

# PROCEDURE – Dangerous Dogs and Dog Control Measures

**Number: I 0217**

**Date Published: 26 June 2020**

Version 5 – June 2020

## 1.0 Summary of Changes

This procedure has been updated as follows:

- Changed number from I 0211 and title expanded;
- Incorporated I 0212 Procedure – Fatal and Serious Dog Attacks;
- Revised to streamline and aide understanding;
- Reference to introduction of an Acceptable Behaviour Agreement;
- Reference to the seizing/kennelling and release of dogs;
- OIC / attending officers' responsibilities;
- Removal of other area (e.g., police dogs) that are now contained within separate policies;
- Inclusion of an Interim Exemption Process.

## 2.0 What this Procedure is about

Essex Police considers it vital to have a professional and consistent approach to dealing with incidents involving Dangerous Dog reports.

The procedure is designed to provide clear direction regarding these incidents by outlining the legislation, processes, and the mechanisms in place to provide expertise and support to officers attending these incidents.

Essex Police:

- Will ensure that our response to incidents involving dangerous dogs is lawful, proportionate and consistent;
- Will make best use of existing legislation to maximise investigative opportunities;
- Will ensure specially trained officers, equipment and advice are available to maximise the safety of our staff and to ensure a professional approach is taken in incidents involving dogs;
- Will ensure due consideration is given to the welfare of any animals under our control;
- Will adopt a developmental 'Learning the Lessons' approach, allowing for continual learning and maintaining of high standards;
- Will ensure Essex Police are NCRS compliant regarding retaining relevant information.

The objectives of this procedure are to:

- Minimise the risk to the public of Essex;
- Maximise the safety of Essex Police officers and staff;
- Maximise the number of offences/crimes solved regarding dog related incidents and bring those responsible to justice by reducing opportunities for criminal use;
- Reduce the number of incidents of antisocial behaviour involving dogs;

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- Maintain a victim-orientated approach to any dog related incidents and comply with the Victims Code of Practice;
- Reduce kennelling costs for Essex Police without compromising public safety
- Maintain confidence in Essex Police.

***Compliance with this procedure and any governing policy is mandatory.***

### 3.0 Detail the Procedure

#### 3.1 Relevant Legislation

- **Section 1 Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 as amended 1997**

Where defined in law as being of a breed or breed type classified as dangerous. These are currently defined as: Pit Bull Terrier (or type) Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, and Japanese Tosa;

Note: It is illegal to possess, breed, sell, 'gift' or re-home a Section 1 dog.

- **Section 2 Dogs Act 1871**

Covers other circumstances not amounting to an offence under S3 DDA but an incident or concern has been raised regarding irresponsible dog ownership:

- A 'complaint' can be made to a Magistrates' Court by police, local authority or by an individual member of the public;
- It is the role of police to assist the public in these investigations by gathering evidence, despite these being civil matters.

If the Magistrate feels the complaint is justified, an order comprising of conditions requiring the owner to keep the dog under proper control can be issued or in extreme cases the Magistrate can order for the dog to be destroyed.

- **Section 3 Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 as amended 1997**

Dog dangerously out of control in a public or private place.

*'Dangerously out of control'* means when there are grounds for reasonable apprehension that the dog will injure any person, **whether or not it does**. This is regardless of whether the dog is on or off its lead.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1) as amended by Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 Section 10 provides that attacks on assistance dogs are a specific offence. The procedure to deal with attacks on assistance dogs is detailed under paragraph 3.3.

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Any attack on an assistance dog would make the Section 3 offence an aggravated one.

Where an incident involving a dangerous dog results in media enquiries these should be directed to the Media Department at Headquarters.

- **Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**

Parts of the Act can be used to address and prevent anti-social behaviour with dogs and irresponsible dog ownership where situations do not meet the necessary thresholds for a complaint under section 2 of the Dogs Act 1871 or section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

Consultation with the local authority may result in the local authority issuing the dog owner with a Community Protection Notice. These have replaced Dog Control Orders. CPN's can contain a requirement to stop doing specified things, a requirement to do specified things or a requirement to take reasonable steps to achieve specified results.

- **The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953**

The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 provides powers for police, RSPCA or land/livestock owners, to prosecute owners of dogs that worry livestock on agriculture land:

- Worry, attack or chase livestock or in the case of being in a field of sheep, not on a lead or otherwise under close control;
- Livestock means cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses or poultry;
- Agricultural land means arable, meadow or grazing land used for such livestock.

The Act allows police seizure of a dog that is found on such agricultural land and has been worrying livestock, if no owner or person in charge of the dog is present. The purpose of such seizure is to ascertain who the owner of the dog is and obviously also prevent the dog from continuing to worry livestock.

As the dog is without an owner/person in charge at the material time, it can be treated as a stray dog, thereby being seized and kennelled by the Local Authority dog warden. If/when the owner comes forward the dog can be returned after reimbursement to the Local Authority for the cost of seizing and kennelling the dog. Their details can then be provided to police for any action deemed necessary under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953.

### **3.2 Process - Dealing with Dangerous Dog Incidents**

See the flowchart which will assist with this process, additionally, key roles and responsibilities are detailed below.

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### 3.2.1 Roles and Responsibilities

#### 3.2.1.1 Call Handling Personnel

Following a call into Force Control Room (FCR) concerning a dangerous or prohibited dog, Call Handlers will create a STORM incident recording as much detail as possible from the informant to allow for an appropriate THRIVE assessment to take place and appropriate allocation of a unit.

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been created to support the Call Handler and initial attending officer, outlining investigation considerations and who to notify for expert support. This will be used for all dangerous or banned dog incidents recorded on STORM.

The SOP can be accessed from the buttons underneath the main text of any incident.

Any incident involving an Assistance Dog (section 3.3) must be graded as a priority (or higher) due to the owner being vulnerable.

In the event a dog is seized, for security reasons, the location of kennels or kennel contractor details will not be shared with external parties.

When dogs are returned after seizure this should always be completed at a Police Station or location agreed by the approved Kennel Contractor.

#### 3.2.1.2 Local Police Team Responsibilities

Local Policing Teams (LPTs) are responsible for attending and investigating Dangerous Dog incidents and will maintain ownership for the investigation until its conclusion.

If the incident involves serious **injury to a child**, or there is suspicion **the dog was used as a weapon** and GBH level injuries have been caused, FCR will notify the Duty Detective Inspector who will take initial command of the incident and make a decision about ongoing ownership and investigation, in consultation with the LPA Duty Commander, or Force Duty Officer (FDO) if out of hours.

If the incident involves an **'Off Duty' Police Dog**, FCR will contact the Duty Dog Officer who will ensure the relevant commands are notified whilst also considering issues around dog seizure and subsequent investigation.

#### 3.2.1.3 Dangerous Dog Manager (DDM)

The DDM works within the Dog Section and is responsible for professionalising Essex Polices' response to Dangerous Dog Incidents.

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Working predominantly 'office hours', the DDM is responsible for reviewing all STORM incidents or Athena records involving dangerous dogs' offences, offering advice and guidance to OIC's around seizure and investigations, and ensuring the investigations are being progressed in a timely manner, particularly when dogs have been seized and are in kennels.

The DDM is responsible for managing the kennel contractors, arranging dog examinations, and officer training.

In court proceedings the DDM is expected to support liaison with CPS and defence solicitors and provide expert advice to aid investigating officers.

During a DDM review consideration will be given for any seized dog to be suitable for release under an 'Acceptable Behaviour Agreement' and instigate this release if appropriate. (This process is covered more in Section 3.9).

The DDM is responsible for performing a review within 72 hours for every new dog kennelled at police expense. The review will provide investigative oversight in the form of advice and guidance whilst reviewing the necessity to kennel the dog. Additional reviews will be performed every 7 days ensuring cases are being investigated expeditiously.

This close supervision of the cases, in consultation with the LPA Sgt, is designed to ensure cases are dealt with quickly and competently, thereby minimising stress to the dog(s) involved, providing an enhanced service to the victim and reducing the costs associated with kennels which is being paid for by Essex Police.

The DDM is responsible for passing any learning gained from investigations into the 'Learning the Lessons Board' for wider consultation and awareness and bringing 'Best Practise' and wider learning opportunities from the National Police Dog Board via representation at the Eastern Region quarterly meeting.

### **3.2.1.4 Dog Legislation officers (DLO)**

Dog Section Dog Legislation Officers (DLOs) are members of Dog Section with enhanced training. DLOs are supported by a number of LPA colleagues (SPOCs) who receive an enhanced level of training and offer advice in relation to procedures, prosecution case preparation and the obtaining of search warrants.

The DLO can assist on planned police operations to deal with any dogs which have contravened the Dangerous Dogs Act or are deemed to be dangerous. They can provide guidance and assistance in regard to containment, seizure and kennelling of such dogs.

DLOs work with the DDM and are responsible for examining all suspected Section 1 dogs, reporting back to the OIC with an evidential statement of their findings.

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In the absence of the DDM, responsibility will fall to another DLO to perform the quality assuring process usually carried out by the DDM.

In the absence of a DLO, the Dog Section 'Duty Officer' is available to provide advice and guidance in relation to dangerous dog offences, powers of seizure and will maintain contact with contracted secure kennel providers.

DLO's are responsible for entering investigatory information including Athena and STORM references onto a departmental database ensuring compliance with Data Protection.

### 3.2.1.5 Officer in the Case (OIC)

The OIC is responsible for creating an Athena record for both notifiable and non-notifiable offences and conducting the subsequent investigations.

Below are the **notifiable offences**:

- Owner / person in charge of dog dangerously out of control causing injury to a person (this includes circumstances where someone is bitten whilst trying to separate dogs that are fighting); -
- Owner / person in charge of dog dangerously out of control causing injury to assistance dog.

The below are **non-notifiable offences** but still require investigation:

- Owner/person in charge of a dog dangerously out of control – Section 3 (no injury);
- Dog has attacked another animal and no person present was in apprehension of being injured Section 2 (Dog on Dog offence);
- The OIC or attending officer(s) must also ensure that the dog is properly and lawfully seized (see section 3.3); with a record of seizure being made by booking the dog onto the property system. The OIC must then ensure the dog seizure details (including property reference) are sent to the Dog Legislation Officers at **prior to going off duty.**

If the dog(s) are not seized then the rational must be recorded on STORM and a PIR must be submitted on Athena to include:

- Description of the dog suspected;
- Full details of all persons present (including the identified owner if known at the time).

This information will allow the DLO's to review the circumstances and consider what, if any, further activity may be required.

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### **3.2.1.6 Investigatory Considerations**

- Completion of relevant statements and prosecution file if offences are identified;
- Ensure any notifiable offences alleged/reported are recorded correctly onto Athena in line with National Crime Recording Standards;
- Ensure that the victim is aware of who the investigating officer is and ensure full compliance with the Code of Practice for victims;
- Keep the owner of a seized dog updated at least every 28 days as per the Victim Care Contract.

Dangerous dog cases must be progressed in line with force case investigation standards and concluded at the earliest opportunity.

**The OIC retains responsibility for the case until any seized dog has been released from the kennels.**

### **3.3 Attacks on Assistance Dogs**

When notified of a crime relating to an attack on an assistance dog we will record the victim of the crime as 'vulnerable' in line with the Code of Practice for victims of crime. This will ensure victims receive an enhanced level of care in terms of contact and updates and that the investigation is tailored around the specific victim's needs.

The OIC must ensure that they give their name and contact details along with a crime or incident number to the victim.

The DDM will ensure a nominated DLO is assigned to every case involving an attack on an assistance dog to provide specialist guidance. These details will be recorded on the Athena record.

The OIC and line manager will be supported by the DDM and the DLO to ensure that the investigation is timely, effective, and maximises all opportunities to bring an offender to justice (where appropriate).

Attacks will be recorded as Hate Crimes when the victim or another person considers the incident to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on one or more characteristics. In such circumstances the investigating officer must ensure adherence to procedure B 1402 Procedure – Hate Crime.

A victim impact statement will always be taken so that the full impact on the victim can be assessed.

A Service Level Agreement (SLA regarding Assistance Dogs) has been created to ensure Essex Police delivers a consistent and supportive investigation to the most vulnerable in society. Officers must adhere to the SLA ensuring the investigation is tailored around the specific victim needs.

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### 3.4 Powers of Seizure

There are a number of different powers for seizure which may be available, a DLO or the DDM can offer advice to attending officers about the best ones to utilise. For the purposes of this policy the keys powers are contained below.

#### 3.4.1 Section 5 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Section 5(1) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 provides powers for police or local authority to seize (without a warrant) a dog being investigated under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 if:

- It is a Section 1 dog (breed/type) in a **public place**
- Or**
- Any dog appears to be dangerously out of control **at the time** (public or private)

Under the Dangerous Dogs Act there are no specific powers of seizure. A warrant under Section 5(2) is likely to be required.

If officers are lawfully on premises, powers may be available under Section 19 PACE;

*“A constable may seize anything which is on the premises if he has reasonable grounds for believing-*

- a) That it is evidence in relation to an offence which he is investigating or any other offence; **and***
- b) that it is necessary to seize it on order to prevent it being concealed, lost, damaged, altered or destroyed*

**There are no grounds for seizure if the investigation is under Section 2 Dogs Act 1871.**

If the dog is an Essex Police Dog, powers of seizure are not relevant because the ‘owner’ is Essex Police. If an allegation is made that a police dog is dangerously out of control, the duty dog officer will be contacted to consider requiring the dog to be returned to Sandon dog kennels and have its operational license removed to allow for an investigation to take place.

### 3.5 Dealing with a Dangerous Dog

The justification for seizing any dog needs to address concerns around threats to public safety and preservation of evidence, balanced against potential kennelling costs, veterinary fees and reputational damage to Essex Police by taking action or through inaction.



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If the decision is taken to make a seizure, this can be undertaken by Police, Local Authority Dog Wardens, RSPCA or Kennel Contractor (on behalf of Essex Police).

Once the decision has been made that a dog requires seizing, the OIC must contact the Dog Section Duty Officer (details with FCR), who will consider the best available options for seizure and if required, make the necessary arrangements to 'call out' a kennel contractor. Details of the kennel contractor **must not** be placed on the STORM incident.

Officers should not attempt to control a Dangerous Dog without specialist help unless there is an ECHR Article 2 (serious threat to life) that needs urgent resolution and there isn't the time to get the specialist resources to the scene.

### 3.6 Dog Control Measures

Essex Police have a variety of equipment designed to assist with protecting officers from Dangerous Dogs these are:

- Animal Control Shield;
- Bite Back Spray;
- Dog Control Pole.

Police officers receive an awareness input on Bite Back and the Animal Control Shield at mandatory DSI refresher training ensuring consistency throughout the force.

#### 3.6.1 Animal Control Shield

The Animal Control Shield is specifically designed to assist controlling dangerous/aggressive dogs. The shields handles and controls are ergonomically designed to give maximum operator safety and protection. An instant-stop safety lanyard is inserted into a Control Box with the electrical circuit producing high frequency sound, a high-voltage 50,000 Volt low-amp shock which is highly effective and ozone off the spark, all designed to deter rather than force physical contact.

##### 3.6.1.1 Deployment

Where dog unit officers or trained PSU officers are deployed in relation to dealing with dangerous dogs, they will be deployed as a minimum of two handlers /officers. This should become the best practice for officers attending such incidents, scene assessment may dictate an increase, as will forced building entries etc. This will be managed by a Dog Sergeant or Duty Dog officer.

Officers not trained and not in possession of protective equipment / clothing should not attempt to deal with any situation that poses a realistic threat to their personal safety. A dogs' demeanour or attitude can change extremely quickly for reasons that are not always obvious.

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### 3.6.1.2 Authorisation

Before authorising deployment, the dog unit supervisor or duty dog officer must be satisfied that:

“there is sufficient intelligence and information justifying grounds to suspect that there is a dangerous dog /animal and that the dog/animal poses a significant risk to injury to police officers or the public, and it is necessary to use the electric shield in order to control and negate the risk“.

### 3.6.1.3 Use

- The animal control shield should be used in conjunction with other appropriate dog catching / controlling equipment such as dog poles, safety gauntlets, dog deterrent spray and muzzles by trained staff competent in its use;
- Under no circumstances will the shield be used on humans whilst dealing with the dangerous animal or be used in public disorder situations for the control of persons or prisoners;
- As the shield presents a threat to the public and police officers extreme care must be taken when using the item and the 'live' electric sheets on the front of the shield must not be touched;
- The safety cable/immobiliser device must be firmly attached to the user when using the shield;
- When not being used the immobiliser device will be disconnected from the shield;
- The shield will be stored in a secure place/store;
- Consideration will be given to using the shield in damp/misty weather conditions as this may prevent arcing or cause the shield to malfunction;
- The shield will not be used in the presence of water or near to water;
- Health and Safety issues arising out of the use of the shield will be reported immediately to a Dog Sergeant or Duty Dog officer;
- Only trained officers will use the shield and will be classed as authorised to use the equipment;
- Before deploying the shield, the user will provide a health and safety briefing for accompanying untrained persons utilising body worn video to record the briefing;
- Any accompanying persons will remain behind the user at all times until the identified dangerous dog has been dealt with and the shield has been deactivated;
- The user will hold the shield with both hands and only arm the shield when actually required to be so armed;
- The shield will be deactivated as soon as the requirement for its use has ceased and/or the dog is subdued or restrained by other means;
- When not in immediate possession of the allocated user the shield will be kept and transported in its protective cover. It will be returned to its secure store at the earliest opportunity.

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### 3.7 Dog Deterrent Spray

'Bite Back' dog deterrent spray is a safety measure made from oil of cloves, peppermint oil and alcohol propelled by butane (flammable). It has been assessed to only contain food/feedstuff and therefore poses minimal risk to humans and canines alike. The spray is legal to carry and does not fall under section 5 (1) (b) of the Firearms Act. The spray is formulated with natural oils so not deemed to be noxious.

#### 3.7.1 Use

- Dog deterrent spray should be used in conjunction with other appropriate dog catching/controlling equipment such as dog control poles, safety gauntlets, animal control shield and muzzles by trained staff competent in its use;
- When sprayed directly in the face of a dog the spray will cause discomfort, confusion and distraction for a short period of time;
- The spray will not adversely affect humans;
- The spray **will not** remove all risk from dog attack;
- The spray can be used by any Essex Police employee provided they have been given the instructions for use and safety information;
- Should not be used in conjunction with either CS Incapacitant, the animal control shield or TASER as the spray contains a flammable accelerant and may ignite if used together.

#### 3.7.2 Operating Instructions

- Be prepared – make sure you know where the can is and that you can reach it easily;
- Stay calm;
- Direct the spray nozzle straight at the attacking dog's muzzle;
- When the dog is within 3-5 metres press the nozzle for as long as is necessary ensuring a 'haze' of the contents is between you and the dog, ideally at the head height of the dog;
- On entering the 'haze' the dog will become disorientated and distracted and quickly withdraw;
- Repeat use as necessary until the attacking dog withdraw.

### 5.8 Dog Control Poles

Dog Control Poles come in a range of lengths, from 470mm to more than 1,500mm. They consist of a hollow pole through which a plastic-coated braided-steel lanyard is passed. This lanyard has a fixed loop that can be used for restraining an animal. The pole is a useful piece of equipment, especially when dealing with dangerous/aggressive dogs. The latest models have a locking system and a simple quick-release mechanism that can release the dog without the operator coming into contact with a potentially dangerous animal.

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### 3.8.1 Use

The dog control poles should be used in conjunction with other appropriate dog catching/controlling equipment such as the animal control shield, safety gauntlets, dog deterrent spray and muzzles by trained staff competent in its use.

Caution should be used when placing a pole around the dog's head to avoid injury as many un-socialised or nervous dogs struggle quite violently.

Many dogs bite the pole or the wire, causing injuries to their gums, tongue or mouth and there is considerable risk of causing a tracheal fracture.

Most importantly users should not overtighten the noose as they could strangle the dog.

#### 3.8.1.1 Advantages

- Dog is restrained and under control;
- User is able to control the dog from a safe distance

#### 3.8.1.2 Disadvantages

- Not all dogs accept a neck restraint and injury may be caused;
- Dogs that are moving are difficult to catch.

### 3.9 Acceptable Behaviour Agreements

Under certain circumstances Essex Police may consider releasing a seized dog from kennels under an 'Acceptable Behaviour Agreement' (ABA) prior to any court case.

The Dangerous Dog Manager (DDM) is responsible for applying for an ABA, completing the risk assessment and recommending suitable restrictions.

In the event the terms of the ABA are breached, the DDM will review the circumstances of the breach and consider any powers of seizure that may be relevant to return the dog to kennels. The DDM will then submit an MG11 on Athena detailing the circumstances around the breach for the court to consider if sentencing becomes relevant.

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Use of an ABA is designed to support the release of the dog back to the owner whilst also preventing further offences. An ABA will be designed on a case by case basis and may include requirements such as:

- the dog to be muzzled and kept on a lead in public;
- List locations that are 'banned' from exercising the dog (such as an area where the victim was bitten or is known to frequent);
- Any other requirement deemed suitable given the circumstances.

The ABA's are not enforceable and do not provide any additional powers of seizure if the agreement is broken. It is simply a way of allowing the owner to demonstrate to the court some responsibility and control of their dog prior to any court case, which might prove relevant for any sentencing or orders the court is considering to issue against the dog. An ABA will be only considered in cases where:

- No injury was caused;
- The injury is considered minor;
- The issuing of a destruction order is considered unlikely in the circumstances;
- It is considered likely the suspect will adhere to the terms of the agreement.

The victim's wishes must be sought and recorded as part of the decision making process.

An ABA **must not** be used if:

- The Dog is a designated breed covered by Section 1 Dangerous Dogs Act 1991;
- The CPS are applying for a destruction order against the dog;
- The victim was a child who lives at the same premises the dog would be released to;
- The dog is awaiting a behavioural examination;
- The owner has previously breached an ABA.

The use of an ABA can only be authorised by the Dog Section Inspector or a member of OPC Command Team. The authoriser will document their decision making rationale on the ABA form which the DDM will ensure is uploaded on Athena as part of the case file material.

If the dog in question is a Police Dog, any decision is the responsibility of the Assistance Chief Constable overseeing Operational Police Command.

When authorised, the DDM is responsible for the release of the dog to the owner, ensuring the terms of the ABA are explained to the owner and obtaining a signature of the owner confirming they agree to abide by the restrictions.

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### **3.10 Interim Exemption Scheme Conditions and Requirements**

These are orders that can be obtained under section 4b of the Dangerous Dogs Act, where the Dog Section Inspector deems it suitable to return a dog under investigation in appropriate circumstances and in line with legislation.

Where a DDM/DLO is satisfied that the dog is not a danger to public safety then it may be released to its owner once the following conditions have been met:

- The dog is neutered;
- The dog is microchipped;
- Third party insurance is in place;
- The person in interim charge confirms in writing that they understand the conditions, the continued requirements and the consequences of any failure to comply with the conditions or requirements.

Where the dog is released to the person in interim charge they must comply with the following additional requirements:

- To keep the dog at the same address as that person;
- To notify the police of any proposed change of address;
- To satisfy the police on request that a valid policy of third-party insurance is in force;
- To provide access to the dog for the purpose of reading the microchip on request;
- To keep the dog sufficiently secure conditions to prevent escape;
- To keep the dog muzzled and on a lead when in a public place;
- Any other requirements for the purpose of preventing the dog being a danger to public safety as considered by the Chief Officer of Police for the area in which the dog was seized.

Any dog not complying with the requirements of the order will be seized and remain with police until the conclusion of any court proceedings.

### **4.0 Equality Impact Assessment**

- EIA – *June 2020*

### **5.0 Risk Assessment**

Risks to organisation – all staff need to be made aware the procedure exists to ensure that incidents involving dangerous dogs are dealt with in accordance with the procedure. There is a risk if the procedure is not followed by all that the organisation could be subject of complaint.

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Risks to officers – officers need to be aware that protection of human life is paramount and of the safety equipment available to them. The welfare of the dog is also important. Consideration must be given to the aggression that may be shown by a dog through stress if an attempt is made to catch it.

## 6.0 Consultation

The following have been consulted during the formulation of this document:

- Unison
- Police Federation
- Health & Safety
- Strategic Change Team
- PSD Superintendent
- Policy/Risk
- Superintendents Association
- Strategic Force Crime & Incident Registrar
- Information Management
- Essex Police Dog Section
- OPC Command
- LPA Commanders
- FCR Chief Inspector
- Kent Police Dog Unit
- Beds, Cambs and Herts Dog Unit
- Support Networks
  - MESA
  - Disability Network
  - Women’s Leadership Development Forum
  - Work Life Balance
  - Christian Police Association

## 7.0 Monitoring and Review

This procedure will be reviewed every two years by, or on behalf of, the OPC Departmental Head.

## 8.0 Governing Force policy. Related Force policies or related procedures

- I 0200 Policy - Dogs & Policing
- I 0213 Procedure – Police Dogs Transport, Retirement, Exercise and Kennelling
- I 0214 Procedure – Police Dog Bites
- I 0215 Procedure – Handler Recruitment and Training
- I 0216 Procedure – Animal Welfare, Lost, Found, Strays and Detained Persons Dogs

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### **8.1 Data Security**

Essex Police have measures in place to protect the security of your data in accordance with our Information Management Policy – W 1000 Policy – Information Management.

### **8.2 Retention & Disposal of Records**

Essex Police will hold data in accordance with our Records Review, Retention & Disposal Policy – W 1012 Procedure/SOP - Records Review, Retention and Disposal.

We will only hold data for as long as necessary for the purposes for which we collected. Victims/public should be reminded that Essex Police take the protection of personal data seriously as described in the privacy notice <https://www.essex.police.uk/hyg/fpnessex/privacy-notice/>.

### **9.0 Other source documents, e.g. legislation, Authorised Professional Practice (APP), Force forms, partnership agreements (if applicable)**

- NPCC Guidance on Dealing with Dangerous Dogs 2016
- Kent policy document
- Metropolitan policy document
- Beds, Cambs and Herts policy document
- PNLD
- Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Dangerous Dogs Act 1991
- Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997
- National Assistance Act 1948
- The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- Flowchart
- Service Level Agreement (SLA) regarding Assistance Dogs
- EIA – *June 2020*

**Procedure Author:**

**Procedure Owner:**

**Cancellations:** I 0212 Procedure – Fatal and Serious Dog Attacks