



**WILLIAMSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**K-9 UNIT**

# Narcotics Detection

## Discipline 1:

A canine's sense of smell is anywhere from 10,000 to 100,000 times more acute than the average human. For example, when humans smell a cheeseburger, it smells like a cheeseburger. When a canine smells a cheeseburger, they can break down the odor to the ingredients used to make the ketchup. A canine's sense of smell is so sophisticated; they can detect narcotics in sealed plastic bags.

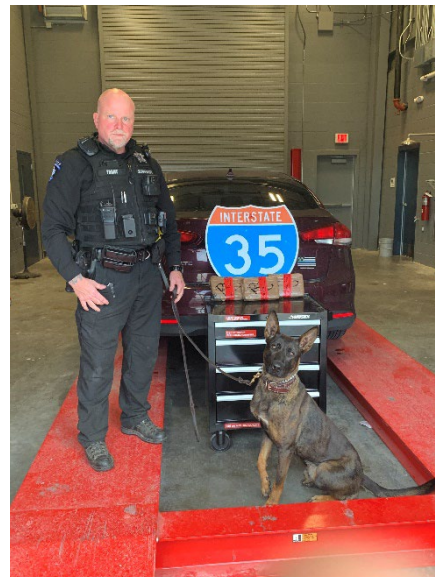
Canines are trained on a regular basis to alert to 4 narcotic odors to include:

Methamphetamine, Cocaine, MDMA, and Heroin

Due to safety concerns for our canine's, Williamson County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) K-9 Unit does not train on LSD or Fentanyl; however, these narcotic odors are recognized as a novelty odor to a canine, which is primarily associated with the odors of other narcotics. A canine will alert to these two narcotics as well.

On average, WCSO K-9 Unit accounts for \$5,000,000.00 to \$10,000,000.00 in seized narcotics every year.

Below are examples of street level seizures from gram levels of narcotics to kilogram levels seized by the WCSO K-9 Unit.

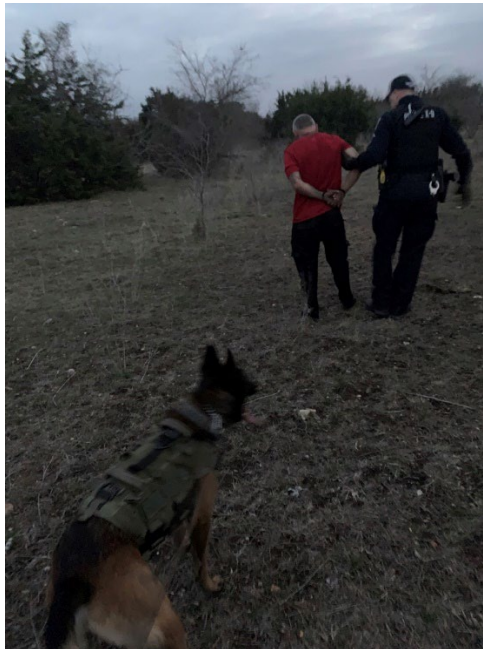


# Tracking

## **Discipline #2:**

Canines are frequently used to track missing and endangered people in search and rescue missions. Canines can track a person's scent from a last known location. Canines are also frequently used in the tracking of suspects or escaped criminals in the same manner. Canines can quickly lead teams and resources down the right path, preventing loss of valuable time and liability concerns. During a track of a suspect or a search and rescue mission every minute counts, so having this resource is invaluable to the citizens this organization serves.

Below is an example of a search/track conducted on a suspect who victimized citizens and businesses within the community and evaded law enforcement. Canines were utilized to locate the individual, reducing any further crime.



## Community Relations

It's quite common for the WCSO K-9 Unit to attend local community events. These highly trained and well-mannered dogs help bond community members with their local law enforcement agency.

Kids and families are more likely to approach and engage with a K9 handler and their partner than a patrol officer.

The WCSO K-9 Unit averages over 20 demonstrations and community engagement events in a calendar year.



## Evidence recovery

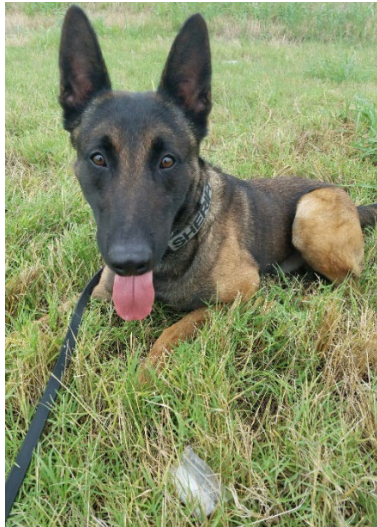
### **Discipline #3:**

Canines are highly valuable in evidence recovery. They are trained to alert to articles containing fresh human odor. Canines can locate articles discarded by suspects fleeing law enforcement, evidence left by a suspect of a crime, and even evidence thrown from a moving vehicle while travelling down a major roadway.



By a canine locating evidence, we can aid an investigation by ensuring accurate and concrete evidence can be presented against the accused. WCSO canines have located articles as large as firearms to an article as small as a wedding ring.

This is just another example of the many disciplines which each WCSO K-9 Unit receives extensive training. All six (6) WCSO canine teams are proficient in each discipline described in this overview.



## **Officer Safety and Suspect Apprehension**

### **Discipline #4:**

When it's needed, a canine can and will apprehend a suspect when warranted and is lawful. This can be incredibly beneficial when detaining a fleeing or non-compliant, **violent** offender or protecting an officer. However, this is a very small portion of a canine's overall role and apprehensions are a **last resort** when it comes to an arrest or confrontation.

All canine vehicles are equipped with a door release system and every handler carries a controller/remote to release the door if he is in danger.

This discipline requires special focus and training. Each canine team must develop a sense of trust for one another as well as respect. This discipline requires a handler to have an obedient canine.

Below is example of some training that goes into apprehension and handler protection.



## Overall View

This organization understands that a K-9 Unit isn't cheap. The cost for the canine, with initial training, can be as much as \$15,000. Additionally, there are more expenses after the canine is purchased. For example, specialized vehicles to properly transport the canine and maintain the canine in a safe environment, training, continuing education for the handler, certification(s) for handler and canine, training and deployment software, dog food, equipment for daily operations, home/shelter for canine, veterinary services, boarding, insurance, and much more.

The K-9/Handler Team requires a budget to operate and manage. Once a canine unit is established, law enforcement departments typically would not consider operating without this specialized unit. If managed and utilized properly a canine unit is one of the most valuable specialized units within its organization.

The WCSO K-9 Unit currently has six (6) dual purpose, nationally certified teams. The WCSO K-9 Unit has maintained the national certifying standards established by National Narcotic Detector Dog Association (NNDDA) for all disciplines.

The WCSO K-9 Unit has become a sought-out unit in the immediate region for training purposes. Numerous agencies within Williamson County, to include the United States Marshall's Task Force, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI) have grown to rely on the skills of the WCSO canines.

# Tracking/Deployment Software:

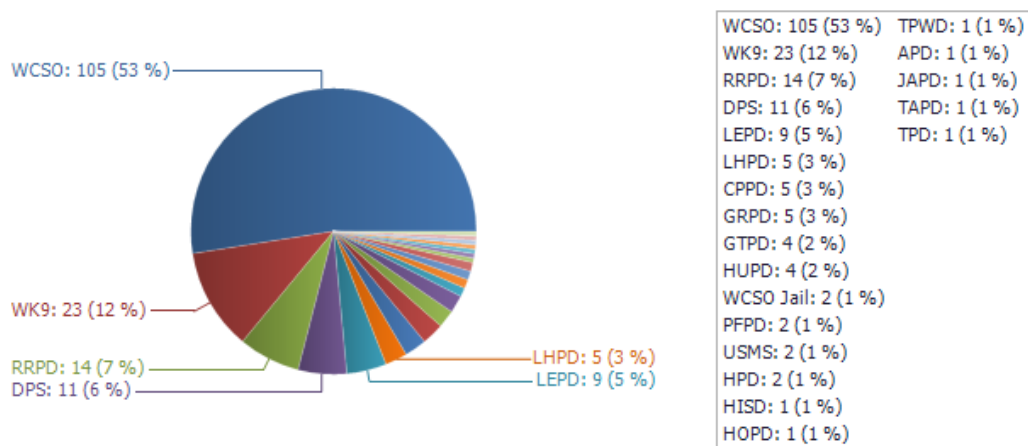
Below is data obtained from software currently utilized by the WCSO K-9 Unit. This indicates the training and deployment for the five (5) certified canine teams the WCSO had active for 2021.

## Deployment Summary

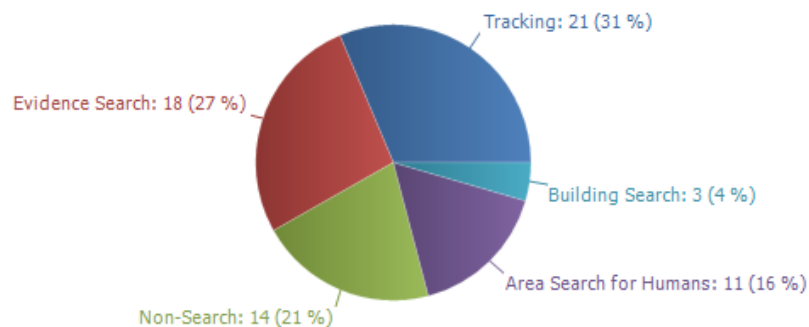
Group Report for 5 Handlers

January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

### Top 25 Requesting Agencies



### Patrol Types

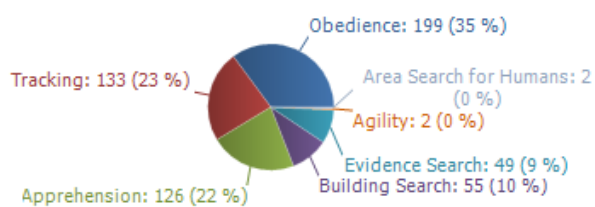


# Training Summary

Group Report for 5 Handlers  
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

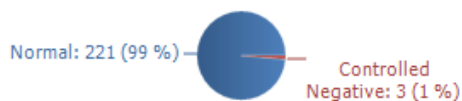
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## Patrol Exercise Types

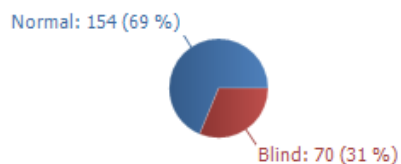


Obedience: 199 (35 %)
Tracking: 133 (23 %)
Apprehension: 126 (22 %)
Building Search: 55 (10 %)
Evidence Search: 49 (9 %)
Agility: 2 (0 %)
Area Search for Humans: 2 (0 %)
Other: 0 (0 %)

## Controlled Negative Detection Exercises



## Blind Detection Exercises



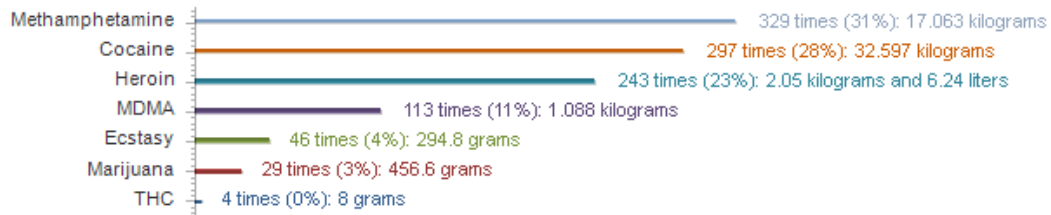


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## Drug Odors



### Packaging Around Drugs

Plastic: 904 (85%)	Canvas: 126 (11%)	Plastic Bag In Me...: 18 (1%)
Rubber: 4 (0%)	Glass Jar: 2 (0%)	Metal Scent Conta...: 2 (0%)
Canvas Bag: 2 (0%)	Metal Scent Box: 2 (0%)	N/A: 1 (0%)

## Proofing Odors

