

NORTH COAST EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy # 2010

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Subject: Administration
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Transport of Law Enforcement Dogs

Purpose	A. General Policy: 1. This policy describes the guidelines for treatment and transport of an injured K9 dog by a licensed ambulance for emergency care. 2. It is the policy of the North Coast Emergency Medical Services that K9 dogs injured in the line of duty can be transported by a licensed ambulance for emergency care if the ambulance provider develops policies for their personnel.
Definitions	A. Law Enforcement Dog – A dog owned or used by law enforcement department or agency during the department or agency’s work which included the following: 1. Apprehension dogs 2. Search and rescue or tracking dogs 3. Detection dogs 4. Multipurpose patrol dogs B. Canine Handler: A professional who provides training and care for canines and is responsible for the dog during routine operations and when injured.
Key Provisions	A. Authorization: 1. Licensed ambulance services are authorized to transport injured police canines to a veterinary clinic or similar facility. B. Conditions for transport: 1. Transport can only occur if no human patient requires medical attention or transport at the time. C. Handler responsibility: 1. The canine handler or agency representative must be present, remain in control of the dog, and provide the location of the nearest veterinary facility. D. EMT/Paramedic authority: 1. EMT/Paramedics are authorized to provide basic life support (BLS) emergency medical care to the canine, both at the scene and during transport, and are exempt from civil or criminal liability for good-faith actions. E. Ambulance policies: 1. Ambulance operators who choose to transport canines must have their own policies approved by their local emergency medical services agency regarding equipment, decontamination, and other procedures. F. Not a requirement:

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	1. This law permits transport but does not require an ambulance to transport a police canine if a human patient needs the ambulance. G. Other animals: 1. The law specifically applies to police canines. Transport of other animals by a human ambulance is subject to the ambulance service's policy and regulations and is not a requirement.
Procedure	A. EMS personnel should not attempt to handle or treat a conscious law enforcement dog without a trained canine handler or agency representative. B. Consider the need for a muzzle to be placed, if available. C. The law enforcement agency will provide an appropriate handler to accompany the canine during transport. D. EMS personnel may provide basic level first aid and supportive care to an injured canine officer. The provision of ALS care is not authorized under this regulation. E. Basic Life Support can include: 1. Oxygen and Ventilatory Support can be provided with canine specific oxygen masks, non-rebreather masks or Bag Value Mask devices. 2. Basic airway maneuvers including managing an airway obstruction. 3. Hemorrhage control with direct pressure and hemostatic dressings. Commercial made tourniquets may NOT be effective when placed on canines. Use a K-9 specific tourniquet or elastic band. 4. Narcan IN may be administered for suspected drug exposures. 5. Additional BLS procedures can include splinting, cooling or warming measures.
Additional Requirements	Following the transport of a law enforcement dog, EMS personnel should ensure proper and complete decontamination of the interior of the ambulance and equipment.
Documentation and Notifications	A. Transport of a K9 should NOT be recorded in the ePCR system. B. Following transport of a K9, the ambulance service should notify North Coast EMS Regional Prehospital Coordinator within 24 hours of transport.