



**Administrative Policies and Procedures: 27.29**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Use of Tracking Dogs</b>
<b>Authority:</b>	TCA 37-5-105, 37-5-106
<b>Standards:</b>	None
<b>Application:</b>	To All Department of Children's Services Youth Development Center Superintendents and Employees

**Policy Statement:**

Superintendents shall have the discretion whether to use and house tracking dogs at their facility. Superintendents have the responsibility to ensure that such dogs are treated as valuable working dogs.

**Purpose:**

To outline procedures for use of tracking dogs at YDC's.

**Procedures:**

**A. Written local procedures**

**1. Requirements**

Superintendents who choose to use tracking dogs at their facilities must develop local procedures that specify the circumstances under which tracking dogs are to be used.

**2. Contents of procedure**

Superintendents choosing to house dogs at their facility must include the following, at a minimum, in their written procedures:

- a) Adequate kennel that meets basic health standards
- b) Provisions for assuring dogs receive veterinary care and maintain immunizations recommended by the American Veterinary association and as required by state law.
- c) Responsibilities of dog handler; including provisions to ensure sufficient exercise to maintain dog's health and well-being.
- d) Training requirements for dog handler(s) and dogs.
- e) Identification of dogs as state property and documentation recording that ownership.
- f) Equipment to be used in conjunction with the canine unit.
- g) Replacement of dogs.

	h) Assistance to be given to other governmental agencies at the request of an authorized representative.
<b>B. Restrictions of use</b>	The use of tracking dogs for the purpose of harassment or intimidation is prohibited.

<b>Forms:</b>	None
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<b>Collateral documents:</b>	<i>None</i>
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