

## **Part 2 - New Zealand Police Dog Section**

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## Summary

### Introduction

This chapter provides:

- information about structure, functioning and administration of the Police dog section
- guidance to supervisors and managers who have responsibility for dog sections and dog handlers, and for dog section staff
- specific detail on:
  - the role of the Dog Section
  - Governance of the Dog Section
  - Dog Section working group terms of reference
  - human resource allocation
  - structure and operations
  - reporting lines.

### Definitions

This table provides some definitions relevant to this chapter.

Term	Definition
<b>Police dog</b>	'Police dog' means a dog that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- undergoing or has successfully completed a course of instruction at the Police Dog Training Centre; and</li><li>- being used for Police duties.</li></ul> (Section <a href="#">4</a> of the Policing Act 2008 refers)  In terms of Police policy relating to the care and management of dogs it also includes a dog that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- owned by Police; or</li><li>- in the possession or under the control of a Police employee for the purpose of being used by, or trained for Police for any authorised purpose.</li></ul>
<b>Police dog handler</b>	'Police dog handler' means a Police employee who is undergoing or has successfully completed a course of instruction at the Police Dog Training Centre that qualifies the employee to perform duties as a Police dog handler.  (Section <a href="#">4</a> of the Policing Act 2008 refers)
<b>Trainee dog handler</b>	'Trainee dog handler' means a Police employee who is appointed to a position to train as a dog handler or is otherwise training to be a dog handler.

## Role of the Dog Section

### Primary role

The role of the Dog Section (dog handlers) is to deploy Police dogs to enhance and aid Police operations in maintaining safer communities. Handlers are employed in full time dog handling positions and their primary role is the deployment of a Police dog that is either a patrol or detector dog.

### General Duties role

Dog handlers must be constables with responsibility for delivering general duties Police services or other policing roles as directed by their district.

## **Governance of the New Zealand Police Dog Section**

### **National Co-ordinator: Police Dogs**

The National Co-ordinator: Police Dogs is responsible for developing deployment, training and management guidelines for the use of Police dogs.

### **Officer in Charge of Dog Section**

District OC Dog Section or Dog Section Supervisors (who may or may not be members of the dog section) are responsible for managing District Dog Sections.

### **District Commander**

District Dog Sections are a district resource and report through to their District Commander. Deployment of Police dog handlers in general policing duties is governed by the District and managed by the OC Dog Section or Dog Section Supervisor.

### **Dog Section Working Group**

The purpose of the Dog Section Working Group is to act as the technical reference group for the Police dog section and reports through the National Co-ordinator: Police Dogs.

## Police Dog Section Working Group

### Purpose

The purpose of the Police Dog Section Working Group is to act as the technical reference group for the Police dog section. It is a group of experienced practitioners from within the section who collaborate to identify best practice that support and enhance dog section operations and ensure consistent implementation of practice nationally. In particular, the group functions to:

- advise the National Co-ordinator: Police Dogs and the Police Dog Section Advisory Group on any relevant matter relating to police dog operations
- implement recommendations and directions of the Police Executive, RNZPC and Frontline Capability Group
- create an effective consultative process with all dog section personnel
- setting and implementing the priorities for the Dog Section for annual goals, processes and development plans
- contribute to the management of national issues arising from the delivery, development and implementation of training, operational deployment and management of Police dog sections
- effectively manage areas of risk, in particular the use of force and Police dogs
- identify priorities for curriculum and good practice
- confirm annually, the content and process of annual certification for police dog teams
- ensure training development and delivery is consistent with standards set by the RNZPC.

### Process

The group should:

- convene twice a year, or as necessary
- report under the authority of the National Co-ordinator: Police Dogs who is responsible for national training, operational and management practice for the dog section
- report as required to the Director: RNZPC, Director: Tactical Operations and Director: Capability, the Police Executive, District Commanders and other relevant PNHQ groups
- keep all district dog sections informed of the activity of the advisory group prior to and following meetings.

District representatives must consult fully with the employees in charge of the district dog sections that they represent prior to meetings to identify issues and agenda items.

Other departments that may have members seconded to the group, must monitor and identify issues impacting on dog section relevant to their area of expertise and report these to the Advisory Group as appropriate.

### Group membership

The generic group should include not less than four members and should include at least one from outside of the group.

### New Zealand Police Dog Section Working Group

- National Co-ordinator: Police Dogs (Chair)
- Practice Leader: Dog Training
- OC Auckland Dog Section
- OC Wellington Dog Section
- OC Canterbury Dog Section.

### Other people seconded to the working group

- Legal Section representative
- Integrity and Conduct representative
- Frontline Capability Group representative.

### Other members

Other members can be seconded to the group as and when required to assist the group in its deliberations and may include representatives from:

- other Dog Section personnel
- other Police employees
- RNZPC: Training Development
- Organisational Performance Group
- Area Commanders
- Operations Managers
- external stakeholder and partner agency representative.

### Group representation

The Police Dog Section Working Group must consult with and represent district dog sections in these areas shown in this table.

<b>Working Group member</b>	<b>Representing</b>
OC Auckland Dog Section	Auckland and Northland Districts
OC BOP or Waikato Dog Section	BOP and Waikato Districts
OC Wellington Dog Section	Wellington, Central and Eastern Districts
OC Christchurch Dog Section	Canterbury, Tasman and Southern Districts
Practice Leader Dog Training Centre	Dog Training Centre

## Structure and operations

### New Zealand Police Dog Section

The Police Dog Section consists of:

- District Dogs sections that provide operational services and report to the District Commander
- the New Zealand Police Dog Training Centre that provides dog team training and breeding and reports to the National Co-ordinator: Police Dogs
- the National Co-ordinator: Police Dogs who reports to the Director: RNZPC.

Police has more than 20 dog sections, from Kaikohe to Invercargill, made up of over 130 dog teams.

See: Organisation chart in [Annex A](#).

### Human resource allocation

#### District Dog sections

The human resource allocation for district dog sections is determined by the District Commander. There is no nationally set resource allocation for dog sections. District Commanders must determine what resource level they require dependent on their district or national policing need.

#### Dog Training Centre

The human resource allocation for the Dog Training Centre is determined by the Director: RNZPC.

#### Patrol dog teams

Patrol dog teams (previously known as 'general purpose teams') operate in all dog sections and districts and make up 90 percent of capability. Many patrol dogs have advanced capability that is developed after initial training. These dogs are dual-trained in:

- Tactical ([AOS](#) and [STG](#))
- search and rescue
- victim recovery
- narcotic detection.

#### Detector dog teams

Detector dog teams are used for narcotic, currency, firearm and explosive detection and are deployed nationally. These teams are based in the larger centres and are able to provide inter-district support. Some of the handlers also deploy a firearms detector dog or a dual-purpose dog trained to find firearms as well as narcotics.

Explosives detector dog teams are deployed nationally. These teams are based in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch and are able to provide inter-district support. The handlers also deploy a second dog, either a firearms detector or narcotics detector dog.

### Supervision and leadership

District dog sections are managed by Officers in Charge (OCs) Dog Section who are:

- responsible for supervising dog teams and delivering continuation training
- either stand-alone positions or they have dog section supervisors reporting to them.

In areas where the dog section does not have an OC dog section or supervisor, they are managed by a station supervisor (non dog section) and an OC dog section or supervisor delivers continuation training and consults with the manager on dog section operations and administration.

### Continuation training

District supervisors and trainers (supported by the Dog Training Centre where required) provide continuation training to dog teams. They are responsible for three areas of training:

- Developmental training for dog teams during the home phases of the Initial Training Programme and when a handler is allocated a replacement dog.
- Ongoing training for operational dog teams to develop and maintain the standards of each dog team to ensure effective operational capability.
- Development of dual response or new roles for operational teams.

**Note:** As part of continuation training, the district supervisors/trainers are responsible for maintaining appropriate training records. See 'District continuation training' section in the '[Dog team training](#)' chapter.

## Reporting lines for dog handlers

The direct reporting lines will depend on the dog section.

- Large section (Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch), report directly to your dog section supervisor/trainer, who then reports to the OC Dog Section.
- Medium sections (Tauranga, Rotorua, Hamilton, Hawkes Bay, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Tasman sections, Dunedin, Invercargill) report directly to the OC Dog Section.
- Small sections (Kaikohe, Gisborne, Whakatāne, Whanganui, Masterton, Timaru) report to their OC Station, with a functional line to an OC Dog Section.



## Annex A - Organisation chart

Download the organisation chart:

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 [Organisation\\_chart.doc](#)

36 KB