

**OFFICE DIRECTIVE
OPS-58 K-9 POLICY**

Rev. 23-15

K-9 Officer

58-1 Purpose

- A. To establish a policy regarding the training, deployment, care and maintenance of the Ford County Sheriff's Canine and Office Canine Handler. The canine and handler are commonly referred to as "Police Service Dog Team" and shall be utilized for various purposes to include, but is not limited to, drug detection and tracking.

58-2 Policy

- A. It is the Policy of the Ford County Sheriff's Office that only a properly trained and certified Police Officer will be designated as "K-9" handler and only a properly trained and certified canine will be utilized as a Police Canine. Only after these requirements have been met can the Police Service Dog Team be created and utilized by this Department.

58-3 Duties and Responsibilities

- A. First and foremost, the Officer assigned as Canine Handler is a Patrol Officer. Normal Patrol, calls for service and initial investigations are still handled by the K-9 Officer as well as other duties that the Police Service Dog Team will perform. The Police Service Dog Team shall be responsible for any drug detection and tracking that may arise through normal or unusual circumstances or even call outs.

58-4 Procedure

- A. The Ford County Sheriff's Office Service Dog Team is a Patrol Unit that is utilized in a regular patrol capacity as well as through a call out process.
 - 1. Drug Detection
 - a. Officers that wish to call out the K-9 on any "drug detection" must first have reasonable suspicion that there is either some type of drug on the person or persons in the vehicle or inside the vehicle itself.
 - b. The Police Service Dog Team is available on a 24 hour, on call basis.
 - c. The Police Service Dog Team can only be called out after the Sheriff, or designee has been notified of the situation and gives approval.
 - d. The Officer, once approval has been given by the Sheriff, or designee, shall call the K-9 handler and advise the situation.
 - e. When called out the K-9 handler will call on duty and immediately be in route to the incident scene. Once the Police Service Dog Team arrives on scene, patrol officers are to ensure they allow the K-9 handler to work the dog the way he/she has been trained without interference. Police Service Dogs shall not normally be handled or given commands by anyone other than the assigned handler.