



**REGION 11
CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM
POLICY**

Title: EMS Transport of Law Enforcement Dogs
Section: Transportation
Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
Effective: December 6, 2023

EMS TRANSPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT DOGS

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Law Enforcement Dog: A dog owned or used by a law enforcement department or agency in the course of the department or agency's work which includes the following:
1. Search and rescue dog
 2. Service dog
 3. Accelerant detection canine
 4. Other dog that is in use by a county, municipal, or state law enforcement agency
- B. Canine Handler: A professional who provides training and care for canines and is responsible for the dog during routine operations and when injured.

II. EMS RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Law Enforcement Dogs

1. **EMS personnel should not attempt to handle or treat a conscious law enforcement dog without a trained canine handler or agency representative to assist with the animal.**
2. Ask the canine handler to apply the dog's muzzle if available.
3. Under normal conditions, agency or department canine handlers or supervisors have vehicles equipped to transport an ill or injured canine to an appropriate veterinary facility.
4. In the rare event this is not available, an EMT or Paramedic may transport a law enforcement dog that has been injured in the line of duty to a veterinary clinic or similar facility if there are no persons requiring medical attention or transport at that time.
5. **When transporting a law enforcement dog in an ambulance, the dog's handler, another canine handler, or a representative from the agency who owns the canine should accompany the canine during transport to the veterinary emergency facility.**
6. EMS personnel may provide basic level first aid and supportive care to an injured law enforcement dog. The provision of ALS care is not authorized and is not permitted unless the individual EMS provider is also appropriately licensed under the Illinois Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act (225 ILCS 115).



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- a. Oxygen and Ventilatory Support: If available, an appropriately sized facemask with oxygen may be applied for a canine with respiratory distress or apnea.
 - i. Small canine mask: 3-5 liters
 - ii. Large canine mask: 5-7 liters
- b. Hemorrhage control: Apply direct pressure and pressure dressing as needed.
7. Each law enforcement department or agency should maintain a list of appropriate and available veterinary emergency facilities with agreements for canine care. Designated local veterinary facilities that will provide emergency treatment of injured law enforcement dogs include:
 - a. Partner & Paws (560 Ogden Ave, Lisle, IL 60532)
 - b. MedVet (3305 N. California, Chicago, IL 60618)
 - c. Bloomingdale Animal Hospital (290 Glen Ellyn Road, Bloomingdale, IL 60108)
 - d. Blue Pearl (1050 Bonaventure Dr. Elk Grove Village, IL 60007)
8. Following the transport of a law enforcement dog, EMS personnel should ensure proper and complete decontamination and sterilization of the interior of the ambulance or other EMS vehicle including stretchers, the patient compartment, and all contaminated medical equipment before returning to service.