

# Police Service Dogs, 2022

## 2022 BCPPS Police Service Dogs Data<sup>1</sup>

Data related to Police Service Dogs (PSDs) are reported annually to the Director of Police Services in relation to multiple [BC Provincial Policing Standards](#) (BCPPS). Police dog bites, both intentional and unintentional, are reportable uses of force under [1.7.2 Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force](#). Reporting requirements specific to PSDs are then detailed in [1.4.3 Reporting, Data and Review](#), including the number of persons located or found or apprehended or arrested using a PSD, as well as the number of authorized deployments per [1.4.1 General Requirements](#).

	Transit <sup>2</sup>	VPD <sup>3</sup>	ICS <sup>4</sup>	West Van <sup>5</sup>	RCMP <sup>6</sup> & LMIPDS <sup>7</sup>	BC Total
<b>BCPPS 1.4.3</b>						
<b>2(a): Locations/Apprehensions/Arrests</b>	0	174	56	13	997	<b>1,240</b>
<b>2(b): Subjects Bitten</b>	0	53	6	0	223	<b>282</b>
<b>2(c)(i): Non-Subject Civilians Bitten</b>	0	1	0	0	1	<b>2</b>
<b>2(c)(ii): Non-Subject Police Officers Bitten</b>	0	0	0	0	7	<b>7</b>
<b>2(d): Authorized Deployments per s.1 of BCPPS 1.4.1<sup>8</sup></b>						
<b>1(a): Tracks/Searches for Suspects</b>	0	173	145	6	3,807	<b>4,131</b>
<b>1(b): Apprehensions by Bite or Display<sup>9</sup></b>	0	144	56	10	969	<b>1,179</b>
<i>Apprehensions by Bite</i>	0	52	6	0	222	<b>280</b>
<i>Apprehensions by Display</i>	0	92	50	10	747	<b>899</b>
<b>1(c): Tracks/Searches for Missing Persons</b>	0	0	6	0	307	<b>313</b>
<b>1(d): Searching for Drugs</b>	0	0	42	0	64	<b>106</b>
<b>1(e): Searching for Explosives/Firearms<sup>10</sup></b>	4,570	7	28	0	207	<b>4,812</b>
<b>1(f): Searching for Evidence</b>	0	34	64	1	1,058	<b>1,157</b>
<b>1(g): Crowd Control</b>	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>1(h): Community Relations/Other Events</b>	52	17	16	0	16	<b>101</b>
<b>1(i): Other Uses Approved by Director<sup>11</sup></b>	0	0	0	0	26	<b>26</b>
<b>Rate of Apprehensions by Bite<sup>12</sup></b>						
<b>Per 1,000 general occurrence reports</b>	0.00	0.50	0.10	0.00	0.20	<b>0.22</b>

<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> Vancouver PD identified that staff turnover, trainings, and selectivity in deploying PSDs resulted in fewer deployments for 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Effective February 1, 2021, Saanich and Victoria PD formed an Integrated Canine Service to serve Saanich, Victoria, and Esquimalt.

<sup>5</sup> Effective September 21, 2022, West Vancouver PD transitioned to the LMIPDS.

<sup>6</sup> RCMP Police Dog Teams are stationed throughout North District, Southeast District, and Island District. St’at’imx Tribal Police Service and Central Saanich, Nelson, and Oak Bay PDs do not have a PSD unit.

<sup>7</sup> Abbotsford, Delta, New Westminster, Port Moody, and now West Vancouver PDs fall under the RCMP Lower Mainland Integrated Police Dog Service (LMIPDS); these dogs receive the same training and cross jurisdictional boundaries.

<sup>8</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>9</sup> These figures do not include unintentional/accidental bites.

<sup>10</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>11</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>12</sup> These figures do not include unintentional/accidental bites, so the sum may not add up to total subjects bitten under 2(b).

# Police Service Dogs, 2022

## BC BCPPS Police Service Dogs Data, 2016-2022

The BCPPS regarding PSDs, [1.4 Police Service Dogs](#), came into effect September 2015. Since then, the operational use of PSDs has declined over time for most authorized use categories.

Select deployment categories were unavailable in reporting for 2017 by some PSD teams. Since 2021, Transit Police search data have reflected both calls for service and the number of proactive explosive sweeps when members of the general public are present. The volume of these activities increased as restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic were eased.

Apprehensions by bite or display have remained near the 7-year average of 1,382 deployments. Since 2016, 23% of apprehensions have been by bite. Starting 2020, the Ministry also began requesting agencies' General Occurrence counts, such that uses of force could be represented as a ratio of uses per 1,000 General Occurrence reports. The rate of apprehensions by bite per 1,000 GOs has been fairly steady across the past three years of reporting, and remains relatively rare.

BC Total	2016	2017 <sup>13</sup>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>BCPPS 1.4.3</b>							
<b>2(a): Locations/Apprehensions/Arrests</b>	3,211	2,783	2,368	1,703	1,581	1,376	1,240
<b>2(b): Subjects Bitten</b>	404	326	373	291	315	260	282
<b>2(c)(i): Non-Subject Civilians Bitten</b>	9	10	5	9	6	9	2
<b>2(c)(ii): Non-Subject Police Officers Bitten</b>	14	6	7	10	9	4	7
<b>2(d): Authorized Deployments per s.1 of BCPPS 1.4.1<sup>14</sup></b>							
<b>1(a): Tracks/Searches for Suspects</b>	5,727	5,587	5,055	5,101	5,015	4,669	4,131
<b>1(b): Apprehensions by Bite or Display<sup>15</sup></b>	1,214	1,667	1,668	1,546	1,087	1,314	1,179
<i>Apprehensions by Bite</i>	407	330	370	297	314	247	280
<i>Apprehensions by Display</i>	807	1,337	1,298	1,249	773	1,067	899
<b>1(c): Tracks/Searches for Missing Persons</b>	406	267	229	276	424	314	313
<b>1(d): Searching for Drugs</b>	412	363	348	357	218	175	106
<b>1(e): Searching for Explosives/Firearms<sup>16</sup></b>	582	449	267	376	149	*2,576	*4,812
<b>1(f): Searching for Evidence</b>	2,147	*1,241	1,529	1,162	867	1,175	1,157
<b>1(g): Crowd Control</b>	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
<b>1(h): Community Relations/Other Events</b>	227	*200	310	320	101	104	101
<b>1(i): Other Uses Approved by Director<sup>17</sup></b>	0	*1	19	40	48	2	26
<b>Rate of Apprehensions by Bite<sup>18</sup></b>							
<b>Per 1,000 general occurrence reports</b>					0.23	0.18	0.22

<sup>13</sup> Some PSD teams were unable to provide deployment counts for select deployment categories in 2017 (1f, 1h, and 1i). The listed figures represent a partial count.

<sup>14</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>15</sup> These figures do not include unintentional/accidental bites.

<sup>16</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>17</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>18</sup> These figures do not include unintentional/accidental bites, so the sum may not add up to total subjects bitten under 2(b).