

CONNEAUT SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

219 West School Drive
Linesville, Pennsylvania 16424

PHONE (814)683-5900 - FAX (814)683-4127

SUPERINTENDENT'S REGULATION: 226

July 14, 2010

TITLE: Police K-9 Usage on School Premises

A narcotic detector dog is trained to use discrimination abilities to detect the odor of several specific controlled substances. Use of a narcotic detector dog by a police officer for the purpose of detecting odor of narcotics, except in very limited circumstances is legally considered to be a search.

A search by a narcotics detector dog on school property is a sensitive issue which requires carefully consideration and deliberate efforts to ensure that misconceptions, misunderstandings, and unrealistic or false expectations concerning canine capabilities are avoided. The following procedures for use of a K-9 team on school premises have been established with these goals in mind.

1. Requests for a narcotic detector dog search must be from the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and/or the principal of the school for which the detector dog is requested. Such requests should be made in writing to the Crawford County K-9 Representative 24 to 48 hours prior to the need for a search, but in emergent circumstances, may be made by a telephone call to the representative and the advance notice period may be waived. School administrators shall document in writing the reasons for making a narcotic detector dog search, and this information shall be provided to the Superintendent as soon as practicable.
2. Arrival time of the handler/canine teams on school premise will be coordinated by the requesting school administrator and the Crawford County K-9 Representative.
3. The principal of the school to be searched must be advised of the search before it begins.
4. The Superintendent or the Assistant Superintendent, and the principal of the school being searched, and/or another District administrator must accompany each K-9 team during the search.
5. The local law enforcement agency with primary jurisdiction of the school facility subject to the search must be contacted prior to the search. A police officer from that agency must be on the premises during the search.
6. Students must remain in classrooms or other designated areas during the search.
7. Searches may not be conducted in the presence of the media.
8. An indication or alert by a narcotic detector dog or a suspicion revealed by a handler does not establish the existence of illegal activity. However, an indication or alert shall give

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school officials reasonable suspicion to conduct a search. In the event of an indication or alert at a particular student locker, school officials shall have reasonable suspicion to search the locker, as well as the lockers located next to that locker on each side.

9. K-9 teams will not handle student property or open school or student enclosures such as desks, lockers, etc., nor will they handle suspect substances, contraband, or other evidence. School officials conducting the search shall confiscate any suspected substances, contraband or other evidence and deliver the same to the local law enforcement agency with primary jurisdiction, making certain to establish a chain of custody.
10. Any arrests that are necessary as a result of a search shall be effectuated by the law enforcement agency with primary jurisdiction.

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