

Section 1.0 – Use of Force	Page 1 of 2
Sub Section 1.4 – Police Service Dogs	Effective: September 1, 2015
Subject 1.4.1 – General Requirements	Revised: n/a

Definitions

“Bite” – a police dog’s use of mouth and teeth to grab or hold a person’s body or clothes.

“Director” – the director of police services, Ministry of Justice.

“Police dog equipment” – includes but is not limited to collars, leashes, crates, and harnesses.

“Police dog handler” – a police officer who is trained to handle police dogs.

Standards

The chief constable, chief officer, or commissioner may:

Permitted uses of a police dog

- (1) Authorize the use of police dogs 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.

The chief constable, chief officer, or commissioner must:

Police dog and handler training and qualifications

- (2) Ensure that every police dog handler and their assigned police dog successfully complete a training course for police dog work and are qualified to perform the operational functions specifically authorized.

Responsibilities of the police dog handler

- (3) Ensure that every police dog handler is required to keep their police dog under control at all times by commands and/or physical restrictions, or other relevant action.
- (4) Require that police dog handlers take reasonable steps to ensure that the police dog does not bite when it would be reasonable to search for, locate, arrest or apprehend a person without a bite, including but not limited to:
 - (a) Shortening the length of the leash;
 - (b) Maintaining visual contact with their police dog; and
 - (c) Recalling the police dog.
- (5) Require that police dog handlers must deploy their dog on a leash, unless the environment/terrain or the risk involved would make this unreasonable.
- (6) Require that police dog handlers must inspect all police dog equipment on a weekly basis to ensure it is in good working order, and replace any faulty equipment.

Policies and procedures

- (7) Ensure all policies and procedures are consistent with these *BC Provincial Policing Standards*.

Annotation

Bite definition – this does not include bites in training on training equipment, such as a padded sleeve or suit.