

CORRECTIONS SEARCH DOGS

POLICY NO. S7

ACT CORRECTIVE SERVICES



ACT
Government

Justice and Community Safety

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1 PURPOSE

This policy outlines the management of Corrections Search Dogs in ACT correctional centres.

ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) is committed to ensuring that prohibited things are prevented from entering a correctional centre and to detecting any prohibited things that may be within a correctional centre in order to maintain a safe and secure environment for detainees, staff and visitors.

ACTCS is committed to upholding the human rights of staff, visitors and detainees. ACTCS staff acting under this policy will give due consideration to human rights, including but not limited to:

- the right not to be subjected to torture or treated or punished in a cruel, inhuman or degrading way
- the right to privacy and reputation
- the right to be treated with humanity and respect, and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.

2 SCOPE

This policy applies to all ACT correctional centres.

Where required, the Assistant Commissioner Custodial Operations may establish operating procedures under this policy.

3 DEFINITIONS

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Canine Handler | Correctional Officer who has completed an accredited Canine Detection Dog course who is assigned to the ACTCS Canine Unit |
| Canine Team | A canine handler and their assigned canine |
| Corrections Search Dog | Dogs, as defined in the <i>Corrections Management Act 2007</i> , trained in detection of contraband, obedience and searching property and persons. |

4 PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 ACTCS is committed to ensuring all searches of a person are the least intrusive kind of search that is reasonable and necessary in the circumstances and conducted in the least intrusive way, taking the human rights of a person into consideration.
- 4.2 Corrections Search Dogs are permitted to search:
 - a. areas
 - b. cells
 - c. property
 - d. mail
 - e. vehicle
 - f. any person at a correctional centre (including detainees, visitors and staff).
- 4.3 Searches will be conducted in accordance with this policy, the Searching Policy and relevant searching procedures.

5 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 The Senior Director Operations is responsible for:
 - a. the provision of appropriate facilities and equipment for the Canine Unit
 - b. approving the acquisition, retirement and disposal of canines as recommended by the Canine Supervisor
 - c. the selection and training of all canine teams
 - d. determining if canine teams are to be deployed in, or committed to, operational duties outside of their designated post in the Canine Unit.
- 5.2 The Canine Supervisor is responsible for:
 - a. coordinating the acquisition, retirement and disposal of canines with approval from the Senior Director Operations in accordance with the Acquiring and Disposing of Canines Operating Procedure.
 - b. managing the Canine Unit
 - c. responding to requests for attendance of canine teams within the correctional centre
 - d. record keeping for the Canine Unit in accordance with section 7.
- 5.3 The Canine Handler is responsible for:
 - a. overall responsibility for their assigned Corrections Search Dog in accordance with relevant policies and procedures, including:

- i. safety and appropriate management (including kennelling and transportation)
 - ii. care and maintenance
 - iii. maintaining physical appearance and standards
 - iv. medical care and treatment
 - b. the confirmation of any indications, in accordance with the Corrections Search Dogs Procedure
 - c. considering all available information when conducting their duties (e.g., intelligence received, behaviour changes in the canine, etc.)
 - d. maintaining required standards of proficiency for their assigned canine through required training
 - e. completing an Incident Report Form if a canine injures any person as well as a RISKMAN report
 - f. reporting any 'near miss' injuries to the Canine Supervisor and CO3 Operations
 - g. reporting to the Canine Supervisor if the canine escapes.
- 5.4 Correctional Officers are responsible for referring to canine teams by their appropriate code (i.e., Delta followed by the canine team's assigned number), rather than names or the term 'canine,' in order to not compromise the security and integrity of canine search operations.

6 TRAINING

- 6.1 All canine teams must successfully complete an approved canine training program before undertaking duties.
- 6.2 All canine teams must undertake training in accordance with the Management of Canines Operating Procedure.

7 RECORD KEEPING AND ACCREDITATION

- 7.1 The Canine Supervisor must maintain a daily log of Canine Unit operation and a register of searches. The register of searches must be provided to the Investigating Officer and Security Data Coordinator.
- 7.2 The Canine Supervisor will keep a register of all operational canines with details relating to:
 - a. name and sex

- b. vet reports
 - c. microchip details
 - d. checklist for housing canines
 - e. contracts procurement for canines and related equipment.
- 7.3 All Corrections Search Dogs are subject to an annual validation process from an independent assessor who will conduct validation of proficiencies of the canine teams and confirm operational readiness.
- 7.4 The Canine Handler will maintain record keeping of canine proficiencies and the annual accreditation outcome.
- 7.5 The Canine Supervisor must maintain a quarterly operation assessment of all canine teams.

8 CANINE REVIEW

- 8.1 The Canine Unit will be included as a regular agenda item at the monthly security committee. The security committee will consider all matters involving the Canine Unit, including:
 - a. incident reports
 - b. any complaints relating to canines
 - c. operational functions of the Canine Unit
 - d. training needs.

9 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Searching Policy
- Incidents Policy
- Prohibited Things Declaration
- Controlled Items Policy
- Corrections Search Dogs Operating Procedure
- Management of Canines Operating Procedure
- Acquiring and Disposing of Canines Operating Procedure



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ACT Corrective Services
20 March 2024

Document details

| Criteria | Details |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Document title: | <i>Corrections Search Dogs Policy 2024</i> |
| Document owner/approver: | Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services |
| Date effective: | The day after the notification date |
| Review date: | Three years after the notification date |
| Compliance with law: | This policy reflects the requirements of the <i>Corrections Management (Policy Framework) Policy 2020</i> |
| Responsible officer: | Senior Director Operations |

| Version Control | | | |
|-----------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| Version no. | Date | Description | Author |
| V1 | March 24 | First draft issued | H Cheney |