

DAVIS POLICE DEPARTMENT
Specialized Assignments
K-9 Officer

Duties of K-9 Officer

Under the supervision of a Patrol Sergeant, K-9 Officers will perform all patrol related functions as directed by their supervisor. In addition to the standard police functions, K-9 officers will be required to provide for the proper direct care of the canine on and off-duty. They are responsible for the actions of their assigned dog at all times. They must assist with the initial and in-service training as directed by policy.

K-9 officers may be required to work varying shifts, days, and times, including weekends, holidays, and special events. Additionally, they should be willing to work with frequent call-backs.

K-9 officers serve at the pleasure of the Police Chief.

Duration of Assignment

K-9 officer assignments are generally for the useable work-life of the K-9.

Minimum Requirements

1. Off-probation with at least 3 years of patrol experience.
2. Must be able to lift and carry the weight of the average police service dog as well as surmount routinely encountered obstacles.
3. Must have above average safety and attendance record for the past twelve months.
4. Must have a suitable place to house the canine and be willing to care for the animal until expiration.
5. Must have no sustained complaints within the past twelve months.
6. Received acceptable or better employee evaluations during the last 2 rating periods prior to selection.
7. Ability to attend and pass a police service dog trainers course from a professional training center which has been approved by the Police Chief.
8. Demonstrated history of proactive enforcement with the ability to work independently and with limited to no supervision.
9. Demonstrated proficiency in report writing and record keeping.

Application Process

Upon notice of vacancy, qualified officers may submit a letter of interest to Professional Standards, which includes; time in law enforcement, previous specialty assignments, a statement that they meet the minimum requirements for the position, and any special knowledge or skills possessed which should be considered.

Selection will then be made using the following process:

1. A selection committee will convene to evaluate candidates who apply for the position.
2. Selection committee members will include; the Patrol Commander, a current or past handler and the Deputy Chief. Committee members may interview qualified candidates for this position.
3. Committee members will minimally use the following criteria as a guide in determining the most appropriate candidate:
 - Personal and professional qualifications.
 - Performance evaluations.
 - Disciplinary history.
 - Special skills relevant to the position sought.
 - Length of service in present position.
 - Prior specialized experience.
4. The committee will recommend one person to the Police Chief, or their designee, for selection. The Police Chief, or their designee, may select the recommended candidate or not. If the recommended candidate is not selected, the committee will make a second recommendation from the list of remaining candidates. This process may be repeated until a candidate is selected for appointment.

Position Training

Professional Organizations

1. Western States K-9 Association
2. North American Police Work Dog Association
3. California K-9 Narcotics Association

Required prior to assignment

1. POST Basic Certificate
2. Basic K-9 Handler's course

Recommended prior to assignment

1. K-9 Agitator's Course

Recommended during assignment

1. K-9 Tracking Course
2. K-9 Narcotics Detection Course
3. K-9 Liability Conference