

Los Santos Sheriffs Office - K9 SOP



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Mission Statement

Our K-9 Team's Mission within the LSSO and the wider LEO community is to integrate the employment of trained police dogs to enhance the detection of narcotics, search buildings and assist in the location and detention of suspects.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the LSSO K-9 Team is to acquire, train and deploy German Shepherd Police Dogs to the front line of policing, as well as selecting the correct officers to receive training alongside their partnered dog. The jobs and roles undertaken by LSSO's K-9 team will be outlined in further sections.

2.0 Our Roles and Regulations

K-9 Teams will fulfil a number of roles both independently and integrated alongside other LEO departments or subdivisions. This will include a number of certain operations guided by certain regulations.

2.1 Operations

There are a number of roles undertaken by K-9 Teams covered below.

2.1.1 Patrol

K-9 Teams are permitted to actively patrol in marked units. This allows for the fast deployment of a K-9 to requests by other officers.

K-9 Teams can undertake normal patrol duties, such as 10-11s, and if probable cause is found, deploy the K-9 to undertake search duties.

Whilst the K-9 Team is operating, in addition to all normal equipment, K-9 vehicles should have the following in stock:

- Muzzle and leash
- Two metal bowls
- Dry food
- Supply of drinking water
- A ball or assorted dog toy
- Waste bags and poop scoop
- K-9 Treats
- K-9 Trauma kit

You should notify the server when K9 is available to ensure civs are aware.

2.1.2 Searches

A number of search duties can be undertaken.

2.1.2.1 Building Searches

On arriving on a scene, the K-9 operator should contact the primary officer on scene to receive an information handover. This should include:

- Nature of the call (Including number of individuals, any weapons or hostages)
- Level of perimeter security

- Whether or not officers are in the building

An initial sweep of the perimeter should be made by the team whilst the K-9 is on leash.

Before entering, the K-9 handler should ask an officer to assist them as a cover officer. They will provide armed escort, as the handler should be solely concentrated on issuing K-9 commands. The handler should also ensure any possible residents or innocent individuals are kept safe, keeping the K-9 on leash or within eyesight wherever possible.

When entering the building, the K-9 handler should make themselves known, identifying the use of a K-9 and the possible ramifications of this.

I.e. ***“LSSD K-9, If you are inside, make yourself known! Or I will release my K-9 and you may be bit.”***

This may be done verbally or using the /g command, and **should be done twice before releasing the K-9**. After the second warning, the K-9 should be released at the door and the handler should follow wherever possible.

2.1.2.2 Evidence and Narcotic Searches

When a K9 is used in a Narcotic or Evidence search role, it will act like an officer, using the /g or /me commands to clarify where strikes may occur.

I.e *Handler escorts K-9 to vehicle*

K-9: /g sniffs round vehicle for narcotics/evidence

Suspect: Item in trunk

K-9 Roleplays striking on trunk

K-9s within our department are trained to detect Narcotics, gunpowder residue, cadavers, large amounts of currency and explosives residue, as well as being able to track or locate a certain sample scent.

In this process, a K-9 is employed to provide probable cause for a physical search. This is done by the handler escorting the K-9 around the vehicle. If the K-9 strikes on a trained substance, it will sit at the strike location. This is then used as justification for a search of the vehicle.

2.1.2.3 Area Search

In response to a Search and Rescue or tracking call, the K-9 team should report to the commanding officer onscene. There should then be a handover to include:

- Severity of crime (if a criminal is involved)
- Armed status (if applicable)
- Environmental considerations

Once a safe operation zone is ensured, an item of clothing or an item that will provide a scent for tracking should be obtained. Once a scent is tracked, the K-9 handler should alert RTO to the commencing search. At all times, visual contact should be maintained with the K-9 wherever possible. If this is lost the K-9 should be recalled.

If this is an escaped suspect, a scent can be acquired from their vehicle seat. If this a SAR, it is legally acceptable to break into the missing persons vehicle to obtain a scent for the K-9.

The following should be considered:

- A scent cannot be tracked across water
- Strong scents may throw a K-9 off a trail
- The level of detail provided by the suspect will dictate the effectiveness of the trace.
- Distance of the trace may influence your K-9s ability to continue a trace. The trace may also dissipate over time.

In some situations, K-9 teams may have to undertake cadaver searches to locate human remains. K-9s are trained to detect this and will be conducted on a long leash.

2.2 Additional Assistance

K-9 may be employed alongside other subdivisions:

- Search and Rescue
- Detectives Unit
- SWAT

2.2.1 Search and Rescue

Our K-9 team may be called upon to work alongside SAR units, in this situation we would follow normal search guidelines, however we would be at the disposal of the SAR team lead.

2.2.2 Detectives Unit

We may be called upon to assist the LSSD Detectives unit (Run by Nabil J.) in the undertaking of warrants, such as search or arrest warrants. For warrants, follow normal protocols but in close coordination with detectives.

2.2.3 SWAT

K-9 may be deployed alongside either Alpha, Bravo and Delta teams

2.2.3.1 Alpha Team Integration

K-9 may be used in accordance with the Alpha team by either deployment to search buildings (as per our operations) or to quickly subdue a subject (as per use of force policy).

2.2.3.2 Bravo Team Integration

K-9 may be employed to locate explosive residue, either primary or secondary devices in a set area. This would be down to the discretion of the Bravo team leader.

2.2.3.3 Delta Team Integration

Due to Delta teams aggressive nature, K-9 may be asked to deploy alongside them to quickly overpower suspects.

2.3 Use of Force Policy

K-9 Handlers are responsible for the actions of their K-9 counterparts, as they are in control of their orders. K-9 handlers are also held to the LSSD's use of force policy regarding his personal firearms. However the employment of a K-9 introduces new factors regarding use of force. K-9s can be used in both a lethal and non lethal stance.

2.3.1 Non Lethal Interdiction

K-9 teams can be used as a non lethal form of intimidation, discouraging individuals from violence due to the possibility of being bitten by a K-9.

This may be done through physical presence, verbal warnings or the use of barking to provide an external influence to suspect actions.

2.3.1 Physical and Lethal Force

In some situations K-9s may use force. This should occur only when a clear threat is presented to the safety of the public, officers or the suspect themselves, or the suspect has resisted arrest and is non compliant to verbal warnings. This would be undertaken by the K-9 biting the suspect on an extremity to temporarily disable them. In some situations it may be sanctioned for a K-9 to employ lethal force, where the suspect exerts extreme force towards the K-9, officers or other individuals.

2.4 Pursuit Policy

K-9 Teams may be employed to assist in the detention of subjects whilst they are resisting arrest. In regard to our use of force policy, K-9s may use physical force to stop fleeing subjects if previously verbal force has been unsuccessful.

2.4.1 Vehicular Pursuit Policy

Whilst in pursuit, K-9 vehicles should not assume any position forward of tertiary in pursuit formation, unless they are the initiating officer. Keeping up a tertiary position in a K-9 vehicle may be difficult, therefore K-9s can follow a pursuit in the occasion where they may be required to assist.

3.0 Training and Structure

Below are the requirements and structures for the training and maintenance of our K-9 teams structure.

3.1 Training Protocols

3.1.1 K-9 Behaviour

As a K-9, you should behave well, and as a trained police dog. You should never speak in game, unless to make dog sounds. You should also be in the RTO channel, however your microphone should not be active, this can either be by muting yourself or having a push to talk active.

K-9s are unable to activate a panic button, but when their handler is down they will guard over them until help arrives.

3.1.2 K-9 Care

K-9s should be assigned a name by their handlers (either chosen by the handler or arranged pre-deployment). As a handler you should treat your partner as an actual dog, and regard tasks they cannot undertake. They should also be fed and hydrated, as well as exercised when not on call. If your K-9 is injured, you should treat it as soon as it is safe to do so, utilising the trauma kit in your vehicle.

3.1.3 Training

Officers who are accepted into the K-9 program will train alongside a K-9 partner. They will be trained in the following areas:

- Vehicle searches
- Building searches
- Tracking
- Subject Takedowns

K9 Officers should have a K9 Name for when they are running as a K9 or have an AI K9. This name must be approved by a supervisor and must be professional.

Officers will also be trained in command procedures. There are a number of primary commands, however officers are allowed to train K-9s other commands WITHIN REASON.

Command	Action
Heel	Calls the K-9 to the officers side. This should be the K-9s default position, and position when on a leash.
Hold	K-9 will remain in position
Sit	K-9 will sit in position
Go	The K-9 will target the indicated subject and detain them using force
Find it	The K-9 will search for a suspect scent, either for an item search or tracking.
Speak	The K-9 will bark

Trainees will be provided with a final assessment which employs at least one search aspect and one takedown aspect, graded by the training officer. They will then have to complete a “ride along”, where the assessor will be the K-9.

3.1.4 AI Dog and Commands

Within our server there is the possibility to employ an AI K9. To use this you must submit your Hex Key which is submitted to the dev team. This grants you access to the /k9 commands.

The list of commands is as follows:

/k9 spawn {retriever, shepherd}

/k9 delete

/k9 follow

/k9 stay
/k9 attack (You can also attack if you "Aim + Left Ctrl")
/k9 search {vehicle, player}
/k9 enter (Enters vehicle)
/k9 exit (Exits vehicle)

3.2 Uniform Structure

Officers should use /eup, go to LSSD -> LSSD K9 Uniform. Then equip our standard vest.

Supervisors and above can alter this slightly, as long as this is cleared with coordinator/assistant coordinator.

The K9 ped is also used, type into the spawn ped box: a_c_shepherd, then change the dogs harness (by pressing enter) to the sheriff skin. You are permitted to change the breed of your dog.

3.3 Vehicle Structure

The vehicles available to our K9 team are the 2019 Tahoe (tahoe19), 2013 Tahoe (tahoe13), Ram, GMC (gmc) and the 2016 Taurus (16taurusv). All officers can use the Tahoe and GMC, whereas the Taurus and Ram are reserved for supervisor staff and above.

Vehicles must have a lightbar (unless your rank in the main department is high enough to run slicktop).

3.4 Rank Structure

The rank structure within the K9 department is as follows:

- Probationary K-9 Handler (for 7 days after training has concluded)
- K-9 Handler
- K-9 Supervisor
- K-9 Assistant Coordinator
- K-9 Coordinator

3.4.1 Probationary Handlers

Probationary Handlers must undertake a 7 day probationary period before verification to the standard K9 Handler role.

This can be overruled by a supervisor assessment.

During this period the probationary handler cannot act as a K9 or use the AI K9. This is to allow the K9, who is experienced, to assist the probationary handler where required.

4.0 Internal Documentation

The following sections include documents required for administrative tasks within the department.

4.1 Admission Criteria and Procedures

Perspective officers must be active, show professionalism and an ability to control a situation adequately. They must fill out the application form and be approved by the coordinator and assistant coordinator.

4.2 Promotion/ Demotion

Handlers will be promoted on a monthly basis based on activity and professional conduct. This may be delayed if the handler has an internal investigation regarding their conduct as a K-9 handler.

If there are a number of issues regarding the conduct of an officer they may face demotion. This would be down to the discretion of the supervising staff.

4.3 Internal Review Procedure/Disciplinary Actions

In the event of a claim against a K-9 team for a misuse of force or a breach of procedure/guidelines.

If this occurs, the highest ranking officer on scene will assess whether or not the action was justified or not. If it is found to be unjustified, thus should be referred onto K-9 staff for assessment.

Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, warnings, suspensions, retraining, demotions or dismissal from the K-9 unit.

Any neglect or maltreatment towards your K9 will result in immediate termination.