Policing Professional Profile

Dog Handler

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| Command Group:  | Operational Support  |
| Level:  | Service Deliverer  |
| Vetting Clearance:  | CTC |

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| Role Purpose  |
| Provide proactive and reactive assistance in support of all operational officers and specialist departments by appropriate use of police dogs; to locate and retrieve evidence or offenders, to control potential and actual disturbances, and to enhance officer and public safety.  |

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| Principal Responsibilities  |
| To provide a highly visible uniformed presence within communities to reduce crime and disorder and increase the sense of safety amongst the public. In particular, to* Deploy a police dog to pursue, detain or track a suspect or to restrain persons who would otherwise cause harm to themselves or others.
* Provide an effective support capability to search buildings, vehicles and open spaces for evidence, in accordance with legislation and policy
* Provide an effective support capability to quarter and search buildings, vehicles and open spaces or to track persons, in accordance with legislation and policy.
* Maintain the performance of dogs and develop them for their role in the organisation, by correctly prepare the dog for work, ensuring the effective handling and controlling of the dog in a way that maintains its safety, control and efficiency.
* Give clear and meaningful commands to the dog at the appropriate time and monitor the dog's performance by its response to commands and take the appropriate action if the dog does not respond correctly.
* Encourage the dog to perform to the best of its ability and offer the appropriate reward and praise.
* Care for the dog on a full-time basis, providing a standard of care in accordance with legislation and policy with demonstrable commitment to sharing your family life with a police dog.
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| National Key Accountabilities  |
| * Respond promptly to requests for a police dog, supplying professional expertise and tactical advice and operational support to front line officers.
* Conduct searches using general purpose or specialist dogs in support of local officers; to expedite the location of missing persons and the arrest of offenders; and to support local officers in their investigations and responses to incidents.
* Support the containment of dangerous dogs out of control including inter-familial dog attacks and cases on private property, to protect public safety.
* Conduct directed patrols in response to local priorities and in support of divisional and area officers, to detect and prevent crime.
* Support front line Officers in the capture and control of dogs on premises to enable a safe working environment when conducting search warrants or interventions into premises.
* Provide a source of specialist advice to operational policing units on the deployment of dogs, to contribute to the development of appropriate strategies and tactical plans in support of front-line initiatives.
* Promote and deliver educational talks and displays to colleagues and members of the public; to acquaint them with the roles and skills of police dogs, and to support the development of positive relationships between the police and public.
* Undertake the proper care, training and handling of general purpose and specialist police dogs; to ensure the health, wellbeing and operational effectiveness of the dog(s).
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| Behaviours  |
| All roles are expected to know, understand and act within the ethics and values of the Police Service.  The Competency and Values Framework (CVF) has six competencies that are clustered into three groups. Under each competency are three levels that show what behaviours will look like in practice.  It is suggested that this role should be operating or working towards the following levels:   |
| Resolute, compassionate and committed   |
| We are emotionally aware   | Level 1  |
| We take ownership  | Level 1  |
| Inclusive, enabling and visionary leadership   |
| We collaborate  | Level 1  |
| We support and inspire  | Level 1  |
| Intelligent, creative and informed policing   |
| We analyse critically   | Level 1  |
| We are innovative and open-minded   | Level 1  |

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| Essential experience and specialist skills and knowledge  |
| * Describe the priorities of a dog handler in the working environment
* Explain your understanding of living with a police dog

Applicants who pass the assessment process and are successful in obtaining a role within the Alliance Dogs Team may be required, depending on operational, to take on additional roles or skills within the team on top of handling a General Purpose Dog.  These additional roles range from Dog Legislation officer, Drugs/Cash/Firearms Search Dog handler, Explosives Search Dog Handler, Digital Search Dog Handler, Firearms Support Dog Handler, Victim Recovery Dog Handler and Passive Drugs Dog Handler. |

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| Education, Qualifications, Skills, and Experience  |
| Prior education and experience: * Completed initial training and passed probation period.
* Meet Force specific fitness requirements for role.

Skills: * Good team working skills demonstrating awareness of individual differences, and a proactive approach to relationship development with colleagues and stakeholders.
* Good communication skills with the ability to set out logical arguments clearly, adapting language, form and message to meet the needs of different people and audiences in diverse situations.
* Able to produce concise reports or other documents.
* Demonstrable experience of using effective communication skills with members of the public, particularly in confrontational situations.
* Problem solving skills with the ability to identify cause and effect and develop a course of action designed to target root causes as well mitigate effects.
* Able to identify, analyse, and manage risk to inform balanced, proportionate, evidenced-based decisions.
* Good time management skills with the ability to organise and prioritise.
* Able to use standard IT packages, systems and/or databases to fulfil role requirements.
* Able to review own performance objectively and take steps to make improvements.

In Force Role Specific Training:* General purpose police dog handler training

In addition, it may be appropriate in some cases for officers to be trained in one or more of the following skills, depending on their existing skill set.* Off road 4x4 / On road 4x4
* Van authorised driver
* Socap recovery authorised
* Pursuit/HOSTYDS (code 83) trained
* Out of vehicle officer safety trained.
* Taser trained or prepared to undergo the training
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| Continuing Professional Development (CPD)  |
| * Maintain and update key knowledge, understanding and skills relating to legislation policy and practice in relation to the Dog Handler function and area of policing operational responsibility.
* Maintain knowledge and understanding of new approaches identified by evidence based policing research relating to the Dog Handler function, including problem solving and team working, and synthesise these into working practice(s).
* Maintain a working knowledge and understanding of new and evolving crime threats and priorities that impact upon the role of Dog Handling teams; and current best practice to tackle these in order to enable a pro-active and preventative approach.
* Complete all annual and mandatory training including for example, fitness tests, personal safety training, first aid, and protecting information.
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| Professional Registration/Licences  |
| * NPCC General Purpose Licence
* NPCC Licence for specialist dogs
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| Links to other profiles: |
|  Sergeant Dog Handler  |