



# Police Service Dogs, 2021

Data reported to the Director of Police Services, as required by [British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards](#) on the use of Police Service Dogs

## 2021 BCPPS Police Service Dogs Data<sup>1</sup>

	Transit <sup>2</sup>	Saanich <sup>3</sup>	VPD	Victoria	West Van	RCMP & LMIPDS <sup>4</sup>	BC Total
<b>BCPPS 1.4.3</b>							
<b>2(a): Locations/Apprehensions/Arrests</b>	0	1	421	88	16	850	1,376
<b>2(b): Subjects Bitten</b>	0	0	79	14	2	165	260
<b>2(c)(i): Non-Subject Civilians Bitten</b>	0	0	3	2	0	4	9
<b>2(c)(ii): Non-Subject Police Officers Bitten</b>	0	0	2	0	0	2	4
<b>2(d): Authorized Deployments per s.1 of BCPPS 1.4.1<sup>5</sup></b>							
<b>1(a): Tracks/Searches for Suspects</b>	0	16	741	172	16	3,724	4,669
<b>1(b): Apprehensions by Bite or Display<sup>6</sup></b>	0	0	421	86	15	792	1,314
<b>Bite</b>	0	0	74	12	2	159	247
<b>Display</b>	0	0	347	74	13	633	1,067
<b>1(c): Tracks/Searches for Missing Persons</b>	0	1	1	11	1	300	314
<b>1(d): Searching for Drugs</b>	0	0	0	12	0	163	175
<b>1(e): Searching for Explosives/Firearms<sup>7</sup></b>	2,364	0	11	10	0	191	2,576
<b>1(f): Searching for Evidence</b>	0	2	45	39	3	1,086	1,175
<b>1(g): Crowd Control</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1(h): Community Relations/Other Events</b>	39	0	15	30	2	18	104
<b>1(i): Other Uses Approved by Director<sup>8</sup></b>	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Perceived Emotional State of Subjects in Apprehensions by Bite<sup>9,10</sup></b>							
<b>Subjects listed as emotionally disturbed</b>	0	0	2	1	0	n/a	3
<b>Subjects NOT listed as emotionally disturbed</b>	0	0	72	11	2	n/a	85
<b>Rates of Apprehensions by Bite<sup>11</sup></b>							
<b>Per 1,000 general occurrence reports</b>	0.00	0.00	0.71	0.33	0.19	0.13	0.18

<sup>1</sup>The definition of "bite" used in collecting these statistics is the definition set out in the *BC Provincial Policing Standards*: "Bite - a police dog's use of mouth and teeth to grab or hold a person's body or clothes." Unless otherwise indicated, the bite statistics in this report may include incidents which did not result in any injury to a person, as well as accidental bites to police officers. This definition may differ from the definition of "bite" used in other contexts.

<sup>2</sup>All of Transit Police's police service dogs are specialty detection only dogs.

<sup>3</sup>Effective February 1st, 2021, Saanich and Victoria PD formed an Integrated Canine Service to serve Saanich, Victoria, and Esquimalt.

<sup>4</sup>Abbotsford, Delta, New Westminster, and Port Moody form part of the RCMP Lower Mainland Integrated Police Dog Service (LMIPDS); these dogs receive the same training and cross jurisdictional boundaries.

<sup>5</sup>A deployment occurs when a police dog performs an operational task, and there can be more than one of type of authorized deployment associated with a single police incident.

<sup>6</sup>These figures do not include unintentional/accidental bites.

<sup>7</sup>Starting in 2021, Transit Police data reflect both calls for service and the number of proactive explosive sweeps when members of the general public are present. Accordingly, reported numbers are higher than figures reported prior to 2021.

<sup>8</sup>This category is intended to include other approved uses that may not clearly fall under existing deployment categories, such as building/compound search and human remains detection. While some deployments counted in this category could potentially fit under the classification for another deployment category, they may not necessarily be counted elsewhere.

<sup>9</sup>Emotional state figures are based on whether the subject was perceived by the officer to be, and recorded by the officer as, an emotionally disturbed person (EDP). As counts of EDP subjects are reflective of an officer's perception and records, they may not be completely reflective of the actual number of EDP subjects. The term "emotionally disturbed person" in the police records management system is defined as "a subject who appears to be mentally unstable and who might pose a threat to an investigator, him/herself, or others."

<sup>10</sup>These figures do not include unintentional/accidental bites, so the sum may not add up to total subjects bitten under 2(b).

<sup>11</sup>General occurrence (GO) reports are typically written when officers are involved in an operational policing response to an incident.