

Part 1 - General information for Police employees about Police dogs

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Summary

Introduction

Police dogs have a valuable and appreciated role in policing, without which the operational effectiveness of Police would be significantly reduced. New Zealand Police use patrol dogs (also known as general purpose) and detector dogs.

Patrol dogs

Patrol dogs are used primarily for tracking and searching and as a means of force in apprehending suspects and violent offenders. They also enhance staff safety by providing back up to Police at incidents. Patrol dogs may also be trained in secondary roles including:

- Tactical
 - AOS
 - STG
- SAR
- Victim Recovery (Cadaver)
- Narcotic detection.

See '[Patrol dogs](#)' for more detailed information.

Detector dogs

Detector dogs are used to detect:

- narcotics
- explosives
- firearms
- currency (cash).

See '[Detector dogs](#)' for more detailed information.

Purpose

This chapter provides general information about the use of Police dogs. It also explains what resources are available to assist Police employees and how they can support Police dog deployments. It includes information on:

- patrol dog teams
- detector dog teams
- partner agency detector dog teams (AVSEC, Customs, Corrections)
- civilian search dog teams (LandSAR and USAR).

Definitions

Terms relating to the use of dogs

This table defines the types of dogs used by Police.

Term	Definition
Detector Dog	A dog trained to detect and respond to/indicate the presence of target odours; e.g. narcotics, explosives, firearms, currency (cash). Also known as specialist dog.
Indication	The behaviour that a dog has been trained to display when it has located the source of a target odour, including a track.
Patrol Dog	Dog used for tracking, searching and apprehending suspects. Previously known as "general purpose dog".
Passive Response / Passive Alert	A type of response where the dog sits or freezes, focussing on the target substance source.
Person searching	The use of a narcotic detector dog to detect narcotics being carried by or on a person. Current use is in customs controlled areas or prisons.

Injuries or other damage

This table defines injuries and other damage.

Type	Definition
Non-injury dog bite	Any bite to a person inflicted by an operational Police dog, where there is no injury as a result of the bite.
Dog bite injury	Any injury resulting from a Police dog or an operational Police dog biting, or attempting to bite any person, but excluding an injury classified as a 'serious dog bite'.
Serious dog bite injury	<p>Any injury resulting from a Police dog or operational Police dog, biting or attempting to bite any person, where one or more of these result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the victims requires admission to hospital - there is a likelihood that the victim may suffer from permanent disability as a result of the bite or attempted bite - the victim has received multiple bite injuries or wounds - the victim has been bitten on the face, neck or groin - the victim has been bitten by more than one Police dog during the same incident - the victim suffered some sort of serious injury directly resulting from the dog biting or attempting to bite.
Other damage or injury	<p>Other damage or injury caused by Police dogs includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - any damage caused to non-Police property by a Police dog or operational Police dog regardless of whether the dog was on duty at the time, and/or - any injury to any animal caused by a Police dog or operational Police dog, whether or not the dog was on duty at the time.

Patrol dogs

Primary roles

Patrol dog teams (previously referred to or known as 'General Purpose' dog teams) have three primary roles to detect and apprehend suspects:

- tracking
- searching
- apprehending.

Their role also includes:

- back-up and support of front line staff
- search for property
- crowd control in public disorder and violent situations
- general duties policing.

Tracking

Patrol dogs are trained to locate and follow scent left by people. They are able to track on hard surfaces (roads and footpaths), variable surfaces (gravel, clay and sand) and grass. Because scent is affected by environmental conditions, the dog's success depends on the time that has elapsed, the climatic conditions, the ground surface and whether the person has remained on foot.

The starting point of the tracking is the scene of the crime or where the person was last seen or believed to be. Police dogs are trained to locate the scent in the area where the handler works the dog. The dog team does not need or use scent articles left by the person being tracked. If the immediate area of the scene has been contaminated by other people moving around (including Police employees), the dog team will move further away to locate a starting point.

Typical deployment examples include:

- tracking from scenes that suspects have been seen leaving
- tracking from scenes where an offence has been discovered, but no suspects have been seen
- tracking from or to scenes to link suspect people stopped by other patrols.

Tracking procedures for general duties staff

To maximise a dog team's chance of tracking successfully, follow these steps.

Step	Action
1	Call and deploy a dog team immediately. If in doubt about whether to use Police dogs, call the dog team to the scene as it can always be stood down. Important: Time delay is the single biggest factor that compromises the dog team's ability to track a person.
2	Take particular note of suspicious people or activity reports, and inform the dog team early.
3	Identify the exact place where the person was last seen (the starting point).
4	When victims or witnesses give this location, question them carefully because they will often make assumptions about where the person went. Important: The dog team needs to know the last place they actually saw the person.
5	If the starting point is unknown, say so. Many suspects have escaped because handlers have been directed to the wrong area to search for a track. Handlers are trained to quickly and systematically work their dog around the scene to locate tracks with unknown starting points.
6	Eliminate or minimise contamination from Police and other people moving around or near the scene. Contamination could eliminate any possibility of locating a track, or increase the area that the handler has to cover to locate a starting point. This can significantly delay the tracking process.
7	Do not follow the dog team around when it is tracking unless required.
8	During deployment, provide active support. Commence area patrols and cordons as soon as possible to contain or locate suspects.

Evidential considerations

In order to preserve the chain of evidence you must ensure that you prove the link from the scene to the starting point where the dog handler started tracking. For example, the testimony of a witness who saw the suspect run from the scene to the point they last saw the person and then the testimony of the handler following the track from that same point.

Searching for suspects and other people

Dogs are trained to quarter and search buildings, yards and bush areas for suspects and other people. They work quickly and can cover large areas in a very short time. Dogs are not only the most efficient option, but they also significantly reduce the risk to staff when searching for suspects.

Typical deployment examples include:

- searching for suspects at a burglary scene

- searching areas where a suspect is believed to be hiding.

To maximise the dog team's chance of searching successfully, follow these steps.

Step	Action
1	Cordon and contain buildings and yards before and during the search.
2	Identify possible exit points from the premises and consider the likelihood of suspects still being on the premises. It may be more productive for the dog team to initially search for a track away from the scene, and for other patrols to conduct area patrols.
3	If you know where the suspect is hiding, the dog handler will consider using the dog under control and on a lead. This should be done only if there is no immediate risk to the handler or other people present; it depends on who you are looking for.

Apprehending suspects

When a suspect cannot be apprehended by other means, a dog may be used as a means of force in line with the law, policy and the TOF. Typical deployment examples include:

- apprehending a suspect armed with a weapon
- apprehending an assaultive or actively resisting suspect who is escaping/departing on foot from the scene of a crime.

Note: When a person is bitten or injured by a Police dog they must receive medical attention. As an arresting officer or person in charge of a prisoner you must ensure that they are given appropriate medical attention.

See '[Use of force with Police dogs](#)' for more detail.

To assist a dog team to apprehend a person armed with a weapon follow these steps.

Step	Action
1	Apply TENR and <u>TOE</u> . Discuss tactics with the handler.
2	Where possible deploy another tactical option (e.g. <u>Taser</u>) in a manner that splits the attention or focus of the suspect.
3	Do not get in a position between the dog team and the suspect or in a position where the Police dog will focus on you rather than the suspect.
4	Be alert to what the dog is looking at and manage your position, behaviour and the volume and manner of your voice (quieter than the suspect) to help the dog focus on the offender.
5	If practicable the handler will deploy the dog on the lead so they are able to focus the dog on the offender or pull the dog away if necessary.
6	Look for the opportunity to distract the suspect so that the dog team can move in and make the apprehension from behind the suspect.
7	Look for opportunity where the offender is distracted by the dog and you can safely move in from behind or deploy another tactical option (e.g. <u>Taser</u>) to apprehend the suspect.

Back-up and support front line staff

The presence of a patrol dog team enhances the safety of frontline staff and the presence of the team enables rapid and effective deployment where suspects attempt to escape from Police.

Typical back-up examples include:

- staff attending violent or potentially violent incidents
- staff dealing with disorder incidents
- staff executing arrest warrants
- any other incident where staff would feel safer with the presence of the dog team.

Searching for property

Dogs are trained to locate property that carries the scent of a person. They will do this while tracking suspects or when deployed to search specific areas. The advantages of using a dog to search for property is that they can search a large area quickly and can locate small items that would only be found if staff did a grid type search.

A dog's location of property that a person has recently handled can have a high evidential value. For example, locating a knife in a front yard where a suspect was seen leaving.

Note: Property will hold the scent of a person for a significantly longer period than the time that scent on a

track will.

Typical deployment examples include:

- searching an area where a suspect has been located for stolen property or implements, or confirming whether property located (but not handled by the finder) has recent scent on it
- searching an area where a suspect person has been stopped and may have discarded property.

Public disorder and violent situations

Dogs can be a valuable resource in public disorder and violent situations. They are effective as a show of force, in moving crowds of people, apprehending suspects and providing protection to other Police employees. However, the presence of a dog may inflame the situation and special care must be taken for children and young persons, and in demonstrations.

Police employees should also be aware that Police dogs cannot discriminate between them and suspects. When police dogs are deployed in violent situations, they will move in a 2-3m arc around the handler. Other Police employees must be clear of this area, preferably behind the dog team to protect the handlers back and to arrest people apprehended by the dog team.

Riots

Patrol dogs can be deployed in a riot situation. As a general rule, use dogs only on the instruction of the operation commander.

Demonstrations

Police dogs should not be deployed against demonstrators. Where detector dogs are deployed as part of venue security or in response to a specific threat, be careful to avoid giving the impression that the dogs will be used against the demonstrators.

Secondary (dual) roles

Patrol dog teams are trained in a number of secondary roles. The roles that individual teams are trained in are determined by the policing needs of the district and the suitability of the handler and the dog to perform the role.

Secondary roles include:

- Tactical ([AOS](#) and [STG](#))
- [SAR](#)
- Victim Recovery
- Narcotic detection.

Tactical - AOS

Qualified [AOS](#) dog teams are an integral part of AOS squads. The teams deploy as part of the squad and are used for:

- apprehension
- building clearance
- tracking
- patrolling.

Tactical - STG

This information is restricted.

Search and Rescue (SAR)

Qualified dog teams deploy with SAR squads and are used for:

- tracking
- searching.

Note: Police dog teams are not trained for avalanche search and rescue. Contact a LandSAR avalanche dog team.

Victim recovery (cadaver)

Qualified dog teams are used to locate human remains. They are:

- able to detect remains following death up to months or years following death
- deployed to locate human remains in these locations:
 - on or above ground level
 - buried
 - incinerated.

Narcotic detection

Qualified dual trained patrol dog teams are trained to detect:

- class A, B and C controlled drugs
- cannabis and its derivatives
- heroin
- cocaine
- amphetamine-type substances.

Patrol dogs trained in narcotic detection are not trained to detect narcotics on people but detector dogs may be.

Detector dogs

Detector dogs are dogs that are trained solely to detect target odours and do not perform any patrol dog functions. Dog teams are primarily located in major centres where they can provide support to a number of policing areas or districts.

Police currently deploy explosive, narcotic and firearm detector dogs. Some narcotic detector dogs are also trained to find firearms and currency (cash). Explosive detector dogs are not trained in any dual roles.

Narcotics detector dogs

Narcotics detector dog teams are used to support drug investigations by General Duties Branch and investigative policing groups. The role of these dog teams is to:

- locate narcotics, firearms and currency that is difficult to find or would not normally be found during a standard search
- search and clear locations quickly and efficiently
- reduce the manpower required to conduct searches.

Target drugs

Dogs are trained to detect:

- class A, B and C controlled drugs
- cannabis and its derivatives
- heroin
- cocaine
- amphetamine-type substances
- precursor substances used in the clandestine manufacture of narcotics.

Dog response

Until 2007, Police narcotics dogs were trained and deployed using the "active response" method; i.e. they were trained to locate narcotics by actively retrieving them, or actively scratching at the source of the narcotic in an attempt to retrieve it.

Today, all narcotics detector dogs are trained and deployed using the "passive response method". This means that, when they detect the odour of the target narcotic, they will search for the source, and when found, will adopt a passive position (SIT or FREEZE) to indicate its location to the handler.

General searching

In general searching, dogs are deployed to free search (the dog is released to run free), or the search is controlled by searching with the dog on a lead. Typical deployment examples include:

- searching houses and vehicles during the execution of a search warrant
- free searching outside areas, where the dog can cover large areas in a short period of time.

Currency detector dogs

Narcotic detector dogs may also be trained to detect currency (cash) - primarily concealed amounts of currency from the proceeds of crime. The dogs are trained to detect bulk amounts of currency 10k upwards, but will also locate smaller amounts of concealed currency.

Target currency

Target currencies cover a wide range of currencies likely to be found in New Zealand.

Information relating to the specific currencies is restricted. Contact your local dog handler to discuss the currency being targeted.

Asset seizure warrants

Staff preparing asset seizure warrants must ensure that currency (cash) is stipulated in the warrant to allow the use of currency detector dogs.

Firearms detector dogs

Firearms detector dog teams are used to support General Duties Branch and investigative policing groups in the same way that narcotics detector dog teams are used. In some cases, narcotics detector dog teams are dual-trained to find firearms.

The role of firearms detector dog teams is to locate firearms (including components and parts), ammunition, discharged shell casings and reload powder.

Firearms detector dogs are passive-response trained. When they detect the target firearm's odour, they will actively search for the source, and then adopt a passive position (SIT or FREEZE) to indicate its location to the handler. Typical deployment examples include:

- searching houses and vehicles during the execution of a search warrant
- free searching outside areas, where the dog can cover large areas in a short space of time.

Explosives detector dogs

Explosives detector dog teams are used within Police to support frontline policing activities and the Specialist Search Group (SSG).

Dogs are trained to operate in a variety of operational environments to detect a range of commercial and military explosives. Teams are deployed to:

- clear venues for planned operations
- locate unlawfully possessed explosives
- detect explosives and clear scenes at improvised explosive device (IED) incidents.

Explosives detector dogs are passive-response trained. This means that when they detect the target explosive's odour, they will search for the source and then adopt a passive position (SIT or FREEZE) to indicate its location to the handler.

Typical deployment examples include:

- clearing the safe arrival point of secondary devices at IED incidents
- clearing the scene at IED incidents
- detecting IEDs at incidents
- clearing venues for VIP operations
- searching locations during the execution of search warrants to locate explosives.

Note: Explosives detector dogs are not trained to locate firearms.

Deployment as a result of bomb threats or warnings

Before you decide whether to call an explosives detector dog to the scene that is the subject of a bomb warning, consider:

- the nature of the information received
- any time limit indicated by the caller
- the type of premises, place, or vehicle to be searched
- whether a physical search is warranted or practical.

Note: Explosives Detector Dog handlers are not explosives experts and the dogs are merely an aid in the search for explosives and explosive devices as part of specialist search response.

See the '[Improvised explosive devices and bomb threats](#)' chapter for more detail and instructions that must be complied with at all times.

Deploying detector dogs

Clear people from areas to be searched

Detector dogs are most often deployed in places occupied by people and during the execution of search warrants. While the dogs are capable of working around people, clearing rooms and areas of people enhances their capability and removes possible distractions.

Detector dogs are often deployed when executing search warrants and there is hostility towards police. Police employees must be alert to the risk of a person trying to injure the dog, either directly, or indirectly using domestic dogs.

Secure domestic dogs

Before taking a Police dog into any place, secure the domestic dogs to prevent an attack and eliminate distractions.

Deployment outside parent districts

All requests to deploy explosives or drug detector dogs outside the district in which the dogs are based must, where time permits, be made to the dog handler's district for a decision.

Deployment procedures

Follow these steps.

Step	Action
1	Contact the <u>OC</u> Dog Section who will manage the request process.
2	In the absence of the <u>OC</u> contact the emergency response manager or other manager that the dog section reports to.
3	Contact the handler for advice and guidance.
4	In an urgent situation make the request via the Communication Centre. Where the urgency of the incident demands immediate deployment without the districts prior authority, the District Commander must be advised at the first opportunity thereafter.

Partner agency dog teams

Police work closely with a number of other agencies who also deploy dog teams. Training and certification standards of those teams is recognised by Police and the New Zealand Police dog section also delivers training and certification to those teams.

Agencies that can assist in operations

Operational dog teams from these agencies may be deployed in Police operations:

- Aviation Security Service
- New Zealand Customs Service
- Department of Corrections
- New Zealand Defence Force.

Note: Police teams must be called in the first instance. Teams should only be used from another agency if Police teams are unavailable, or are only available from another district and it is more expedient or cost effective to use teams from another agency, or additional dog team resources are required.

General requests should be made by following these steps.

Step	Action
1	Contact <u>OC</u> of the Police District Dog Section who will manage the request process.
2	Contact the Police detector dog handler for advice and guidance.
3	Contact the Manager of the relevant detector dog unit as required.

In urgent situations contact the Communications Centre.

Aviation Security Service

Aviation Security Services Explosive Detector Teams are located in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown.

Aviation Security Services will cooperate with Police to assist in emergency situations off-airport, where airport operations are not compromised.

Request for service for other policing operations requires a Senior Sergeant or above to request service from the Operations Manager AVSEC.

All AVSEC handlers who assist Police in emergency or planned operations must have completed the 'Advanced Explosive Detector Dog' course.

Refer: [MOU Police and Aviation Security Service](#)

New Zealand Defence Force

New Zealand Defence Force Explosive Detector Teams are located in Linton Military Camp.

New Zealand Defence Force will cooperate with Police to assist in emergency situations where their normal operations are not compromised.

Request for service for other policing operations requires a Senior Sergeant or above to request service from the Watch keeper, Joint Forces, Wellington

All NZDF handlers who assist Police in emergency or planned operations must have completed the 'Advanced Explosive Detector Dog' course.

Refer: [MOU Police and New Zealand Defence Force](#).

New Zealand Customs Service

Narcotic Detector teams are located in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

New Zealand Customs Service will cooperate with Police to assist in emergency situations where their own operations are not compromised.

Department of Corrections

Corrections Narcotic Detector Teams are located in a number of prisons throughout New Zealand.

The Department of Corrections will cooperate with Police to assist in search situations where their own operations are not compromised.

Civilian search dog teams

Police recognise the operational status and capability of dog teams certified by New Zealand Land Search and Rescue (LandSAR) and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR).

The New Zealand Police Dog Section assists in the certification of search dog teams with LandSAR and USAR.

Note: Police do not recognise the operational status or capability of individual people or organisations that are not affiliated to and certified by LandSAR or USAR.

Dog teams operated by non recognised or affiliated groups or individuals must not be used in any Police operation or search.

LandSAR dog teams

SAR dog teams are trained in avalanche searching, tracking and wilderness searching. Only teams certified by LandSAR may be used for search and rescue operations.

For more information and contacts see: www.landsar.org.nz

USAR dog teams

USAR dog teams are trained to locate live victims in disaster type situations such as building collapse. Only teams certified by USAR may be used in search operations.

For more information and contacts see: www.usar.govt.nz

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