



St. Thomas Police Service

BOARD POLICY

Subject:	Canine Unit
Policy Number:	ER-010
Effective Date:	April 1, 2024
Reviewed:	April 22, 2026
Authorized:	Police Services Board

AUTHORITY/LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

- *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1*
- *Ontario Regulation 392/23 – Adequate and Effective Policing (General)*

POLICY STATEMENT

The St. Thomas Police Services Board (the “Board”) is committed to ensuring that specialized policing resources are available to support public safety and effective law enforcement. A canine unit provides valuable operational capabilities in locating suspects, searching for missing persons, tracking individuals, locating evidence, and assisting with high-risk situations.

POLICY APPLICATION

1. It is the policy of the Board with respect to the services of canine tracking that:
 - a. the Board will ensure that the Service provides canine unit services either through its own members or through agreements or arrangements with one or more police services capable of providing canine unit services;
 - b. the services will be available on a 24-hour basis within a reasonable response time;
 - c. the Chief of Police shall, in consultation with assisting police services where applicable:
 - i. establish procedures that set out the circumstances in which the canine unit will be deployed, including the process for obtaining those services and the reporting relationships;
 - ii. establish procedures for the deployment of other emergency response services, including receiving assistance from other agencies;
 - iii. develop and maintain a manual governing canine services available to members providing this service;
 - iv. ensure that members performing the functions of a canine team have the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform the functions assigned;
 - v. ensure ongoing training and certification of members providing canine services; and
 - vi. ensure that all equipment listed under “canine units” in Schedule 1 – Required Equipment and Other Resources of Ontario Regulation 392/23 is available to members performing these functions.