

CANINE OPERATIONS - INTRODUCTION

9440

(February 2002)

For many years, fire service and law enforcement agencies had to rely totally upon the expertise of fire investigators in determining the causes of fires. Mechanical devices (referred to as hydrocarbon detection devices or “sniffers”) were developed to assist investigators in determining if an accelerant material had been used or was present at a fire scene. Many times, these devices failed to register possible hydrocarbon residue for various reasons, such as low or dead batteries or improper calibration settings, etc.

A program was developed to train canines to detect residues and substances used as accelerants. The program was administered in the same manner as that of the drug detection programs which have been proven successful by numerous departments throughout the State.

Canines are trained to detect petroleum-based products including, but not limited to, the following:

Gasoline	Kerosene	Coleman Fuel
Acetone	Paint Thinner	Toluene
Stove Alcohol	Naphtha	Charcoal Lighter Fluid Lacquer
Thinner	Diesel	Methylethyl Ketone (MEK)
Cigarette Lighter Fluid		

In addition to the basic training, the dogs undergo annual re-certification training, as well as receiving weekly training with the handler.

It is important to understand that an accelerant detection canine will not tell the investigator what caused the fire; they will only indicate to the investigator where, if any, hydrocarbon accelerants or products may be present in the fire debris. These dogs are not arson detection dogs; they are accelerant detection dogs and, as such, are a valuable tool to the investigator in determining the causes of fires. Unlike hydrocarbon detection machines, canines can differentiate between actual accelerants and similar odors, which are normally present at a fire scene. Canines can shorten the amount of time an investigator spends looking for accelerant patterns, and can lessen the number of samples that the investigator needs to collect to send to a laboratory for analysis.

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

9440.1

(February 2002)

This section provides both policy and guidance for program operation and detection canine use. It is intended to provide managers, handlers, and other employees with essential information in order to understand and conduct the program.

Canine handlers and canines perform a unique and highly visible role in accomplishing the organizational mission. It is a role that requires the highest standard of sound judgment and dedication. Many times, the mere availability of a trained detection canine has proven to be a deterrent to would-be arsonists. Persons prone to criminal activities are becoming aware of the detection canine's abilities which, sometimes in itself, becomes a deterrent to crime.

Public assistance, crime prevention, and handler safety are all components of this specialized assignment. Sound judgment, common sense, and a clear awareness of Departmental philosophies, both on and off duty, require a special commitment and a continuing high level of dedication and training. The material contained in this section is directed towards providing the substance for a successful program.

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LEGAL ASPECTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT CANINES

9441

(February 2002)

Under most circumstances the handler and canine will be moving freely among other persons and employees. However since the canine and handler are working as a team, the canine may react defensively to real or implied threats. In order to provide a safe working environment the following provisions are incorporated.

INJURY/INTERFERENCE WITH CANINE

9441.1

(February 2002)

The following California Penal Code sections impose penalties and/or fines for injuring or interfering with a canine under the direction of a peace officer.

California Penal Code Section 600(a): *“Any person who willfully and maliciously and with no legal justification ... produce(s) injury to any canine under the supervision of any peace officer in the discharge or attempted discharge of his or her duties is guilty of a public offense.”* [Sentence could be up to three years in state prison and/or \$2,000.00 fine.]

California Penal Code Section 600(b): *“Any person who willfully and maliciously and with no legal justification interferes with or obstructs any ...canine being used by any peace officer in the discharge of his or her duties is guilty of a public offense.”* [Sentence could be up to one year in county jail and/or \$1,000.00 fine.]

California Penal Code Section 600(e): *“In any case in which a defendant is convicted of a violation of this section, the defendant shall be ordered to make restitution to the agency owning the animal and employing the peace officer for any veterinary bills, replacement costs of the animal if it is disabled or killed, and the salary of the peace officer for the period of time his or her services are lost to the agency.”*

CANINE BITES

9441.2

(February 2002)

In the event of a bite by an accelerant detection canine, whether intentional or unintentional, the handler shall:

- Ensure medical aid treatment is provided as necessary;
- Take photographs of the injury;
- Notify his/her immediate supervisor as soon as possible;
- Complete necessary incident and investigation report forms within 24 hours.

California Health and Safety Code Section 1919.1 states: *“A canine used by any state law enforcement agency shall not be quarantined after biting any person if such bite occurred while the canine was being used for any law enforcement purpose. The law enforcement agency shall make the canine available for examination at any reasonable*

time. The law enforcement agency shall notify the local health officer if the canine exhibits any abnormal behavior.”

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ACCELERANT DETECTION CANINE SPECIFICATIONS

9442

(February 2002)

Accelerant detection canines will be selected based on the criteria listed below. Prior to acceptance of any canine by the Department, the Region Law Enforcement Coordinator will ensure that these specifications have been met.

- Canine must be a fully pedigreed Labrador Retriever and have received initial training in obedience.
- Canine must have a certified health examination with no chronic health problems and received all required vaccinations to date.
- Canine must be certified as acceptable by the Orthopedic Foundation of America.
- Any congenital defects in the canine shall be covered by a warranty.

The vendor bill of sale shall cover all of the above specifications for a minimum of two years from the date of sale.

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HANDLER SELECTION POLICY

9443

(February 2002)

The canine program and qualifications are based upon the Accelerant Detection Canine Section. All requirements and standards for canine assignments are described in the Accelerant Detection Canine Section, and will be made initially available to all applicants.

Canine assignments will normally be available to any assigned fire prevention staff who have been assigned to fire prevention for a minimum of two years. After certification, candidates must agree to remain in the handler program a minimum of two (2) years.

Employees wishing to participate in the canine program shall be evaluated using the following criteria:

- The candidate shall certify that they have read the Accelerant Detection Canine Section and are aware of the responsibility and requirements of a canine handler.
- Evaluation of background information received from the [Accelerant Detection Canine Handler Application](#) and the most recent Employee Performance Appraisal with an overall rating of standard or above.
- Successful demonstration of basic capabilities by performing simple obedience exercises with a trained accelerant detection canine under the direction of the Region Senior Arson & Bomb Investigator and a certified California State Fire Marshal detection canine handler.

Candidates will be on training status for six (6) months following selection and must become certified with the canine within that period. An approved training facility will certify teams upon completion of the required training. Any delays on behalf of the Department or the training facility in providing training shall not apply toward the six (6) month training period.

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CANINE TRAINING
(February 2002)

9444

The Department will sponsor the initial imprinting and training of the accelerant detection canine.

The canine handler is responsible for maintaining the proficiency level of the detection canine. Following are minimum guidelines for proficiency training.

DAILY
(February 2002)

9444.1

Work on obedience or physical fitness training as well as canine grooming and kennel maintenance a minimum of one half (1/2) hour during each shift.

WEEKLY
(February 2002)

9444.2

Work on detection searches using various accelerants for one to three (1-3) hours. Training hours may be adjusted depending upon the number of fire scenes worked by the canine during the week at the discretion of the handler.

QUARTERLY
(February 2002)

9444.3

The handler shall have the opportunity to have a minimum of eight (8) hours of formal training with either another department canine handler or another approved trainer.

ANNUALLY
(February 2002)

9444.4

All department handlers and detection canines will attend a minimum of forty (40) hours formal Certification Training at an approved training facility. The Department will pay all expenses to provide annual re-certification.

BI-ANNUALLY
(February 2002)

9444.5

All department handlers and detection canines will attend the California State Fire Marshal's Hydrocarbon and Other Liquid Accelerant Detection Dog Certification course.

The canine detection team may participate in training outside of the department with the approval of the Region Law Enforcement Coordinator.

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CANINE TEAM CERTIFICATION
(February 2002)

9445

It is the goal of the Department to maintain a high level of professionalism with its accelerant detection canine teams. For this reason, criteria have been established to evaluate the control and performance of the canine and handler under most field conditions.

All canine detection teams are expected to participate in the Department's certification testing. The following sections provide a description of test protocol.

SPECIFICITY TEST
(February 2002)

9445.1

Test protocol will involve several different accelerants placed on various burned substrates, along with blanks, in a manner such as that shown in the following table.

Accelerant	A Carpet/ Foam Pad	B Plastic	C Upholstery Fabric/Foam	D Plywood
Gasoline	X	X	X	X
Kerosene	X		X	
Diesel Fuel	X			X
Cig Lighter Fuel	X		X	
Lacquer Thinner	X	X		
Acetone	X	X		X
Blank	X		X	
Blank	X	X		X

The specificity test requires the examination of 20 samples by the canine. The cans will be coded so that neither the candidate nor the test administrator know which cans are positives and which are blanks.

The gasoline used will be fifty (50) percent evaporated (by volume). All other liquids will be neat (unevaporated). The amount of liquid used in each "positive" sample will produce a concentration of approximately ten parts per million (10 ppm) of fuel/air mixture in the can. This involves the use of 10-30ul (10-30 microliters) of liquid, placed directly onto the previously burned debris by means of a micro-syringe.

All substrates will be ignited in a natural gas flame to a free burning state and then put into a can and extinguished with the can lid. The plastic used will be a mixture of polyethylene, polystyrene, and polypropylene, which are the types of plastics found in many environments today.

Canines are to be kept separated during all phases of the test procedure. The handler will advise the evaluator whether the canine is on "active" or "passive" alert.

Each canine team is to have their own set of cans and their own room or area to work. The accelerant detection canine will check the room or area to work prior to the beginning of the test. After the canine checks the room, cans containing the samples will be emptied at various locations throughout the room. Samples shall not be placed in locations higher than the canine can reach by standing on its hind legs.

Once the samples are placed, the room will be allowed to sit for a period of ten (10) minutes to allow air currents surrounding the accelerants to settle. The canine and the handler will then examine the room. The handler shall call any positive alerts by the canine. No credit for alerts will be given to the canine unless called by the handler.

Samples will be removed by the test administrator using clean document forceps from the cans for all tests to minimize distractions. The samples will be replaced into the cans immediately after testing. In order to minimize evaporation losses, no more than ten (10) samples will be permitted to be out at one time. During hot weather, or in heated indoor test sites, no more than five (5) samples will be permitted to be out at one time. Samples will be distributed around the periphery of a room or across a clean concrete slab (indoor or outdoor) with at least five (5) feet between adjacent samples. In either case, the area will be pre-checked by the team being tested in that area.

Once the samples have been placed in the area, multiple passes (up to four) are permitted at the discretion of the handler. The handler is responsible for declaring positive or negative alerts at the time of the test. A continuous videotape record will be made of all tests to help in resolving disputes over scoring later and to aid in training future teams.

ACCURACY TESTING

9445.2

(February 2002)

Each canine team will have their own room to examine in order to minimize distractions from other canines. All rooms will be as similar in size and furnishings as is practical. The room will be checked prior to burning by the team to be tested in that room. The room and furnishings will then be ignited using normal combustibles only and allowed to burn to near flashover conditions to simulate a realistic fire scene. The fire will then be extinguished with normal water only (no foam or light-water additives).

After the room has cooled, the test administrator will place twenty to thirty (20-30) microliter quantities of each of six (6) target liquids (same as in Specificity Test) directly onto burned debris at various locations. Targets will not be placed:

- In close proximity so as to cause vapors to mingle;
- Where they may be diluted by suppression water; or
- In locations higher than the dog can reach by standing on its hind legs.

Once the target liquids are placed, the area will be allowed to sit for a period of ten (10) minutes to allow air currents to stabilize and vapors to settle.

The room will then be examined in any order by the canine team. Multiple passes (up to four) will be allowed at the discretion of the handler, who will be responsible for calling out any positive alerts. The canine will be expected to indicate the specific area intended for sampling. Sampling will be carried out by the test administrator under the direction of the handler, with all samples sealed in clean metal paint cans for laboratory testing. Two comparison samples will be taken at the direction of the handler.

This protocol will result in the recovery and analysis of eight samples for each canine with the scoring dependent on the results of laboratory analysis of the recovered samples. This phase closely simulates real life fire scenes, since it requires not only specificity of detection, but accuracy of location on the part of the canine and its handler. If the wrong material is sampled for analysis, the lab results will be negative and the sample will be counted as a "miss" for scoring.

The test administrator must be careful to place equivalent quantities of accelerants on similar targets in each test room so that all teams will have equal tests. The rooms and target placement shall be as identical as possible for each team. If samples are placed above floor height, the ten minutes allowed will permit vapors to migrate and flow downward to floor level where they are more likely to be detected. The time delay will be standardized for all rooms on a particular day, but may vary with temperature (the higher the ambient temperature, the faster the evaporation, and the sooner a floor layer will be established).

A continuous videotape recording will be made of all tests to help in resolving disputes over scoring later and to aid in training future teams. The combined scores of the Specificity Test and the Accuracy Test will be recorded as the final score for each canine team.

All samples will be returned to the laboratory for analysis. Analysis will be carried out by charcoal strip adsorption elution and capillary column gas chromatography with FID detection. Samples which appear to be negative or questionable will be further tested by solvent extraction of the debris and GC/mass spectrometry where indicated. This is the approach used by most forensic labs in both public and private sectors.

The results of the testing will be made known only to the canine handler. Those achieving a passing score of seventy-five (75) percent or higher, will receive a certificate valid for two (2) years. Those who do not achieve a passing score can apply for retesting at a future date.

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FUNCTIONS OF THE ACCELERANT DETECTION CANINE PROGRAM 9446
(February 2002)

CONTROL OF CANINES 9446.1
(February 2002)

The officer assigned as the detection canine handler is primarily responsible for the care, handling, and actions of the detection canine. The following are minimum guidelines for the handler to follow in order to maintain control of the detection canine:

Handlers shall take every precaution to see that canines are not provoked, teased, or otherwise abused.

Handlers shall not permit canines to run at large. When it is necessary to relieve the canines, handlers will take the canine to a proper area and maintain control.

Handlers shall not leave canines unattended in offices or chained in any manner that would allow injury to the canine or any passerby.

Once the canine is returned to the kennel or another specifically designated secure place, the handler is no longer required to exercise immediate control over the canine's actions.

STAFF (NONHANDLER) TRAINING 9446.2
(February 2002)

The detection canines have been selected and trained by experts. They are, under most circumstances, stable and predictable, fitting nicely into the Department setting. As a canine team, both the handler and the canine will become a common sight throughout their areas.

To familiarize other staff with canine operations, the Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement should distribute various informational memos regarding the program and also provide an opportunity for a detection canine demonstration and discussion.

The following information should be provided to staff as a guideline for behavior when near the canine and when observing the activities of the canine team:

- Do not approach a canine that is tied up;
- Do not run towards or away from the canine or handler;
- Do not attempt to feed or pet the canine;
- Do not open a vehicle door if the canine is inside;
- Do not give the canine commands;
- Do not crowd, bend over, tease or try to confine (hug) the canine;

In summary, it should be reiterated that these detection canines are part of a highly trained team and, as such, are responsive to their handlers. At any time the canine may take aggressive action to defend the handler if it senses a real or implied threat towards the handler. Staff personnel are encouraged to ask questions of the handler regarding canine behavior and accelerant search procedures.

USE OF CANINES AT FIRE SCENES

9446.3

(February 2002)

Generally, there are four types of circumstances where an accelerant detection canine would be used to conduct a search. In all cases, the handler will determine when, and if, the conditions at the scene warrant the use of the canine.

BUILDING SEARCHES

9446.3.1

(February 2002)

Prior to conducting any building search using the detection canine, the handler is responsible for verifying that scene conditions are such that there is minimal risk of injury to the canine. The handler will take control of the scene, if necessary, with the assistance of the fire department or other designated peace officers. The handler will determine the number of persons who will enter the building with her/him during the time the canine is searching the scene.

When conducting building searches, the handler may release the canine off leash, depending on the conditions, and conduct a controlled search. The handler will maintain visual contact with the canine as much as physical conditions allow. Any positive alerts indicated by the canine during the building search will be marked at the direction of the handler.

OPEN AREA SEARCHES

9446.3.2

(February 2002)

The handler will determine, according to the circumstances, when an open area search is to be used. The handler may release the canine off leash, depending on the conditions, and conduct a controlled search. The handler will maintain visual contact with the canine and the canine will remain under the control of the handler at all times. Any positive alerts indicated by the canine during the open area search will be marked at the direction of the handler.

VEHICLE SEARCHES (February 2002)

9446.3.3

Prior to conducting any vehicle search using the detection canine, the handler is responsible for verifying that scene conditions are such that there is minimal risk of injury to the canine. The handler will take control of the scene, if necessary, with the assistance of fire department personnel or other designated peace officers. The handler will determine the manner in which the search will be conducted. Any positive alerts indicated by the canine will be marked at the direction of the handler.

PERSON/GROUP/CROWD SEARCHES (February 2002)

9446.3.4

Under some circumstances, a canine team may be effective in searching persons, small groups, or crowds. In these situations, respect for public sensitivity (and sometimes outright fear) of a canine team requires that unnecessary exposure and confrontation with citizens be avoided. It is the handler's responsibility to assess the situation and authorize the search. The handler's sound judgment, common sense, and Departmental policy should be the determining factors. In making such determinations, the following guidelines should be considered:

- Is there adequate fire or other designated peace officer personnel available to assist in effectively controlling the crowd?
- Is the area such that the handler has adequate working space to properly control the canine during the search?
- Is there an immediate threat to life or property that would be mitigated by use of the canine?

During small group and crowd searches, the canine will be on a short (6 foot) leash and under the handler's control at all times. If, at any time during canine searches involving persons, the canine demonstrates any hostile reaction to any individual or group of individuals, the handler shall immediately terminate the search and remove the canine from the area. The handler will identify any positive alerts indicated by the canine.

CANINE TEAM SUPERVISION (February 2002)

9446.4

The accelerant detection team consists of a handler and canine. The Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement will designate the area(s) where canine teams are assigned. The accelerant detection team's supervisor shall become familiar with policies and requirements for detection teams assigned in their areas. The accelerant detection team supervisor's responsibilities are as follows:

- Schedule and deploy the canine detection team as necessary.
- Ensure that training needs and requirements are met and that all records and reports are current and properly completed.
- Conduct regular inspections of the kennel, equipment, and vehicle of the canine team to ensure that they are properly maintained.
- Ensure that a good working relationship is maintained between the canine team and other Departmental staff.

OTHER AGENCY ASSISTS

9446.5

(February 2002)

The Department's accelerant detection canines are available to any fire department or law enforcement agency requesting assistance. It is the responsibility of the canine handler to inform agencies within his/her jurisdiction of the availability of the detection canine.

The handler may use the canine on any scene in his/her response area during normal business hours without prior approval of a supervisor. The supervisor or the Regional Law Enforcement Coordinator must authorize any response outside the handler's geographic area. Any after hours use of the canine shall conform to the Department's overtime policy. The call out procedure for a detection canine team is the same as for any other local request for assistance from the Department.

The handler will document each use of an accelerant detection canine. Reports shall be completed in accordance with Departmental policy and shall include the following information:

- Date and time of fire;
- Date and time detection team arrived on scene;
- Name of agency having jurisdiction and the incident number (if available);
- Synopsis of the canine's search of the scene and a description of any alerts indicated by the canine;
- Disposition of any evidence collected as the result of canine alerts.

FORMAL CANINE DEMONSTRATIONS

9446.6

(February 2002)

The canine team may, upon request, demonstrate its skills for school groups, service clubs, government agencies, and other groups. Requests for formal demonstrations shall be documented and sent to the handler's supervisor for approval.

In all cases, requests by local agencies for use of detection canines to assist on fire scenes shall take precedence over requests for demonstrations. Canines will not be taken from a fire scene to perform demonstrations.

Canine handler demonstrations are designed to exhibit the best aspects of the canine detection team. The following are guidelines in preparing for canine demonstrations:

- The handler shall be dressed in his/her field uniform and present a professional appearance.
- The canine shall be transported to the location where the demonstration will be held in a canine equipped vehicle.
- The canine shall be leashed at all times, except when the demonstration exercise calls for the canine to be off-leash.

As part of the demonstration, the canine may be walked through the group on-leash. If the handler deems the situation appropriate, she/he may allow individuals to pet the canine. In such cases, the handler will give simple instructions to the group on where and how to pet the canine.

Exhibits can include such items as leashes, collars, medical supplies, training tools, food etc.

Searching exercises should be on-leash and short in duration. Searches should be demonstrated only when the conditions promote a successful exercise free of any conditions that would be harmful to the canine. Off-leash exercises are optional.

The canine handler must strictly limit public participation in any demonstration.

COMPETITIONS

9446.7

(February 2002)

The Department does not sanction canine handler competitions other than those it sponsors. Certain selected events, however, may be determined appropriate. Such events will be reviewed by the Region Law Enforcement Coordinator to determine the relevance to the program, safety of the canine, and to insure that appropriate training occurs. Any requests for canine competitions shall be submitted by the handler in writing to his/her supervisor for approval prior to participation in the event.

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EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

9447

(February 2002)

The Department will pay all expenses for providing proper equipment for the detection canine. The individual handler is responsible for the care and maintenance of the equipment. Requests for replacement and/or repairs to the equipment shall be submitted by the handler to his/her supervisor. Following is a description of the minimum equipment necessary for an accelerant detection canine and handler.

DUTY EQUIPMENT

9447.1

(February 2002)

Leather collar

Fur saver collar

Prong collar

Muzzle

Leather leash, 6 ft. to 12 ft. adjustable

Leather leash, 6 ft. (short)

"Reward" toy, leather or equivalent (depending on individual canine)

Bag, duffel type

Tie-off stake, heavy duty

Tie-off chain, heavy duty

Crate

Crate pad

No spill vehicle water bowl

Coveralls

Gloves, heavy duty

Samples of various liquid accelerants that the canine has been trained to locate

Jars for holding samples of liquid accelerants

Box or similar kit for holding samples of liquid accelerants

KENNEL EQUIPMENT

9447.2

(February 2002)

The Department will pay all expenses for providing and maintaining kennels for detection canines. The handler is responsible for the care and maintenance of the equipment. The handler to his/her supervisor shall submit requests for replacement and/or repairs to the equipment. Minimum equipment shall include:

- Canine house, 4' X 3' X 3', enclosed room with access and removable roof
- Fenced enclosure, 18' x 6' x 6' minimum
- Floor covering, rubber mat
- Sun shade
- Lockable gate
- Standard warning sign

- Office dog bed
- Food dish, stainless steel
- Water dish, stainless steel

The handler shall provide the following:

- Concrete slab: minimum 12' x 6' (for easy cleaning)
- Water supply

GROOMING EQUIPMENT

9447.3

(February 2002)

The Department will pay all expenses for grooming equipment necessary for the detection canines. The handler is responsible for the care and maintenance of the equipment. The handler to his/her supervisor shall submit requests for replacement and/or repairs to the equipment. Minimum equipment to include:

- Grooming brush, soft bristle
- Grooming brush, slicker
- Grooming comb, metal
- Nail clippers/trimmers
- Toothbrush

FIRST AID EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

9447.4

(February 2002)

The Department will pay for the necessary equipment and supplies to furnish a basic first aid kit. The handler shall ensure that the kit is stocked and available at all times whenever the canine is working. Listed below are the minimum recommended supplies.

INSTRUMENTS

9447.4.1

(February 2002)

Rectal thermometer
 Penlight flashlight
 Scissors
 Fine-toothed tweezers
 Non-toothed tweezers
 Magnifying glass
 Needle-nose pliers
 Small wire snips
 Sewing needle

ANTI-INFECTIVES: 9447.4.2
(February 2002)

Povidone-iodine solution and scrub (shampoo)
Chlorhexidine solution and scrub
Neomycin/polymixinB/bacitracin topical cream
(or ointment)
Rubbing alcohol
3% hydrogen peroxide (for removal of blood)

BANDAGING MATERIALS: 9447.4.3
(February 2002)

Nonstick wound pads (2"x2", 3"x3", 4"x4")
Gauze squares (2"x2", 3"x3", 4"x4")
Roller gauze (1" and 2" wide)
Roll cotton (disposable diaper or sanitary pad
pieces can be substituted in an emergency)
Adhesive tape (½", 1", 2" wide)
Elastic bandage (2" and 3" wide)

POISONING ANTIDOTES: 9447.4.4
(February 2002)

Syrup of ipecac
Activated charcoal liquid

MISCELLANEOUS: 9447.4.5
(February 2002)

Cotton-tipped swabs
Styptic powder (or pencil)

VEHICLES: 9447.4.6
(February 2002)

It is desirable that canine detection teams be assigned a slightly modified vehicle , which allows the canine to ride safely and comfortably. Requests for specific vehicle equipment necessary for the canine safety may be submitted by the handler to his/her supervisor.

It is not the intent of the Department to require the use of the handler's private vehicle for transporting the accelerant detection canine during on or off duty hours.

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CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF CANINES
(February 2002)

9448

Canine handlers are responsible for maintaining all team records including, but not limited to expenditures, health information, training, activities, and enforcement incidents.

GROOMING
(February 2002)

9448.1

The handler is responsible for maintaining his/her canine in a clean and healthy condition. The Department will pay all expenses to provide the necessary tools and equipment for the handler to use. The following grooming procedures for the canine shall be performed by the handler daily/weekly as needed:

- Physical inspection for fleas, ticks, foxtails, etc.
- Clean teeth as needed.
- Examine nails. If necessary, nails should be cut by removing only the tips; avoid cutting the quick. Cut along the line formed by the base of the nail. If the nail bleeds, apply styptic powder to stop the bleeding.
- Clean the ears using a moistened cotton ball. Wipe all accumulated wax and dirt from all crevices in both ears.
- Brush out the entire coat to remove any dead hair.
- Bathe with shampoo, as recommended by the veterinarian. Rinse thoroughly. Towel dry until damp.

The Department will pay all expenses for professional grooming services on a monthly basis when deemed necessary by the handler and approved by their supervisor.

KENNEL MAINTENANCE
(February 2002)

9448.2

The handler is responsible for maintaining the canine kennel in a clean and sanitary condition. The Department will pay all expenses to provide the necessary tools and equipment for the handler to use. The following procedures for kennel maintenance shall be performed by the handler on a daily basis:

- Clean kennel (disinfect weekly).
- Furnish fresh water.
- Conduct visual inspection of kennel for any hazards that might be injurious to the canine.

KENNELING PROCEDURES

9448.3

(February 2002)

At the end of each day, the handler shall properly secure the canine in the provided kennel. The handler shall follow this procedure when securing the canine:

- Conduct physical inspection of canine for injuries.
- Feed according to feeding schedule.
- Lock kennel gate and secure area.

FOOD/FEEDING OF CANINES

9448.4

(February 2002)

The Department will pay all food expenses for the canine. The diet and feeding schedule will be based on the individual needs of the detection canine based upon the recommendation of the trainer. The handler shall insure that an adequate supply of food is on hand at all times. The handler shall designate the location where food orders are to be shipped.

VETERINARY CARE

9448.5

(February 2002)

The Department will pay all expenses for emergency and routine veterinary care, including physical examinations, X-rays, surgical procedures, vaccinations, etc. It is the responsibility of the handler to ensure that his/her canine receives veterinary care and required vaccinations as necessary. Veterinary services and canine health records will be maintained on standard forms provided by the designated veterinarian.

The Region Law Enforcement Coordinator, based upon the recommendation of the individual handler, will approve the designation of a veterinarian to provide medical treatment for the Department canine. When selecting a veterinarian, the handler shall consider the following factors:

- Geographic location of the veterinarian shall be in close proximity to the handler's residence;
- Veterinarian shall be able to provide emergency medical treatment for the canine on a 24 hour, 7 day a week basis.

The handler shall be responsible for maintaining complete and accurate records of all medical treatment given to Department canines.

EMERGENCY FIRST AID/MEDICAL TREATMENT (February 2002)

9448.6

The Department will pay all expenses incurred by the handler while rendering emergency medical treatment to the accelerant detection canine. These expenses include, but are not limited to: transportation costs, emergency room costs, veterinarian fees, etc. Whenever possible, the handler shall make every effort to have medical treatment provided by the canine's regular veterinarian; however, primary consideration shall first be given to stabilizing the condition of the canine.

If it is necessary to use veterinarian services that are not in close proximity to the handler's residence, the Department will pay the necessary expense to relocate the canine when his medical condition has been stabilized.

Due to the nature of work performed by the accelerant detection canine, they are frequently exposed to environments that could cause injuries ranging from minor to severe. Unseen hazards on a fire scene could cause lacerations or puncture wounds; the factors of heat and high humidity could cause heat stroke; the unstable nature of the fire scene could result in fractures; or the canine may be subject to chemical or thermal burns. The handler must be able to render emergency first aid care in any situation that requires immediate action in order to prevent irreversible damage or death of the canine. The following should be considered signs that indicate an emergency situation:

- Uncontrollable bleeding;
- Extreme difficulty breathing (including choking);
- Continuous or recurrent convulsions;
- Unconsciousness;
- Heat stroke;
- Shock;
- Sudden paralysis;
- Repeated or continuous attempt to vomit, repeated unproductive vomiting and/or diarrhea.

FIRST AID TREATMENT FOR HEATSTROKE (February 2002)

9448.7

Due to the working environment at a fire scene, the accelerant detection canine is quite often subject to conditions that could result in heat stroke. Since the canine's cooling system involves the exchange of air, environments that have a high level of humidity (such as those of a fire scene where large quantities of water were applied to a heated atmosphere) can obstruct the canine's ability to cool down properly. The handler must be constantly alert to symptoms exhibited by the canine that may indicate the onset of heat stroke, such as:

- Panting;
- Increased pulse rate;
- Congested membranes (reddened gums);
- Anxious or staring expression;
- Collapse.

If you suspect that the canine is suffering from heat stroke, take immediate action. DO NOT MUZZLE him. Get the canine into a cool place and call the veterinarian. It is important to ACT FAST since several minutes of high body temperature can cause permanent brain damage or even death. Immediate treatment by immersion in tepid water is necessary. Wetting the canine down and letting a fan blow over him is also very helpful. Massage the skin and flex and extend the legs to return blood from the extremities. Get the canine to the veterinarian immediately.

TREATING OPEN WOUNDS/NO BLEEDING

9448.8

(February 2002)

Open wounds that do not need control of bleeding are generally minor and can be treated in the following manner:

- Muzzle and restrain the canine.
- Clip the hair around the wound with a pair of scissors. Before you start, moisten or smear the hair with a thin film of ointment. This will make the hair stick together and to the scissors, so it will not get into the wound. As you cut, "fold" the hair away from the wound; this will also help keep the injured area clean.
- Gently cleanse the wound with plain tap water and wash the skin around the wound with antiseptic soap and water.
- Moisten a cotton-tipped applicator and use it to wipe any foreign material from the wound. Be very gentle, and do not probe deeply.
- Blot the wound dry with sterile gauze (or clean paper towels in an emergency).
- Apply antiseptic or antibiotic wound medication.
- Cover with a wound dressing and bandage, gently but firmly. Place several layers of gauze, cloth, or cotton on top of the gauze wound dressing as padding before applying the bandage.
- Replace the dressing and bandage every other day.

Call the veterinarian immediately if you have questions or if signs of infection appear.

TREATING OPEN WOUNDS/CONTROL BLEEDING (February 2002)

9448.9

Open wounds in canines are treated in the same manner as humans. Control of bleeding can be done in the following manner:

- Muzzle and restrain the canine.
- Using a clean gauze pad, apply pressure on one of the major pressure points.
- Maintain constant pressure on the pressure point until the bleeding is controlled. If the gauze pad becomes saturated with blood, leave it in place and apply an additional gauze pad directly on top; continue pressure.
- When bleeding is under control, cover with a wound dressing and bandage, gently but firmly, leaving the pressure pad in place.
- The veterinarian should examine the canine within 24 hours.

TREATMENT FOR SHOCK CONDITION (February 2002)

9448.10

There are several causes of shock. The most common cause of shock in canines results from blood loss. The following signs may indicate shock:

- Quietness and inactivity and lack of normal response to external stimuli (this condition may progress to unconsciousness);
- Rapid heart and respiratory rate;
- Rapid pulse that becomes weak and may become absent as shock progresses;
- Poor capillary refilling;
- Lowered body temperature.

If the canine shows signs of shock following an injury, wrap the canine in a towel or blanket to preserve body heat and contact the veterinarian immediately.

TREATMENT FOR BURNS: (February 2002)

9448.11

The severity of thermal (heat) burns in canines may be underestimated because their appearance differs considerably from those in humans. In a superficial burn to a canine, the hair remains firmly attached. If the hair is pulled in the area of the burn and it comes out easily, the burn is deeper and more serious.

Immediate treatment of thermal burns consists of applying cold water or ice compresses for twenty minutes. The affected area should then be washed with a disinfectant. Deep burns or burns covering large areas need emergency veterinary care. The veterinarian should examine any burns received by the canine within twenty-four (24) hours.

CANINE SAFETY

9448.12

(February 2002)

It is the responsibility of the canine handler to ensure the safety of his/her canine at all times. The handler shall take action, as necessary, to prevent other animals from interfering with the canine in the performance of his duty. Such action may include, when justified, disabling or killing the other animal.

The use of the canine at a fire scene must not exceed the time limit established during the training program. In the event that the fire scene search is so extensive that the time limit would be exceeded, the handler shall take one of the following actions:

- If the handler is not part of the investigation, the canine and the handler will terminate their activities until the proper rest and care has been provided for the canine.
- If the handler is part of the investigation, the canine will be secured in an appropriate resting place while the handler continues to work the scene of the investigation.

ALTERNATIVE BOARD AND CARE:

9448.13

(February 2002)

The Department will pay all reasonable expenses for alternative board and care for the canine whenever the handler is unable to do so. This includes, but is not limited to, time periods when the handler is on vacation, extended sick leave, authorized absence from work, or on temporary assignment away from his/her regular duty station.

When selecting an individual to provide alternative board and care, the handler shall ensure that the individual is familiar with Departmental policies and procedures regarding the care of the canine. Payment for board and care services may be made by direct billing, Purchase Order, or paid directly by the handler. If fees are paid directly by the handler, she/he shall be reimbursed for the fees upon submission of a completed [Travel Expense Claim \(STD 262\)](#) itemizing the costs as an approved business expense.

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CANINE RETIREMENT

9449

(February 2002)

It is anticipated that, as a general guideline, accelerant detection canines should be able to work for approximately ten (10) years. Ongoing evaluation of the canine will determine any need to replace the canine earlier if necessary. Once a canine reaches retirement age or can no longer perform required duties, the following procedure will be followed:

- The canine will first be offered to the handler at minimal cost. The handler shall be notified in writing and given at least ten (10) days to respond.
- If the handler does not wish to take the canine, it may then be offered to any other employee within the Department.
- A transfer of ownership ([see Accelerant Detection Canine Transfer Form](#)) must be completed to transfer Departmental canines to employees.

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