



Police Dogs Policy

1.0 Policy Statement

- 1.1 British Transport Police (BTP) will employ the use of dogs for general purpose duties, the detection of explosives, weapons, ammunition and narcotics.
- 1.2 The Superintendent Counter Terrorism based at the Counter Terrorist Support Unit (CTSU), FHQ will have overall Operational command of the Explosive Search Dog (ESD) section (CTSU).
- 1.3 Each Area Commander will have the operational command for the Dog Handlers based on their area.
- 1.4 The ESD Inspector based at the CTSU, FHQ will have day to day operational responsibility of the ESD section. They have a secondary remit to advise on all BTP matters and policies in relation to Police dogs and associated operational matters.
- 1.5 The dogs are the property of the Force.
- 1.6 Each handler is responsible for the health, fitness and effectiveness of their dog.
- 1.7 While the dog is still operational, Areas will pay for any vets fees that arise as well as any kennel fees arising when a dog handler is on annual leave.
- 1.8 Dog Bites – Officers will follow the associated standard operating procedures and the [Force Claims Handling procedures](#) as a minimum standard.



1.9 Officers should be aware of, and follow, the guidance in the associated ACPO document.

1.10 Officers should be aware of the Stop and Search Policy in terms of interaction with the public.

2.0 Overview

2.1 This policy replaces the previous policy document reference D55045.

2.2 This Policy applies to all BTP Officers and Staff involved in the handling of police dogs.

2.3 This Policy applies in England, Wales and Scotland.

3.0 Applicable Date and Review

3.1 It is effective from 18th June 2007.

3.2 This policy will be reviewed by 18th June 2009.

4.0 Ownership

4.1 This policy is sponsored by ACC Ops.

4.2 Any queries regarding this policy should be directed to the ESD Inspector at the CTSU, FHQ.

5.0 Associated Documents

5.1 Operational Deployment of Police Dogs SOP

5.2 Police Dog Bite Incidents SOP



- 5.3 Guidance on Use of BTP Police Dogs at Religious Premises
- 5.4 [ACPO Police Dog Training and Care Manual](#)
- 5.5 [BTP Stop and Search Policy](#)
- 5.6 [Force Insurance & Claims Handling Manual](#)