



CANINE UNIT

ER-010

Effective Date: 2009/01/23

Reviewed: 2013/09/27

Amended: 2025/03/17

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Service Board that the policy requirements set out in this document shall form part of the Board Policies and the Chief of Police is hereby directed to comply with these requirements in his/her administration and operation of the Peel Regional Police.

1. Subject

The guiding principles under which the Chief of Police is to establish procedures and processes relating to the services of canine tracking investigations and programs.

2. Specific Definitions

“canine team” – made up of one dog and one handler
“canine unit” – made up of one or more canine teams

3. Policy Requirements

The Board directs that this section of the policy and any police service directive and/or procedure relating to use of force be based on the following principles:

- a. That it is in complete compliance with legislative and constitutional requirements, and recognized legal principles;
- b. That members act with full respect for human dignity and according to professional standards of skill, integrity and accountability;
- c. That it maintains both officer and public safety as a priority;
- d. That it ensures the services of the Peel Regional Police canine unit are available on a 24-hour basis;
- e. That it ensures procedures are established that set out the circumstances under which the services of the canine unit will be deployed, including the process for obtaining the services and the reporting relationship;
- f. That it ensures procedures are established that set out the circumstances under which other emergency response services, including assistance from other agencies, shall be deployed;
- g. That the Chief of Police develop and maintain a manual on canine services that is available to each member of the canine unit;
- h. That it the Chief of Police ensures members performing the functions of a canine team and/or unit are trained and possess the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform this function;
- i. That it the Chief of Police ensures members are provided with the tools and equipment necessary to perform this function, as set out by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services; and

- j. That the Chief of Police regularly review procedures on canine units to remain current with case law, inquests, inquiry findings, and amendments to related legislation.

4. Measurement Methods

The Chief of Police shall regularly monitor and evaluate the management and effectiveness of the canine unit.

The Chief of Police shall regularly review canine unit services to ensure the integrity of the investigative practices and procedures.

5. Reporting

The Chief of Police shall report on those circumstances where the use of the canine unit has resulted in an “exceptional” circumstance, or a circumstance which may be detrimental to the police service; and/or resulted in significant issues of potential liability to the Board and the police service.

As part of a separate Annual Report on Adequacy Regulation, the Chief of Police shall report on compliance with this section of the policy.

6. Authority/Legislative Reference

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, ss. 38(1)(g) and 38(2)

O. Reg. 392/23: Adequate and Effective Policing (General), ss. 5(1) 2. iii., 10(1) 10. and 24(1) 2.

Board Minute #19/09

Board Minute # 63/13

7. Linkage to Appropriate Police Service Procedure/Directive

I-B-401(F)