

Canines

305.1 NON-CANINE PERSONNEL

Agency Content

- (a) Officers are to secure the scene or perimeter of the area to be searched by a canine team except when a canine team is requested for a narcotics search, the officer(s) at the scene should perform a preliminary search and remove all controlled substances that are located prior to the canine's deployment. No physical search for hidden drugs should be conducted until the canine team's search is completed.
- (b) Officers should not contaminate the scene any more than absolutely necessary.
- (c) When a burglary has occurred and the suspect is believed to be still present, with the exception of situations where injury or death may occur to a third party if police hesitate to intervene, officers should utilize a canine team, when available, to perform the search.
- (d) To ensure officer safety, officers should not enter a building while a canine team is conducting a search unless directed to do so by a supervisor or the canine handler.
- (e) Upon the arrival of a canine team the handler should be notified of any known hazardous circumstances such as open shafts or stairways, unsafe floors, broken glass, metal shavings, caustic or toxic substances, and all pertinent information during explosives searches.
- (f) Officers are to assist canine units only as directed by the handler.
- (g) Officers should keep loud noises, excessive talking, movements, and radio tracking to a minimum while the dog is working.
- (h) Officers must be aware that canines are trained to protect their handlers. No aggressive or threatening gestures should be made towards the handlers, even in jest.
- (i) Should a canine handler (in the company of his dog) become seriously injured or ill and require medical attention, another canine handler should be called to the scene. The canine supervisor shall be notified immediately. An Onondaga County Sheriff's Department canine handler may be summoned to take custody of the dog, if necessary.
- (j) Officers are not to feed the dogs without permission of the handler.
- (k) If a dog alerts and approaches an officer, the officer should remain motionless.
- (l) When the dog is in a canine vehicle, officers should not reach into or enter a canine vehicle.
- (m) Should a suspect exit a building being searched by a canine team and refuse to halt, the officer should use caution when pursuing the suspect as the dog may be in close pursuit and alert on the officer. Should the dog alert on the officer, the officer should stop, remain motionless and take note of the suspect's description and direction of travel and relay such information as soon as possible.