

Implementing a K-9 Unit

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This paper examines a number of issues related to the implementation of K-9 units by local law enforcement agencies in Florida. The research approach included examination of agency materials and interviews with experts from three Florida law enforcement agencies, as well as review of pertinent publications. The topics addressed include: the purpose(s) of K-9 units; selection of dogs; maintenance of k-9 units; and civil liability issues.

The author concludes that the purchase of trained dogs is a better investment than accepting donated dogs, and that through careful planning and implementation, agencies can implement effective K-9 units successfully and minimize their civil liability.