

SHERIFF OF GARFIELD COUNTY

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GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLICY / PROCEDURE PATROL

SUBJECT: DOG PROTECTION ACT

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 01, 2024

POLICY:

All POST certified Garfield County Sheriff's Office Deputies will receive the proper and required training to reduce the number of fatal and near fatal canine interactions in accordance with the Colorado Dog Protection Act of 2014.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide training that is standardized for all law enforcement officers with the intent of reducing the unnecessary death of a pet dog when involved in a law enforcement action. Further, it encourages Deputies to consider non-lethal methods of force when controlling or containing a canine.

METHOD:

All POST certified Deputies will receive a minimum of 3 hours of training by viewing the video produced by the Dog Protection Task Force. Deputies will be trained on the following:

- The identification and meaning of common canine behaviors and how to differentiate between dogs who are exhibiting aggressive behavior that puts law enforcement officers in imminent danger from dogs that are exhibiting other behaviors (protective, friendly, excessive barking, etc)
- Alternatives to lethal force against dogs
- What defines a reasonable opportunity for a dog owner to control or remove the dog from the area
- How to evaluate the totality of the circumstances and be able to safely and appropriately react to a situation involving a potential dog interaction

Upon completion of the course, a mandatory certificate of training will be provided.