

Corrections Canine Teams

The South Dakota Department of Corrections (DOC) utilizes canine teams to help provide a safe environment for staff, offenders and the public by conducting controlled searches of individuals, buildings and property under control of the DOC. Canine teams enhance the security of DOC institutions through the detection of contraband.

All canine teams are certified in accordance with the requirements of state law and administrative rule.

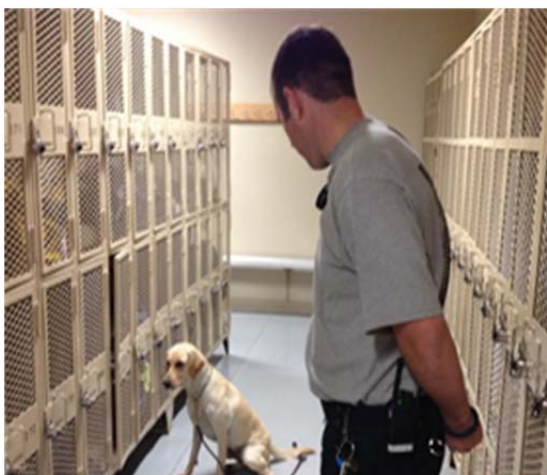
A corrections canine team consists of a corrections service canine and a DOC staff member assigned as the canine's exclusive handler.

The team maintains a high state of readiness in order to provide services for all DOC units.

The Director of Security is responsible for the daily operation and administration of the teams. The Officer in Charge of the Corrections Canine Team has a title of Canine Commander and is under the supervision of the Director of Security. The Canine Commander is required to have completed all required training, demonstrated proficiency in the performance of assigned duties, and completed certification as a canine handler at the time of their assignment.



A quality training program for certification has been established to prepare the teams to meet the challenges of missions they receive. Potential corrections service canines and canine handlers participate in an 8-week training course.



Corrections Canine Teams are not used in DOC institutions for standing posts or for inmate transports/escorts, unless an emergency situation requires approval of the warden.

Canines are not used to search an inmate during a strip search.

Appropriate care is taken to ensure the canine's safety and safety of all inmates being searched.



Confiscated contraband or unauthorized property is documented and processed. Law enforcement is contacted as deemed appropriate when illegal contraband is located.