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A police K-9 unit handler is a law enforcement official whose partner is a canine officer. A canine officer, called a K-9, is a dog specifically trained to assist police officers in the line of duty. K-9 officers are used to handle certain situations that a human officer can not do unassisted by a dog.

A K-9 officers duties may include;

- Apprehending a fleeing criminal
- Controlling a rowdy crowd
- Discriminating and detecting the scent of items such as firearms, arson, drug, or explosive paraphernalia
- Tracking missing or lost people
- Searching for lost or hidden articles or items
- Guarding police property such as police vehicles

Some police departments train their own K-9 Units, while others will purchase pre-trained dogs. The majority of K-9s will live in their handler's home as a pet when they are not on duty. K-9s are retired at a certain age and after certain circumstances (as with pregnancy or injury), and some departments will allow the retired dog to remain with the handler's family as a pet. Other departments will re-home the dog into a comfortable family situation outside of the handler's home.

Many law-enforcement organizations require a minimum of a bachelor's degree to be an officer or deputy. In order to handle a K-9, many organizations will require that the handler and dog team complete a certain amount of training as well. The K-9 Unit handler career field has the potential to offer a moderate and stable income, with excellent government benefits.