

RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

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Chief of Police: Kathryn Nance /s/		
Approving Deputy Chief: Thomas Robinson /s/		
General Order No: P-630-23	Issued: August 2, 2023	Revised:
General Order Title: WORKING ANIMALS		

I. POLICY

The Reno Police Department employs a variety of animals with handlers to support its mission. Deployment of these animals requires specialized training for both the animal and handler. Utilization of these animals requires adherence to procedures that properly control their use of force potential and focus their capabilities into acceptable law enforcement uses. Departmental use of Working Animals must comply with applicable laws, case-law and general orders.

II. DEFINITIONS

Handler – The employee assigned and trained to work with a Working Animal.

Team – For the purpose of this general order, Team refers to a Working Animal and Handler.

Handler and Team Training Bulletin – a Training Bulletin which is specific to each type of Working Animal.

Working Animals – Any specially trained animal that works for the Reno Police Department. The Reno Police Department currently employs:

- 1. Detection Dog** – a canine trained to detect and alert to the presence of certain scents or odors for which it had been trained, such as drugs, explosive components or other items.
- 2. Facility Dog** – a dog that is a graduate of an assistance dog organization that is a member of Assistance Dogs International or a similar internationally recognized organization whose main purpose is to grant accreditation to assistance dog organizations based on standards of excellence in all areas of assistance dog acquisition, training and placement that provides a calming influence on vulnerable people during the investigation and prosecution of crimes, other stressful legal proceedings or peer support situations, and therapeutic responses to these experiences.
- 3. Horses** – specialize in crowd management and high mounted patrol.
- 4. Patrol Dog** – specialize in officer protection, suspect apprehension, area or building searches and other patrol duties. Patrol dogs may be cross trained as a detection dog.

III. RESTRICTIONS

Any Use of Force by a Working Animal must comply with the Use of Force general order which defines a Use of Force by a Working Animal as Intermediate Force. Every procedure listed in the Use of Force general order applies when using a Working Animal for force.

IV. PROCEDURES

1. **Use of Working Dog** – So long as the Team have been trained and certified in the following situations, a Team may be used for:
 - a. **Crowd Management** – Only in unlawful gatherings so long as the Working Dog is not used to compel crowd movement, and is tightly controlled by the Handler and only when other means of crowd control have proven ineffective.
 - b. **Detections** – To attempt to detect the presence of scents or odors in a place or thing (they shall not be used to detect illegal substances in or upon a person).
 - c. **Exhibitions/Community Events** – To demonstrate their abilities or to be merely be shown so long as this does not adversely impact operations and so long as the Handler has obtained prior approval through their chain of command.
 - d. **Searches** – To attempt to locate evidence or missing persons.
 - e. **To Locate and Apprehend Suspect(s)** – Whenever it is reasonably believed that: the suspect poses an imminent threat of violence or serious harm to the public or officers; or, the suspect is concealed in an area where entry by other than the dog would pose a threat to the public or officers.
 - f. **Facility Dog Deployment** – Provide services to victims, witnesses or potential witnesses, or suspects during interviews, examination meetings, and other encounters associated with law enforcement investigation and legal proceedings, provide services in peer support situations, and engage in community outreach.
2. **Use of Horse** – So long as the Team have been trained and certified in the following situations, a Team may be used for:
 - a. **Crowd Management** – In any gathering of people, to provide high mounted patrol of the crowd, so long as the horse is tightly controlled by the Handler. In unlawful gatherings the Team may be used to move crowds of people.
 - b. **Exhibitions/Community Events** – To demonstrate their abilities or to merely be shown so long as this does not adversely impact operations and so long as the Handler has obtained prior approval through their chain of command.
 - c. **Searches** – To attempt to locate evidence or missing person in situations where a high mounted asset could benefit a search.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

Handler Responsibilities – A Handler shall comply with the Handler and Team Training Bulletin specific to their working animal and has responsibilities that include but aren't limited to:

- a. **Training** – Successfully complete all certification training and necessary on-going training.
- b. **Logs** – Maintaining and updating training logs and deployment logs.
- c. **Care** – Ensuring their assigned Working Animal is cared for appropriately.

- d. **Requests to Respond When On-Duty** – Making every effort to respond to requests when on duty. If there are steps that can be taken to improve the Team’s capabilities, the Handler should provide the requestor with those steps.
- e. **Requests to Respond When Off-Duty** – The Handler must obtain approval from their chain-of-command prior to deploying when off-duty.
- f. **Notifications** – Making appropriate and/or necessary notifications to their chain of command. This includes, but is not limited to notifications about, use of force, injuries to or caused by the Working Animal and requests for exhibitions and/or community events, or when a notification conflicts with their primary duties. Additionally, any time a Handler feels that a request to use a Working Animal is inappropriate, illegal, unauthorized or does not comply with case-law, the Handler should notify the requestor of their concerns and notify their chain of command.