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# Review of Force Used Against Canines

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January 1, 2010 to  
December 31, 2010

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Fire and Police Commission  
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This report is an analysis of all use of force incidents against a canine by employees of the Milwaukee Police Department between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010. Data was retrieved from the Administrative Investigations Management (AIM) software and converted to Predictive Analytic SoftWare (PASW) for analysis. This report serves only as an analysis of the data and does not attempt to address any concerns with regards to policy, procedures, and/or training.

## BACKGROUND

Between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010, officers of the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) utilized force against canines in 35 incidents<sup>1</sup>. During the same time period in 2009<sup>2</sup>, 46 incidents occurred, which represents a 23.9% decrease between the two years.

As in 2009, Police District 7, with 13 incidents (37.1%) was the district with the highest number of incidents (see Table 1). Police District 1 had no force incidents involving canines in 2010.

Between 2009 and 2010, every district reported a decline in use of force against a canine except for Police District 2, which noted an increase in the number of use of force incidents by 5 (166.7%), from 3 to 8.

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<sup>1</sup> This report focuses solely on incidents where force was used against a canine. For details related to use of force incidents involving a person, please see the FPC's reports, *An Analysis of 2009 Use of Force Incidents in the Milwaukee Police Department* and *An Analysis of 2010 Use of Force Incidents in the Milwaukee Police Department*. Both reports are available on the FPC's website at <http://www.milwaukee.gov/fpc/Reports>.

<sup>2</sup> For additional data from 2009, please see *Analysis of Use of Force Incidents Against a Canine in the Milwaukee Police Department*. The report is available on the FPC's website at <http://www.milwaukee.gov/fpc/Reports>.

**Table 1. Incidents by Police District**

Police District	2009	Percentage	2010	Percentage
1	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
2	3	6.5%	8	22.9%
3	9	19.6%	7	20.0%
4	5	10.9%	3	8.6%
5	11	23.9%	2	5.7%
6	3	6.5%	2	5.7%
7	15	32.6%	13	37.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Aldermanic District 15, with seven incidents (20.0%), and Aldermanic District 7, with six incidents (17.1%), were the Aldermanic Districts with the most force incidents involving a canine. Aldermanic Districts 4, 10, and 11 reported no incidents. Over 70% of incidents occurred in Aldermanic Districts 1, 6, 7, 14, and 15 (25 incidents, 71.4%). Between 2009 and 2010, the number of incidents increased in Aldermanic Districts 3, 5, 7, 12, 13, and 14, while incidents decreased in Aldermanic Districts 1, 6, 9, 10, 11, and 15.

**Table 2. Incidents by Aldermanic District**

Aldermanic District	2009	Percentage	2010	Percentage
1	10	21.7%	4	11.4%
2	1	2.2%	1	2.9%
3	0	0.0%	1	2.9%
4	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
5	0	0.0%	1	2.9%
6	8	17.4%	4	11.4%
7	5	10.9%	6	17.1%
8	2	4.3%	2	5.7%
9	2	4.3%	1	2.9%
10	3	6.5%	0	0.0%
11	1	2.2%	0	0.0%
12	2	4.3%	3	8.6%
13	0	0.0%	1	2.9%
14	1	2.2%	4	11.4%
15	11	23.9%	7	20.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The number of incidents per month ranged from one incident to six incidents. July, with six incidents (17.1%), and November, with five incidents (14.3%), were the months with the highest number of force incidents against a canine. April and December, with one incident each (2.9%) were the months with the fewest number. Otherwise, there is no discernable pattern as it pertains to incidents by month.

**Table 3. Incidents by Month**

Month	Number	Percentage
January	2	5.7%
February	3	8.6%
March	3	8.6%
April	1	2.9%
May	3	8.6%
June	2	5.7%
July	6	17.1%
August	4	11.4%
September	2	5.7%
October	3	8.6%
November	5	14.3%
December	1	2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Eighteen incidents (51.4%) occurred in full light/ daylight, 12 incidents (34.3%) occurred in dark/night, and five incidents (14.3%) occurred in dim/dusk/dawn. Eight incidents (22.9%) occurred indoors or in a dwelling. Twenty-seven incidents (77.1%) occurred outdoors, including: 12 incidents (44.4%) in the street/sidewalk, nine incidents (33.3%) in a yard, three incidents (11.1%) in an alley, and three incidents (11.1%) in a field or parking lot.

### EMPLOYEE DEMOGRAPHICS<sup>3</sup>

The number of employees who used force against a canine ranged from one employee to two employees per incident. Thirty-one use of force incidents (88.6%) involved one employee, while four incidents (11.4%) involved two employees (see Chart 1).

<sup>3</sup> MPD categorizes their use of force data by incident. Each employee involved in each incident is given their own set of variables and will be presented separately in this report.

## Employee #1

Twenty-two officers (62.9%) were white, seven officers (20.0%) were black, and six officers (17.1%) were Hispanic. Thirty-two officers (91.4%) were male, and three officers (8.6%) were female. Officer age ranged from 23 years old to 49 years old, with a mean and median of 35 years old and a mode of 42 years old. Years of service ranged from one year to 24 years, with a mean of ten years of service, a median of eight years of service, and a mode of six years. Two officers were injured: both suffered puncture wounds from dog bites.

All 35 officers were on-duty. Twenty-eight officers (80.0%) were performing squad patrol, three officers (8.6%) were on foot patrol, two officers (5.7%) were on tactical operations, and two officers (5.7%) were on other duties. Thirty-two officers (91.4%) were in uniform, while three officers (8.6%) were in plainclothes.

Fourteen officers (40.0%) were responding to a dispatched assignment, and 12 officers (34.3%) were conducting investigations. The remaining nine officers (25.7%) were performing other duties (i.e., search warrant). Twelve calls for service were related to animals: nine for loose dog complaints, three for animal bite/animal attacking person, and one for cruelty towards animals.

Thirty-three officers (94.3%) utilized a firearm against a canine. One officer (2.9%) utilized a chemical agent, and one officer (2.9%) utilized both chemical agent and firearm. For officers who used a firearm, the number of shots fired ranged one round to over 10 rounds<sup>4</sup>, with a mean of three rounds, a median of two rounds, and a mode of one round. Both officers who used a chemical agent used OC spray. One officer discharged 15 grams of OC<sup>5</sup>, and OC was sprayed from a distance of four feet and nine feet.

## Employee #2

Three employees (75.0%) were white, and one employee (25.0%) was black. Three officers (75.0%) were male, and one officer (25.0%) was female. Age ranged from 27 years old to 46

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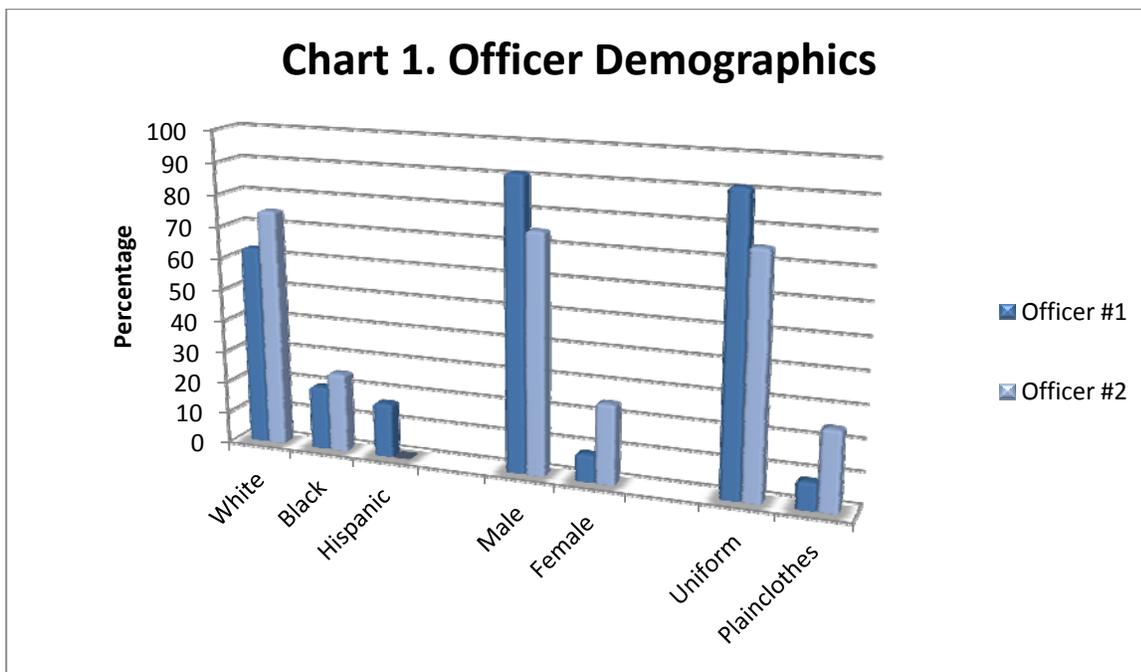
<sup>4</sup> For statistical purposes only, "10 rounds or more" was recoded to 10.

<sup>5</sup> Note:1 missing case

years old, with a mean and median of 36 years old. Years of service ranged from two years to 18 years, with a mean of eight years and a median of seven years. Zero officers were injured.

All four officers were on-duty. Three officers (75.0%) were performing squad patrol, while one officer (25.0%) was on foot patrol. Three officers (75.0%) were in uniform, and one officer (25.0%) was in plainclothes. One officer (25.0%) was responding to a dispatched assignment, one officer (25.0%) was performing an investigation, and two officers (50.0%) were performing other duties.

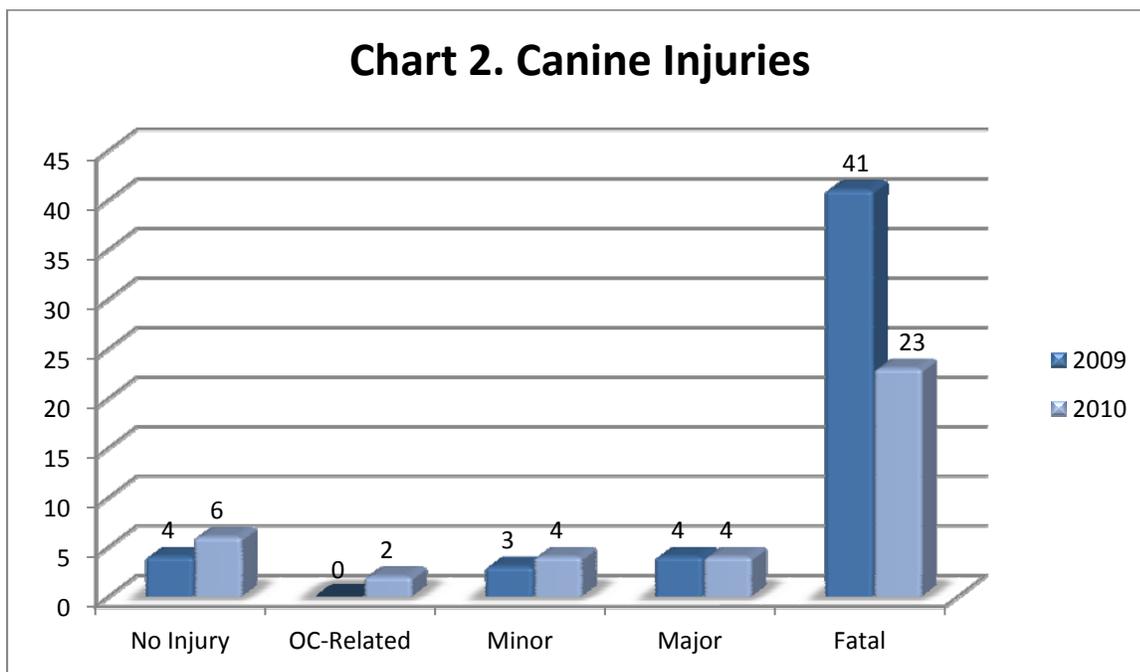
All four officers utilized a firearm. The number of shots fired ranged from 1 round to six rounds, with a mean of four rounds and a median of 5 rounds.



## SUBJECT DEMOGRAPHICS

A total of 39 canines had force used against them in 2010. The number of canines involved in each use of force incident ranged from one dog to two dogs. Thirty-one incidents (88.6%) involved force used against one canine, while four incidents (11.4%) involved two canines.

The majority of canines were Pit Bulls<sup>6</sup> (37 canines, 94.9%). Other breeds included one Bullmastiff (2.6%) and one Doberman Pinscher (2.6%). Thirty-three canines (84.6%) were injured: 23 canines (64.7%) received fatal injuries and died, four canines (12.1%) received major injuries, four canines (12.1%) received minor injuries, and two canines (6.1%) received OC-related injuries. Six canines (15.4%) were uninjured. Fatal injuries decreased by 18 (43.9%) between 2009 and 2010 (see Chart 2).



<sup>6</sup> One canine was a Pit Bull and Akita mix.

## MILWAUKEE AREA DOMESTIC ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION

In order to present a more accurate picture representing canines in the City of Milwaukee, data was obtained from the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC). MADACC rescues and provides temporary shelter and veterinary care for over 13,000 unwanted, mistreated, abandoned, and abused animals each year.

A total 326 stray canines were captured by MPD in 2010 (see Table 4). The greatest number of strays were captured in September (46 canines, 14.1%), while the fewest were captured in December (15 canines, 4.6%). The greatest number of captures occurred in Police District 5 (100 canines, 30.7%), and the fewest number of captures occurred in Police District 1 (1 canine, 0.3%).

**Table 4. Stray Canines by Month and Police District**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
<b>January</b>	0	2	3	1	6	2	5	<b>19</b>
<b>February</b>	0	0	1	5	9	2	4	<b>21</b>
<b>March</b>	0	4	1	10	15	0	4	<b>34</b>
<b>April</b>	0	5	3	3	7	2	5	<b>25</b>
<b>May</b>	0	2	8	10	9	1	6	<b>36</b>
<b>June</b>	1	0	4	2	5	2	4	<b>18</b>
<b>July</b>	0	3	8	5	6	1	5	<b>28</b>
<b>August</b>	0	3	6	8	9	1	7	<b>34</b>
<b>September</b>	0	5	2	12	16	3	8	<b>46</b>
<b>October</b>	0	4	3	4	8	2	9	<b>30</b>
<b>November</b>	0	0	6	6	4	0	4	<b>20</b>
<b>December</b>	0	4	1	1	6	1	2	<b>15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>326</b>

A total of 449 canines were transported for safekeeping<sup>7</sup> by MPD in 2010 (see Table 5). The greatest number of safekeeping transports occurred in July (55 canines, 12.2%), while the fewest number of transports occurred in February (16 canines, 3.6%). The greatest number of safekeeping transports occurred in Police District 3 (114 canines, 25.4%), and the fewest occurred in Police District 1 (4 canines, 0.9%).

**Table 5. Safekeeping Canines by Month and Police District**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
<b>January</b>	0	2	4	3	12	5	7	<b>33</b>
<b>February</b>	1	5	2	2	4	0	2	<b>16</b>
<b>March</b>	0	3	13	0	5	4	9	<b>34</b>
<b>April</b>	0	9	8	2	19	2	2	<b>42</b>
<b>May</b>	0	5	5	7	4	6	13	<b>40</b>
<b>June</b>	0	8	17	3	11	7	4	<b>50</b>
<b>July</b>	1	10	14	6	5	6	13	<b>55</b>
<b>August</b>	2	12	14	2	10	5	1	<b>46</b>
<b>September</b>	0	5	10	5	3	1	11	<b>35</b>
<b>October</b>	0	3	8	4	9	3	6	<b>33</b>
<b>November</b>	0	4	10	1	10	1	8	<b>34</b>
<b>December</b>	0	1	9	5	10	3	3	<b>31</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>449</b>

A total of 606 canines were received over-the-counter<sup>8</sup> from MPD officers in 2010. The greatest number of over-the counter canines were received in July (80 canines, 13.2%), and the fewest were received in February (36 canines, 5.9%). The greatest number of over-the-counter canines were received from Police District 2 (121 canines, 20.0%), while the fewest number were received from Police District 1 (2 canines, 0.3%).

<sup>7</sup> Safekeeping canines include canines seized for extenuating circumstances, such as mistreatment, animal fighting, evictions, or other situations where the home or the owner of the canine is lost or unable to care for the canine. 1

<sup>8</sup> Select MPD employees have access to a locked room at MADACC where canines can be placed when MADACC is not open. MADACC describes these after-hours drop-offs as “over-the-counter.”

**Table 6. Over-the-counter Canines by Month and Police District**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
<b>January</b>	1	10	7	3	5	6	7	<b>39</b>
<b>February</b>	0	8	8	7	6	3	4	<b>36</b>
<b>March</b>	0	11	8	3	7	5	13	<b>47</b>
<b>April</b>	0	13	5	8	6	3	7	<b>42</b>
<b>May</b>	0	8	6	9	9	4	8	<b>44</b>
<b>June</b>	0	10	9	5	13	4	10	<b>51</b>
<b>July</b>	0	11	21	14	7	13	14	<b>80</b>
<b>August</b>	0	9	5	12	10	5	6	<b>47</b>
<b>September</b>	1	15	8	12	6	6	5	<b>53</b>
<b>October</b>	0	14	17	7	10	6	9	<b>63</b>
<b>November</b>	0	7	10	10	5	6	17	<b>55</b>
<b>December</b>	0	5	12	14	9	1	8	<b>49</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>606</b>

MPD officers placed a total of 1,381 canines with MADACC in 2010, while utilizing force against a canine in 35 incidents. Of note, Police District 7 had the most use of force incidents against a canine in 2010, with 13 incidents. However, officers from Police District 7 placed 250 canines with MADACC, below the 295 canines placed by Police District 5 and 279 canines placed by Police District 3. The lowest number of canines was placed by officers in Police District 1, with seven canines.

## CONCLUSION

Between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010, officers of the Milwaukee Police Department utilized force against canines in 35 incidents. A use of force incident in 2010 involving a canine most commonly would have:

- Occurred in Police District 7 or Aldermanic District 15;

- Been outside and in full light/ daylight;
- Involved one MPD employee, a white, male, on-duty officer in uniform who utilized a firearm; and
- Included one canine, a Pit Bull that was fatally injured.

This report provides an analysis as to the frequency and circumstances surrounding use of force incidents against a canine. The data and statistics presented in this report will be used to conduct future analyses<sup>9</sup> related to force used against a canine and will be used to assess the policies, procedures, and training of the Milwaukee Police Department.

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<sup>9</sup> See Appendix 1 for a condensed review of use of force incidents against a canine for the first six months of 2011.

APPENDIX 1: USE OF FORCE AGAINST CANINES,  
JANUARY 1, 2011 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011, MPD employees utilized force against canines in 18 incidents. This places the department on a pace for 36 total force incidents against canines for all of 2011, a slight increase from 35 in 2010. The following is a summary of the 18 incidents from the first six months of 2011.

- The 18 incidents occurred in the following months:
  - 4 incidents in January,
  - 2 incidents in March,
  - 2 incidents in April,
  - 3 incidents in May, and
  - 7 incidents in June.
- The incidents occurred in six Police Districts:
  - 1 incident in Police District 2,
  - 7 incidents in Police District 3,
  - 3 incidents in Police District 4,
  - 4 incidents in Police District 5,
  - 1 incidents in Police District 6, and
  - 2 incidents in Police District 7.
- Eighteen canines were on the receiving end of force: 15 Pit bulls, 1 Lab/Hound mix, 1 Doberman Pinscher, and 1 Great Dane.
- A firearm was utilized in 17 incidents, and an ECD (Taser) was utilized in one incident.
- Fourteen canines were injured: 2 received minor injuries, 3 received major injuries, 8 received fatal injuries and died, and 1 received Taser-related injuries.
- The Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission received 657 canines from MPD between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011.