



**To Deter the Presence of Contraband**  
*(Drugs, Alcohol, Meds, Guns)*

## **Interquest Detection Canines**

**of North Texas** *(est. 1999)*

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### **Policy and Procedures for Campus Visits**

#### **Overview:**

Interquest provides random unannounced visits to campus locations to provide a deterrent to the presence of prohibited contraband on campus. Traditionally, we check lockers, parking lots, common areas, gym areas, perimeters of buildings and unoccupied classrooms. In addition, we will check other areas as requested by school administrators.

Since school administrators are afforded a reduced expectation of privacy while students are on campus, we act as an agent of the school district utilizing a trained detection canine to determine “reasonable suspicion” for search. This process allows the objectivity of the trained canine to determine the presence of contraband rather than create potential liability for the school administrator who individualizes suspicion with respect to a specific student.

Precedent setting legal cases dictate that the use of canines and the associated inspection process must be conducted on a random basis. Therefore, it is important not to direct the canine team to specific locations because of a rumor or hunch that a student may possess contraband on any given day. If the odor of a trained scent is present and the scent is presented, the canine will detect it. Interquest canines are trained to detect marijuana, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, LSD, ethanol based beverage alcohol, gunpowder based items as well as prescription and over-the-counter medications commonly subject to abuse. Quite often, the actual presence of one of the above substances will be found during the course of inspection. In other instances, the scent of a substance may be present and yet no physical evidence is found. This is what we call a “residual odor”.

#### **Program logistics:**

Prior to visiting a campus, we request a school calendar at the beginning of the school year noting inappropriate visit dates such as testing or special events. We also request check-in times to arrive on campus and are normally assigned a specific administrator or “Program Coordinator” who coordinates our activities while on campus.

It is best to vary the inspection process from visit to visit such that our activities do not become predictable. For instance, one visit might incorporate checking lockers and some cars in the parking lot while the next visit includes classrooms and common areas. Again, the selection of areas to be checked by the canine team must be random in nature.

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In the event we are checking lockers and a class change occurs, we cease inspection activities until the start of the next class period. During class change, students can visit with the canine in the interest of building a positive relationship. We do not endorse the lockdown of a campus in conjunction with canine activities. In our experience, this process creates potential liability for the school.

The actual search process incorporates the canine team checking areas of the campus as directed by the program coordinator. In the event of a canine alert or indication, our service representative will advise the Program Coordinator where the alert occurred.

### **Inspection process:**

Once a canine alert has occurred, the Program Coordinator determines which student occupies the locker or owns the vehicle and brings them to that location. Our service representative conducts a brief discussion with the student to verify that they drove the car in question or are assigned to the locker and then conduct a brief discussion on what the canine is trained to detect. They will then ask the student if any of the trained scents are currently or have recently been present in the car or locker. Then they ask the student's permission to conduct an inspection of the item in question.

Interquest conducts the interview and inspection with the student in the presence of the Program Coordinator. We conduct the inspection as our service representatives are trained to search in a consistent manner and understand the range of items the dogs are trained to detect. In case a student does not give consent, the student is immediately turned over to the school administrator for further direction.

### **Contraband detected:**

In the event suspected contraband is found, it is recorded and sealed in an evidence bag and custody is signed over to the campus coordinator at the conclusion of the visit. This process preserves the suspected contraband for evidentiary purposes while maintaining an effective chain-of-custody. Once contraband is verified to be an actual substance or object, the Program Coordinator is responsible for any subsequent action imposed on the student.

### **Documentation:**

At the conclusion of each visit, the service representative will provide an Incident Maintenance Report (IMR) for each canine alert and a copy will be given to the Program Coordinator. This information is subsequently entered into a database for the purposes of maintaining quantitative statistics on all campus locations serviced by Interquest.