

## **12.5 Canine Operations**

Members of the Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit may be assigned either to the Operations Bureau or the Security Bureau in any capacity for which they are trained (e.g., explosive ordinance, firearms, drug detection, tracking, patrol, & apprehension). They may also be deployed to provide support to other local law enforcement agencies upon request for special initiatives.

### **12.5.1 Canines and Canine Handlers**

Only personnel specifically experienced in handling law enforcement canines are permitted to handle or control these animals. Canines acquired by the Office are considered Office property. A *handler* has a fiduciary duty to care for the animal in accordance with accepted standards, and to maintain his/her competency in this specialty, as well as that of the canine. A K-9 team will attend periodic refresher and advanced training as is necessary to maintain proficiency in current skills and to acquire new ones. The Office will furnish a handler with adequate materials required for the daily care, transport, and use of the canine.