A. Policy

The deployment of a Lakewood Police K-9 by its handler in the performance of his
duties may, depending upon the circumstances, be considered a use of force.
When Lakewood Police K-9s are utilized to neutralize an assault, overcome
resistance of suspects or arrestees in the defense of police personnel or another
person, or to locate and apprehend a suspect attempting to elude capture, the use
of force policy shall apply.

B. Procedure

1. General

   a. Lakewood police K-9 handlers are authorized a take-home marked police
      unit. The unit is to be used for trips to and from work, K-9 training, trips
to the veterinarian, and other job-related activities that have been
approved by their supervisor. The K-9 agents are responsible for the
condition and maintenance of the vehicle for which they have been
assigned.

   b. A Lakewood Police K-9 team shall consist of a trained K-9 handler and a
certified police K-9.

   c. Department personnel are encouraged to request assistance of a K-9
      Team in the following circumstances:

      (1) Building searches.

      (2) Tracking suspects.

      (3) Open seeks (clearing of open areas).

      (4) Evidence searches.

      (5) Lost persons (limited application: see Rule 6).

      (6) Crowd control (limited application: see Rule 5).

   d. Department personnel may request the assistance of a K-9 Team via
Communications Section, subject to review by a sworn supervisor.

   e. Other agencies may request the assistance of a Lakewood K-9 Team.
The request must be approved by a Lakewood Patrol Division Sector
Commander.

   f. Arrests made or evidence located as a result of the K-9 Team assisting
shall be considered to have been accomplished by the requesting agent.
g. K-9 handlers shall be responsible, subject to supervisory review, for determining whether a situation justifies the use of a K-9 as well as the appropriate tactical measures that should be taken.

2. Drug detection

a. The K-9 program may include or support K-9 teams with specialized training and certification in Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Detection.

b. K-9 Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Detection teams may be assigned to the Patrol or Investigation Divisions.

c. All K-9 related training and certification shall be coordinated through the Patrol Division Special Teams Commander.

d. Call-out procedures for K-9 are the same as those for any K-9 Team with one exception: the Narcotic Team sergeant may also authorize the call-out of a Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Detection Team.

e. "Warm-up" narcotics and dangerous drugs are maintained by handlers who are assigned to K-9 Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Detection Teams in accordance with Property Control Unit procedures.

(1) All warm-up drugs shall be sealed in PVC tubing and stored in a secure, and locked location when they are not in actual use.

(2) The Narcotics Team sergeant and Patrol Team sergeant may conduct random checks on warm-up drugs to verify their condition.

3. Assignment restrictions

a. Selection of personnel shall be in accordance with department procedures on transfer and rotation of police agents but with the additional requirement that the agent selected must formally agree:

(1) To forego promotional consideration or transfer for at least 2 years after completing basic K-9 training.

(2) To board his animal under conditions, and at a compensation rate, specified by the City.

4. Administrative records
a. Each K-9 handler shall maintain a K-9 working manual, which shall include a daily log and other detailed information. Patrol sergeants shall inspect K-9 manuals. Monthly reports shall be forwarded to the Sector Commander and Patrol Division commander. Each handler shall also complete a K-9 daily field activity report (K-9 DFAR).

5. K-9 bites

a. When a K-9 is deployed in a tactical situation that results in a suspect being bitten, the handler shall:

   (1) Obtain or arrange for medical attention for the suspect.

   (2) Notify an on-duty sworn supervisor.

   (3) In the event of a serious bite or when deemed appropriate by the on-scene supervisor a commander shall be notified.

   (4) The bite memorandum and all other necessary reports shall be completed for submission to an on-duty sworn supervisor for review and then forwarded through the chain of command to the Patrol Division Chief via Special Teams Commander.

6. Training

a. K-9s shall undergo initial training of up to 14 weeks. Thereafter routine maintenance training shall be conducted as determined by the K-9 lead trainer.

b. Certification shall require successful completion of a formal performance test administered by a qualified and independent K-9 trainer.

C. Rule

1. Personnel shall not pet a department K-9 without permission of the assigned handler.

2. Under no circumstance shall an employee tease or harass a K-9.

3. Employees shall follow the directions of the handler or the supervisor when a K-9 is being used.

4. Except in emergency circumstances or with prior approval of the handler, personnel other than K-9 handlers shall not give a command to a K-9.

5. Lakewood Police K-9s shall not be used to control a crowd except when it is necessary to prevent death or injury to a citizen or to prevent an assault on a police agent.
6. Lakewood Police K-9s shall not be used to search for lost or suicidal persons except when, in the judgment of a handler or a supervisor, there are grave extenuating circumstances surrounding the disappearance, for example:

a. Evidence of foul play.

b. Reason to believe grievous harm will be suffered by the lost or suicidal person if he is not located.

7. Lakewood Police K-9's shall not be deployed off-leash to apprehend persons except when the K-9 handler has probable cause to believe that one of the following circumstances is present:

a. The suspect is actively resisting arrest;

b. The K-9 is being assaulted;

c. A person is attempting to evade arrest by flight, who is suspected of a felony or of a misdemeanor when the misdemeanor offense involves an act or threatened act of violence; or

d. To prevent any person from assaulting the K-9 handler, another police agent, or citizen.

8. K-9 handlers may conduct on-leash searches to locate a suspect when there is probable cause to believe that the suspect committed a misdemeanor offense and is attempting to evade arrest by flight.

9. When determining whether to deploy a canine, the K-9 handler shall consider the following three criteria:

a. The severity of the crime involved;

b. Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of police or citizens; and

c. Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to escape from apprehension.

10. When practical, an audible canine warning shall be given before the beginning of an off-leash search.

11. Only K-9 handlers actually assigned to K-9 Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Detection Teams shall be authorized to maintain and utilize warm-up narcotics and dangerous drugs.

12. No handler not assigned to K-9 Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Detection Team shall have in his possession an amount of any individual warm-up narcotic or dangerous drug greater than 14 grams or more than 28.35 grams of marijuana.