

# PIERCE COUNTY METRO CANINE UNIT AGREEMENT

The Metro Canine Unit was formed out of a recognized need to better serve local law enforcement agencies within the Pierce County area through a cooperative, collaborative effort to canine response and service. The Metro Canine Unit is currently made up of representatives from the Tacoma Police Department, Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Puyallup Police Department, Lakewood Police Department, Fife Police Department, and Bonney Lake Police Department. Any agency in Pierce County wishing to add a Canine team may do so at any time by signing on to this agreement.

## **Metro K-9 Mission:**

The mission of the Metro Canine Unit is to provide field officers with the assistance of a trained canine unit team as rapidly as possible. The field officer must be able to rely on obtaining a canine team of like quality at any given time, from any responding Metro Team. Therefore, canine teams involved in the Metro Agreement will receive analogous training under the guidance of the Metro Trainers. The trainers must have a rating of Master Trainer, as defined by the Washington State Police Canine Association.

## **Metro Canine Oversight Committee:**

The Metro Canine Oversight Committee shall consist of command representatives from participating agencies who provide a recognized Canine Team. The Metro Canine Oversight Committee will provide inter-agency contact at the command level and deal with administrative and policy issues beyond the scope of the Management Committee (described below). It is anticipated that this committee will deal with overall policy issues affecting metro's participating members and not necessarily involve itself with everyday operational matters.

The Metro Canine Oversight Committee will meet at least quarterly to discuss issues related to the Metro Canine Agreement and to discuss other administrative and operational matters as necessary.

The Oversight Committee will elect a Chairman to serve a term of one year beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.

## **Metro Canine Management Committee:**

The Metro Canine Management Committee shall be made up of the participating canine team's immediate supervisor and the Metro Trainers.

The Metro Canine Management Committee's duties are to act as a guide for the Metro Canine Trainers, and to oversee the daily activities and coordination between the participating metro agencies. The Metro Canine Management Committee shall also review for acceptance each participating agency's written canine policy and operating procedures to insure that they are in compliance with the current police canine application standards.

The Metro Canine Management Committee shall meet once a month. This meeting may be in conjunction with the Metro Canine Meeting.

**Metro Trainers:**

Metro trainers shall be recognized Master Trainers with the Washington State Police Canine Association, and shall be a full time assignment.

There will be two Metro trainers who will equally share and be responsible for Generalist and Detection training.

The shared duties of Generalist Training include:

- Provide updated and continuing training on civil aspects, and ramifications of police canine use. (Generalist discipline)
- Provide a written evaluation on any team member when requested to do so by that team's supervisor or the Metro Management/ Oversight Committee.
- Keep records of training provided to each team.
- Notify a suspended team's supervisor within twenty-four hours of the suspension; the reason, and what course of action the trainers feel will best bring that team into compliance.
- Provide a current updated call-out roster to LESA dispatch.
- Review Log Books of Metro team members.
- Provide monthly training reviews to unit supervisors and Oversight Committee members.

The shared duties of Detection Training include:

- Provide updated and continuing training on civil aspects, and ramifications of police canine use. (Detection discipline)
- Keep records of training provided to each team.
- Insure that each team has a refreshed first-aid kit and schedule first-aid training.
- Provide monthly training reviews to unit supervisors and Oversight Committee members.

Other Collective Duties of the two Metro Trainers Include:

- Should any Metro team (handler or canine) be unable to meet the performance standards set forth by the Washington State Police Canine Association or this agreement, the Master Trainers have the authority to suspend that team from this Metro agreement. Both trainers must agree on the suspension. If an agreement cannot be reached, the decision will be made by the Metro Canine Management Committee.
- While a Metro team may pass the WSPCA standard, the Master trainers still have the authority to suspend a team from this Metro Agreement for performance issues that, in their expert opinion, create a liability in deployment of that team. Particular attention will be paid to incidents involving failure to release/recall, re-bite, or inappropriate contact.

- Both trainers must be in agreement to re-instate a suspended team (the team must clearly meet the standards).
- Both trainers must be in agreement in the permanent de-certification of a canine team (involuntary status).
- Both trainers shall be notified of any inappropriate incident (i.e. failure to release/recall, re-bite, or inappropriate contact) concerning a Metro team application. The trainers shall review and make recommendations to the team's supervisor.
- Both trainers are responsible for selecting training sites that maximize the performance levels of the teams. It is the intent of this agreement that the training sites will rotate among the participating agencies. The trainers shall insure that these sites are secure after training exercises.
- Both Trainers are responsible for organizing the monthly Metro Training meetings to include the training topic and scenarios. The Master Trainers will publish to both the management and oversight committees the training schedule in advance on a quarterly basis.
- Both trainers shall be present to conduct the performance tests on all Metro teams. Two scheduled and one unannounced test will be done annually. The trainers will provide a written report documenting the results of the tests to the Management and Oversight Committees.
- Provide training in both generalist and Detection work.

**Metro Canine Team Duties:**

- The duties and responsibilities of each Metro Canine team includes but are not limited to:
- Meeting the requirements of WAC 139.50.020 and the Requirements of Training for Police Dog Handler, as it is now or as may be modified in the future.
- They must meet the performance standards set forth by the WSPCA for Generalist, Detector, or Master Protection team. Demonstrate 4 times annually their ability to meet the standards set forth in this agreement.
- It shall be the responsibility of the responding agency metro team to secure approval from the requesting agency's field supervisor prior to deployment.
- Attend at least one of the training seminars offered yearly by the WSPCA, unless excused by their supervisor.
- Sign in and out of service with dispatch.
- Carry an approved communication device for metro canine related call-outs.
- Contact the Metro trainers at least once a week for Generalist or Detection training, and at least once a month be observed by both trainers.
- Attend the monthly Metro Canine Meeting, and if unable to attend, notify the trainer and/or the Metro Team's immediate supervisor regarding the absence. An attendance roster will be kept and will be retained by the Master Trainer.
- Immediately inform the Canine Management Team Member of his/her department and Metro Trainer of any inappropriate contact or unusual circumstances involving the behavior of the canine.

### **Metro Canine Deployment Criteria:**

- At a minimum, prior to the application of a police canine, all Metro handlers shall insure that an arrestable offense has been committed. Some exceptions may apply, and in those special circumstances, it is the duty of the handler to consult with a supervisor.
- The handler's determination to deploy the canine shall be based on the standard of reasonableness, weighing the safety of the public against the immediate need to apprehend. Handlers may initiate deployment when, in the handler's reasonable judgment, an offender presents an imminent threat to the community or police officers, and the crime or circumstances necessitate immediate apprehension.
- The final decision to apply a police canine to a specific police operation shall remain with the handler, provided that the handler must keep in mind the canine capabilities and the reasonable and probable results of such use. The canine shall not be applied against the direction of the supervisor in charge. The handler may refuse to apply their canine at any time.
- Any scene supervisor and/or handler shall have the right and duty to cease a canine deployment based on any facts obtained after the deployment has been initiated which would alter the original reason for the deployment.

### **Metro Canine Call:**

- A metro canine call is defined as a request for the assistance of a metro canine team by a police agency within Pierce County that may or may not have its own canine team.
- The police agency requesting assistance shall use its own on-duty team first, prior to requesting metro assistance, unless circumstances such as distance from call dictate otherwise.
- Metro calls for agencies who either do not have a canine team or do not have a canine team on duty shall be given to the closest available on-duty team

### **Metro Canine Call-Out:**

- A Metro Call-Out shall be defined as a request for a canine response when no Metro Canine Team is on duty and the response necessitates that a canine team be "called out" beyond their regular duty hours.
- A Call-Out request shall be requested through LESA Communications. LESA Communications shall maintain a current Metro Canine roster and map of available canine teams and will contact the closest Metro Canine Team for a response.
- Each metro team's department shall bear fiscal responsibility for all costs incurred in maintaining their team (s), and for all costs associated with call-outs to participating members with active canine teams.

**Incidental Contact:**

In the event a K-9 makes an incidental contact, the handler involved will notify the on scene supervisor, their unit supervisor, and a Metro Master Trainer. Both Master Trainers will review the incident as soon as possible, collaborate, and make any recommendations. If the incident involved a non metro agency the unit supervisor will notify the Chair of the Metro Oversight Committee.

**Liability and Indemnification:**

When any metro canine team responds to a call for canine service for any agency, the requesting agency agrees by its request that the team will be acting under the direction and control of the requesting agency and agrees to assume liability under RCW 10.93.040 Liability for Exercise of Authority. In signing this agreement, the requesting agency agrees hereby to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the responding Metro Canine Team to include but not be limited to: reasonable attorney's fees for any responding Metro Canine Team and from any and all claims, demands, damages, lawsuits, liabilities, losses, liens, expenses, and costs arising out of the K-9 call-out and/or application.

The responding metro team will act in accordance with the written policies, procedures, and guidelines set forth within the Metro Canine Agreement.

**The following municipalities** (cities, towns, or states) and their designated law enforcement agencies agree to abide by the Metro Canine Agreement when requesting assistance from a metro canine team. Use of a metro canine team does not void any other contract or provisions requirement payment for certain police services.

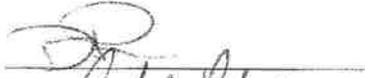
**Length of Agreement:** This agreement shall be reviewed and updated every two years by the oversight committee.

AGENCIES PARTICIPATING WITH CANINE TEAMS

AGENCY

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE

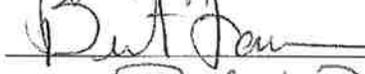
Bonney Lake P.D.



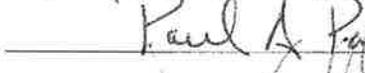
Fife P.D.



Lakewood P.D.



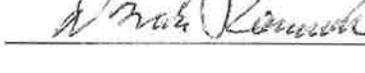
Pierce County S.D.



Puyallup P.D.



Tacoma P.D.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

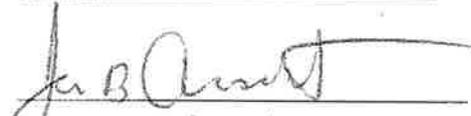
\_\_\_\_\_

AGENCIES PARTICIPATING WITHOUT CANINE TEAMS

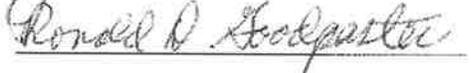
AGENCY

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE

Buckley P.D.



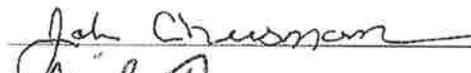
Dupont P.D.



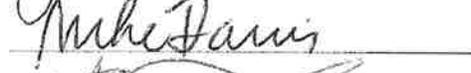
Eatonville P.D.

\_\_\_\_\_

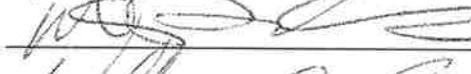
Firecrest P.D.



Gig Harbor P.D.



Milton P.D.



Orting P.D.



Roy P.D.

\_\_\_\_\_

Ruston P.D.



Steilacoom D.P.S.



Sumner P.D.

