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# CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDUM

## NO. 10-2009      December 14, 2009

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**TO: SHERIFFS, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS, COMMISSIONERS OF CORRECTION, NEW YORK CITY WARDENS**

**RE: USE OF CANINES IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**  
**(NOTE- Supersedes and Replaces Chairman's Memorandum No. 2-2006)**

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As noted above, this Chairman's Memorandum supersedes and replaces Chairman's Memorandum No. 2-2006 regarding the use of canines in local correctional facilities.

The Commission working with, and in conjunction with, agencies that employ the use of canine units has determined that the use of properly trained and qualified canine teams in jails and correctional facilities is a valuable tool that enhances the safety and security of the facility, provided that the following conditions are strictly adhered to:

1. The canine and the handler have successfully completed training approved either by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services or the New York State Police.
2. The facility has in place Policy and Procedure precisely detailing the method and operational activity under which the canine team is to be deployed.
3. That this procedure includes adherence to the boundaries set forth in Penal Law Article 35, Correction Law § 500-c and § 500-k and 9 NYCRR Part 7000.
4. That all instances of the use of force involving the canine team must be reported to the Commission as a reportable incident.

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**New York State Commission of Correction**  
**80 Wolf Road, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Albany, New York 12205**  
**(518) 485-2346**

**Thomas A. Beilein, Chairman**

**Daniel L. Stewart, Commissioner**  
**Phyllis Harrison-Ross, M.D., Commissioner**

If your facility currently employs a canine unit, kindly update your policies and procedures in this regard and take steps to ensure that your canines and handlers receive the requisite training if they have not already done so.



**Thomas A. Beilein, Chairman**

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