



POLICY:	SERVICE DOGS IN AMBULANCE		
APPROVAL:	VICE PRESIDENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES; MANAGER OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)		
EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/2/2018	CURRENT REVIEW/REVISION DATE: 6/18	SUPERSEDES: N/A	ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/2/2018
DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC			EMS

I. Purpose:

Morris Hospital understands that patients rely on service dogs for various reasons and at times, those animals may need to come with the patient to the hospital. This policy is to provide guidance to our system providers.

II. Policy:

If EMS is transporting a patient to the hospital, they may bring the patient’s service dog in the ambulance. According to the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), beginning on March 15, 2001, only dogs are recognized as service animals. Ambulances are only required to accommodate service dogs, and ambulance crews can legally deny transporting all other types of animals. EMS can only ask the following questions in regards to a service dog:

- A. Is the dog a service animal that is required because of a disability?**
- B. What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?**

Crews cannot ask about the person’s disability, request medical documentation, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task. Crews may not require documentation as proof that the dog has been trained, certified, or licensed before accepting it as legitimate service animal. Service animals are not required to wear a vest or any other identifier indicating it is a service animal.

III. Areas Allowed:

- A.** EMS providers are not responsible for care, comfort or securing of the service dog in the ambulance. Unless a specific location is required for the dog’s work, the service dog must be kept in a location in the ambulance (chosen by the EMS personnel) where they will not interfere with medical care or pose a danger to personnel or the patient.
- B.** EMS providers should alert the ED before arrival that a service animal is accompanying the patient. Upon arrival at the hospital, the service dog can accompany the patient into the ED. Service dogs are allowed in areas of the hospital where the general public travels. Hospital staff is not responsible for care of the animal.
- C.** Once patient care has been turned over, the crew is responsible for cleaning/decontaminating their ambulance according to their department policy and procedures. Some form of documentation should be noted in regards to the cleaning of the ambulance.

Approval:

Thomas J. Dohm **Date**
Vice President of Professional Services

Robin Stortz, MSN, RN **Date**
EMS & Emergency Management Manager