



IC11

**LOWER MAINLAND INTEGRATED
POLICE DOG SERVICE**

IC11

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POLICY

1. To ensure that the access and deployment of Police Service Dogs is effective and compliant with all established best practices, and Police Service standards.

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Lower Mainland Integrated Police Dog Service

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2. Lower Mainland District Integrated Police Dog Service (LMDIPDS) will provide an organizational structure within which the RCMP and the Delta Police Department (Department) can provide the efficient and effective multi-jurisdictional use of Police Dog calls for service.
3. The LMDIPDS will investigate and maintain conduct of all Police Dog calls for service occurring within the Lower Mainland.
4. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RCMP and the Department will govern all aspects of the integration of emergency response services.

REASON FOR POLICY

5. To provide for and facilitate the effective use of Police Service Dogs.

RELATED POLICIES

IC10 – Use of Force

DEFINITIONS

6. For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions will apply:

Police Service Dog (PSD): any dog trained and validated to police standards to help police including tracking, detection, community relations and crime prevention.

Bite: a PSD's use of mouth and teeth to grab or hold a person's body or clothes. Does not include bites in training on training equipment, such as a padded sleeve or suit.

Dog Handler: a member trained to use PSDs.

Subject Behavior Officer Response Database (SBOR): PSD handlers must report any operational police service dog bite on SBOR. This includes bites on subjects, as well as accidental bites on non-subjects in an operational deployment (e.g. member of public, police officer other than handler). Accidental bites on the PSD handler or during PSD training are not required to be reported.



PROCEDURES

Operational Policy

7. LMDIPDS and its participants shall be subject to RCMP Policy and Operational Guidelines which are in line with British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards (BCPPS).

Dog Handlers

8. The dog handler ensures that the PSD will:
 - a) be kept under control at all times;
 - b) not be left unattended when they may have contact with the public;
 - c) be kept a reasonable distance away from any person, including a person that has been apprehended;
 - d) not be left in a dog transport vehicle in a manner in which they may have contact with the public; and
 - e) be deployed on a leash, unless the environment/terrain or the risk involved would make this unreasonable.
9. Dog handlers will not involve themselves in any outside activities with their PSD unless previously authorized by the Chief Constable or delegate.
10. A dog handler has the final right of refusal on the use of the PSD.

Permitted Uses of a PSD

11. A PSD may be used for the following purposes:
 - a) tracking or searching for persons who may have committed, or be about to commit, an offence;
 - b) apprehending persons by police dog bite or display;
 - c) tracking or searching for missing or lost persons;
 - d) searching for drugs;
 - e) searching for explosives/firearms;



- f) searching for evidence;
 - g) crowd control;
 - h) community relations and other demonstration events; and
 - i) other uses approved by the Director of Police Services, Ministry of Justice.
12. PSDs will not be used to search for wild animals.

Building & Area Searches

13. If a PSD is to be utilized for a building or area search, the following applies:
- a) patrol units will contain the building or area (vehicle engines off);
 - b) if practicable, the dog handler vehicle will be the first unit into the area to be searched; and
 - c) a patrol member will accompany the dog handler during the search, if requested.

Tracking

14. If a PSD is needed for tracking, the dog unit should be called immediately. Unless warranted by circumstance, patrol members should not start a search prior to the PSD's arrival.
15. Patrol members are to contain the search area.
16. A patrol member will accompany the dog handler, if requested.
17. Perimeter containment should be maintained until cancelled by the patrol supervisor after consultation with the dog handler.

Threshold & Circumstance of Using a PSD

18. Dog handlers must consider the following prior to and during each deployment of PSD, and conclude, on reasonable grounds, that the risk of a bite is justified:
- a) whether there is lawful authority to arrest;
 - b) that no lesser use of force would be appropriate or effective; and



- c) the totality of the circumstances, including, but not limited to:
 - i) the seriousness of the offence believed to have been committed or about to be committed,
 - ii) the potential risk to any person, including the person being apprehended,
 - iii) the identity of the person being apprehended, if known,
 - iv) whether the person could be apprehended at a later time,
 - v) the age of the person being apprehended, in particular whether the person is reasonably believed to be a young person, or elderly,
 - vi) whether there is a weapon involved,
 - vii) whether the person being apprehended has a history of violence or has demonstrated violence or threatened violence, and
 - viii) any injury likely to result from a police dog bite.
19. Dog handlers are prohibited from permitting a PSD to bite a person or to permit the PSD to continue to be deployed if it would reasonably be expected that the PSD would bite a person, unless:
- a) the person is causing bodily harm to a member, a third party or the PSD;
 - b) the dog handler is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that the person's behavior will imminently cause bodily harm to a member, a third party, or the PSD; or
 - c) the person is fleeing or hiding and there are reasonable grounds for their immediate apprehension by a PSD bite.

Warnings

20. The dog handler must give a loud verbal warning prior to using their PSD to search for a person, unless there are exigent circumstances including safety concerns to the handler or PSD.



21. The dog handler, after providing a warning referred to in the paragraph above, must allow a reasonable time, based on the totality of the circumstances, for a person to show themselves.
22. The dog handler must give a loud verbal warning prior to permitting their dog to bite, unless such a warning would be impractical or place anyone at risk of bodily harm.
23. The warnings described in the paragraphs above must identify the dog handler as a police officer with a police dog, and must advise that the person may be bitten if they do not comply with police instructions.

Removing the Dog from a Bite

24. The dog handler must ensure that their PSD releases a bite as soon as reasonably possible and safe to do so.
25. The dog handler must consider the following when determining when it is reasonable to have a PSD release the bite:
 - a) that a person may struggle from pain or fear in response to a PSD bite;
 - b) that a person may not be able to remain completely passive, or may not be able to completely comply with member directions while being bitten; and
 - c) that these behaviors, of struggling due to pain or fear or the inability to completely comply with directions due to pain or fear, on their own, are insufficient reasons to not have the police dog release the bite.

Authorizing Use of a Police Service Dog

26. Prior to authorizing use of a PSD, the NCO will consider the following:
 - a) the seriousness of the offence;
 - b) whether the circumstances of the incident indicate that the PSD could reasonably be expected to locate and apprehend the offender (i.e. time delay of the offence and time delay for PSD response, weather conditions, pedestrian traffic in the area); and
 - c) whether the deployment would be reasonably expected to assist in bringing a dangerous situation under control.



Arrests

27. A member other than the dog handler will take custody of any suspect(s) located by the PSD.

Apprehension Work by Police Service Dogs

28. The PSD handler has sole authority to direct their PSD to apprehend a suspect.
29. In using a PSD in the apprehension of a fleeing suspect, or in using a PSD as a means of force, the dog handler must act within the scope of a Peace Officer's responsibilities in the use of force as defined in the Criminal Code and Department Policy IC10 – *Use of Force*.

Children

30. A dog handler must not deploy their PSD to search for or apprehend a person, if the person is reasonably believed to be 12-years-old or younger, unless:
 - a) the police dog handler has reasonable grounds to believe that the child poses an imminent risk of grievous bodily harm or death to any person, including themselves; or
 - b) the child is a missing or lost person.

Crowd Control

31. Only dog handlers and PSDs having completed the riot and crowd control course will be deployed for crowd control purposes. The RCMP National TAC Ops Policy under Specialized Support applies.
32. The deployment of a PSD for other disturbances not under the control of a tactical troop commander is considered a use of force and deployed as per RCMP operational policy.
33. Dog handlers must give due regard to the safety of citizens when deploying their PSD to effect an arrest during a disturbance.

Organization

34. LMDIPDS will be subject to the command of the LMD Investigative Service Officer, for operational and administrative direction.



35. Department members assigned to LMDIPDS will be subject to the command of, and accountable to, the Officer in Charge, LMDIPDS.

Assessment

36. Scheduled Training is conducted by every handler-dog team, except for dog handlers on leave.
37. Detailed records of weekly practice sessions are kept and maintained, including:
- a) the date;
 - b) the identity of the PSD and handler;
 - c) the training exercises conducted;
 - d) the performance and behavior of the PSD; and
 - e) any aspects of performance that require attention.
38. Dog handlers must inspect all PSD equipment on a weekly basis to ensure it is in good working order, and replace any faulty equipment.
39. PSDs will be validated annually by a properly accredited agency per the MOU between the Department and the LMDIPDS.

Police Service Dog Bites in Delta

40. A supervisor will attend the scene as soon as possible, unless it is unreasonable for the supervisor to attend due to distance, or other circumstances which make attendance impracticable.
41. If the person bitten is taken into custody, the arresting member will be responsible for transporting or arranging transport for the person to the hospital, for tetanus and any other treatment recommended by the attending medical health professional, and for maintaining guard of the arrested person until relieved of the responsibility of custody.
42. If the person bitten is not taken into custody, the person will be offered transportation to the hospital for treatment. If the person refuses transportation, the arresting member will note this in their notebook.



43. If the person bitten is under 18 years of age, the parent or guardian is notified of the incident.
44. The dog handler and/or the investigator will note the nature and location of any injury and any other damages. The road supervisor or dog handler will photograph all PSD bites and document that activity in the operational file. If the person who was bitten refuses to have their injury photographed, this refusal is noted in the file.
45. As soon as practicable but must be initiated within 48 hours, the dog handler will submit a SBOR report through RCMP reporting system. The SBOR report is reviewed by a LMDIPDS Supervisor. SBOR reports will be maintained by LMDIPDS for appropriate reporting requirements.
46. Where injury occurs that may meet the mandate of the Independent Investigations Office (IIO), as defined within the scope of sec. 3.1(a), 3.1(c) or 3.1(d) of the MOU between the Department and the IIO, the Department Patrol NCO, or designate will notify the Department Duty Officer who will follow-up with the IIO and Professional Standards Section (PSS) Liaison Officer. If the incident occurs outside of Delta the Duty Officer of jurisdiction will be notified.
47. Any injury requiring an individual to be transported to hospital or medical facility and to be seen by a medical health professional must be reported and appropriate documents provided to PSS as per Sec 89 reporting. The Department handler will notify the Duty NCO who will notify PSS and the Operations Branch Inspector. The incident will be reported in the Department Operational Report. This is required for instances that occur in Delta as well as in outside jurisdictions.

Reporting of Police Service Dog Deployments without Contact

48. The deployment of a PSD in support of a criminal investigation is a disclosable event and may form the basis for future investigative decisions. Due to the frequency of PSD negative deployments, it is often not practical for a dog handler to report directly to a Department file, or to generate their own file number. Where a PSD has been deployed without results, the following will be considered acceptable documentation:
 - a) the dog handler will log on scene and off scene using the MDT dispatch tracking in every case; and



- b) the dog handler will request by radio that an entry be made into the Department MDT dispatch log outlining the nature of the deployment and results in lieu of a narrative text page.

Data Retention, Review & Reporting

- 49. The Department relies on LMDIPDS's compliance with BCPPS data retention, review and reporting standards.

Management & Training

- 50. For the purpose of training, kenneling, animal management and administration, the Department Handlers will be under the supervision of the NCO in charge of LMDIPDS, or designate.

Selection/Tenure Criteria

- 51. The Department will provide LMDIPDS with a roster of potential candidates to be followed by a selection process of the identified candidates by the Officer in Charge, LMDIPDS, or designate, and the Department Human Resources Inspector, or designate. Candidate suitability will be assessed and determined by the NCO i/c LMDIPDS.
- 52. Handlers are expected to commit to a minimum five (5) years of service in the LMDIPDS.
- 53. Department Handlers can apply for extended service in the LMDIPDS, the success of which will be determined by Officer in Charge, LMDIPDS and the Department Human Resources Inspector, or designate and based on:
 - a) the handlers previous experience in the LMDIPDS – including deployments and validations: and
 - b) the present and future operational needs of LMDIPDS and the Department.

Public Complaints

- 54. Public complaints and disciplinary action against LMDIPDS member(s) shall be addressed as follows:
 - a) participant members of the Department, pursuant to the *B.C. Police Act*; and



- b) participant members of the RCMP, pursuant to the *RCMP Act and Regulations*.

*Revised Dates:
21 April 2009
15 May 2012
06 April 2016