

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK POLICE SERVICES BOARD

Report of the Executive Director – February 27, 2008

Board Policy on Canine Units

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board adopt the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Service's sample Board policy on Canine Units.

BACKGROUND

On January 28, 2008, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services released a Guideline for Canine Units (ER-010) and a sample board policy for inclusion in the Ministry's Policing Standards Manual. In developing its guideline, the Ministry consulted key stakeholders, including representatives from the canine units of selected police services, amongst whom were Members of York Regional Police.

The Ministry advises that it developed this guideline because of "the growth in the number of canine units in Ontario, the potential for increased litigation surrounding the use of police canines and to promote consistency and best practices across the province on the training and use of police services canine units."

The Executive Director reviewed the Ministry's sample board policy governing canine units and consulted with the Office of the Chief of Police regarding the York Regional Police Canine Unit and its general procedures. Given the operational nature of this policy, the Executive Director suggests that the Board adopt this policy without amendment.

YORK REGIONAL POLICE CANINE UNIT

The York Regional Police Canine Unit consists of 10 operational police service dog teams and provides specialized support to front-line officers and investigative units. Police service dogs are trained to provide support in tracking, building and area searches, evidence searches and criminal apprehension. Cross-trained police service dogs may be used in the detection of narcotics, cadavers and explosives.

SUMMARY

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services has released a Guideline for Canine Units, including a sample board policy. The Executive Director has reviewed the Ministry's policy and recommends that the Board adopt it without amendment.

Connie Phillipson
Executive Director