Police Support Units:
 - (I) deployed on foot for
 - (a) Show of strength behind police lines
 - (b) Crowd dispersal
 - (ii) Mobile in specially adapted vehicles (dog carrier for rapid deployment).
2. Protect property:
 - (i) police stations
 - (ii) prisoner reception/holding
 - (iii) vulnerable property and areas
 - (iv) prevent looting
3. Patrol the periphery to
 - (i) prevent access to the area of disorder
 - (ii) contain area of disorder
 - (iii) provide high profile policing post disorder

Considerations

- ◆ It is essential that the capabilities and limitations of using police dogs are fully understood by the police commander prior to their deployment.
- ◆ Advice should be sought from the most Senior dog officer available.
- ◆ Specific risk assessments and control measures including protective equipment and 'public order' leads during dispersal tactic.

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- ◆ Dog handlers should be supported by officers on foot issuing a warning message prior to using police dogs in a dispersal role (chapter 4 page 97)
- ◆ Dogs are unable to discriminate as to who is or who is not breaking the law

APPENDIX C

Appendix C contains tactical information and is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, section 31.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE DOG SECTION
POLICE DOG BITE/INJURY REPORT

Police dog handlers

name.....rank.....no.....

Police dogs

name.....no.....lic.to.....

Incident date.....incident

time.....u.r.n.....

Incident

location.....

.....

..

Name of person/suspect

bitten/injured.....d.o.b.....

..

Offences

suspected/committed.....

Arrested yes / no

Charge sheet

no.....

Address.....

.....tel.

no.....

Injuries

sustained.....

.....

..

Name of witness/es to

incident.....tel.no.....

Doctor seen - yes / no Damage to

clothing/other.....

Justification (Refer to Gen 10 for classifications)

Offenders

behaviour.....

.....

.

Response options

considered/available.....

.....

.

Impact

factors.....

.....

.

Reason for use of

force.....

.....

.

Brief circumstances of incident

Signed.....date.....time.....

.

This pro-forma must be faxed to the Dog Section office at Sulhamstead prior to going off duty from the tour during which the incident occurred. A copy statement (preferable) **or** Gen 46 giving a full account will be submitted directly to the training sgt. at the earliest opportunity but not later than 48 hours after the incident.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE DOG SECTION
PUBLIC ORDER INCIDENT
BRIEFING / DE-BRIEFING RECORD

Dog Section Officer undertaking briefing -
name.....rank.....no.....
Incident / location.....time.....date.....
Dog Section personnel present -
name.....rank.....no.....
name.....rank.....no.....
name.....rank.....no.....
name.....rank.....no.....
name.....rank.....no.....
name.....rank.....no.....
name.....rank.....no.....
name.....rank.....no.....
name.....rank.....no.....
name.....rank.....no.....

BRIEFING

Information

Intention

Risk assessment

Method

Administration

Communication

Briefing concluded at (time).....date.....

Officer undertaking briefing signature.....

DE-BRIEFING

Communications

Equipment

Human resources

Planning and briefing

Command and tactics

Welfare

Other issues

Gen 10 submitted by -

Dog bites -

Policy log endorsed yes/no

Key learning points

- **most significant event**
- **what would be done next time**
- **how could operation be improved**

Actions

Officer undertaking debriefing - name..... rankno.....

Signature.....time.....date.....