



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

APPLICABILITY
PRISON
FACILITY/SPANISH MANUAL

REVISION DATE
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POLICY

TITLE
SEARCHES BY CANINES

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Reviewed only. No changes made.

APPROVED:

Signature on file

CHERYL STRANGE, Secretary
Department of Corrections

5/17/23
Date Signed

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p>POLICY</p>	APPLICABILITY PRISON FACILITY/SPANISH MANUAL		
	REVISION DATE 1/12/22	PAGE NUMBER 2 of 4	NUMBER DOC 420.360
	TITLE SEARCHES BY CANINES		

REFERENCES:

DOC 100.100 is hereby incorporated into this policy; [RCW 69.50](#); [WAC 137-36-020](#); [WAC 139-05-915](#); DOC 420.280 Canine Teams (RESTRICTED); DOC 420.320 Searches of Facilities; DOC 420.330 Searches of Vehicles (RESTRICTED); DOC 420.340 Searching and Detaining Facility Visitors; DOC 420.375 Contraband and Evidence Handling (RESTRICTED)

POLICY:

- I. Handler-controlled canine searches of persons, buildings, vehicles, and property under Department control may be conducted to minimize the introduction of contraband and enhance the security and safety of everyone.

DIRECTIVE:

- I. Canine Searches
 - A. Canine teams will provide canine resources to Department facilities/offices that do not maintain canine teams per DOC 420.280 Canine Teams (RESTRICTED).
 - B. Canines may not be used to search an individual during strip or body cavity searches.
 - C. The Superintendent will designate the employees who have authority to assign the canine team to search details.
 - D. The security of the search is of the utmost importance. All information concerning the search will be confidential and communicated on a need to know basis so incarcerated individuals are not alerted.
 - E. When possible and practical, cell searches will be done with another employee present.
 - F. The canine handler will direct the search and maintain control of the canine at all times.
 1. Appropriate care will be taken to ensure the canine's safety and the safety of persons and property being searched.
 2. The canine handler will observe the canine for any alert while conducting a search.
 - G. The canine handler will promptly submit DOC 21-917 Incident Report and forward copies to the area supervisor and the canine team supervisor if any damage occurs or is alleged to have occurred during the search.

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p>POLICY</p>	APPLICABILITY PRISON FACILITY/SPANISH MANUAL		
	REVISION DATE 1/12/22	PAGE NUMBER 3 of 4	NUMBER DOC 420.360
	TITLE SEARCHES BY CANINES		

II. Building Searches

- A. Immediately before a planned search, the area supervisor may be requested to assist in coordinating movement and supervision if incarcerated individuals are expected to be present during the search. Incarcerated individuals in a search area may not observe a canine search of housing, work, or activity areas.
- B. Before a search begins, the following actions will occur:
 1. All windows will be shut,
 2. Ventilation fans, heaters, etc. will be turned off if possible and practical,
 3. Lockers will be unlocked when possible, and/or
 4. Electrical appliances, except computers, will be unplugged and the cord put with the appliance to keep the canine from getting tangled.

III. Vehicles

- A. A narcotic detection canine may be used for searching vehicles per DOC 420.330 Searches of Vehicles (RESTRICTED).
- B. During a canine assisted search of a vehicle, occupants will be instructed to follow the directions of the canine handler.
- C. The canine handler will notify the Shift Commander of any alert and/or contraband found in or on a vehicle.

IV. Personal Search

- A. Only trained and certified handlers and canines will be authorized to perform personal searches.
- B. DOC 420.340 Searching and Detaining Facility Visitors will be followed when a canine alerts on a visitor.
- C. The canine handler will submit DOC 21-917 Incident Report if the canine displays aggressive tendencies or makes aggressive, physical contact with any person.

V. Contraband Processing and Documentation

- A. Confiscated contraband/unauthorized property will be documented and processed per DOC 420.375 Contraband and Evidence Handling (RESTRICTED) by the employee assisting in the search.
 1. The chain of evidence must be maintained on all contraband.

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p>POLICY</p>	APPLICABILITY PRISON FACILITY/SPANISH MANUAL		
	REVISION DATE 1/12/22	PAGE NUMBER 4 of 4	NUMBER DOC 420.360
	TITLE SEARCHES BY CANINES		

2. The canine handler will:
 - a. Confiscate and process any narcotics and/or drug paraphernalia found, and
 - b. Initiate any narcotics and/or related paraphernalia violations.
 3. Local law enforcement will be notified of misdemeanor/felony violations through the chain of command.
- B. Upon completion of a search, the canine handler will relay relevant information to the unit/area supervisor and/or Investigator and will complete all reports pertaining to the search.
 - C. If any item(s) is confiscated during a canine search, the searching employee must complete DOC 05-384 Search Report per DOC 420.320 Searches of Facilities.

DEFINITIONS:

Words/terms appearing in this policy may be defined in the glossary section of the Policy Manual.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

DOC FORMS:

DOC 05-384 Search Report
 DOC 21-917 Incident Report