



People You Know.  
Extraordinary Care.

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>200.10 EMS TRANSPORTATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY WORKING DOGS</b>		
<b>APPROVAL:</b>	VICE PRESIDENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES; MANAGER OF EMS;		
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/15/2024</b>			<b>ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 8/2022</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC</b>		<b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES</b>	

**I. Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to provide medical support services to several law enforcement agencies who utilize canine officers. It is our intent to support the entire team, including the K9 officers. This support would include a K-9 being used for search and rescue, a K-9 being used as an accelerant detection animal, an ordinance scent trained dog and a K-9 for protection and service to the Police agency. We encourage providers to reach out to the local Emergency Veterinary clinic and establish a procedure of notification of a potential arrival of a K-9 patient to the facility prior to the need for assistance.

**II. Policy:**

**A. Overall guidelines and paramedic safety**

1. MHEMSS’s primary mission remains the treatment and transport of sick and injured humans. If on a scene where both a working dog and a human need treatment and transport, the human always is treated and transported first, even if their injury is comparatively minor to the K-9 officer.
2. Most injury and illness to a working dog is appropriate to be transported exclusively by their dog handler’s police vehicle. In a few critical situations, transport by ambulance is authorized to allow better ability to treat the animal in transit.
3. Police working dogs are trained to be capable of inflicting significant injury, and an injured animal can react unpredictably. Except in the circumstance of a dog being fully unconscious or in severe respiratory distress, the animal is to be placed in a muzzle for the duration of care. The K9 handler officer must also ride in back of the ambulance with the animal for the entire duration of ambulance transport.
4. Agencies will not transport civilian dogs to the Emergency Vet for any reason. As in the past, ambulance crews and firefighters are welcome to render oxygen aid on a fire ground scene to an animal emerging from a structure fire, but such animals must then be transported by their owners if they wish to seek veterinary care.
5. Care should be taken to assure the patient compartment of the ambulance is cleaned and made ready for the next patient after transporting the K-9 just like any other patient that is transported.

**B. Treatment**

1. It is not our intent, or training scope, to provide comprehensive veterinary technician care. EMS staff will focus on a few treatable critical conditions, where simple intervention can save the life of the animal prior to arrival to the veterinarian.
2. Opioid overdose. Police dog breeds are at the same risk as humans from inadvertent inhalation or ingestion of opioids. Naloxone (Narcan) has the same mechanism of action and safety profile in dogs. Dogs should receive the full 2 mg dose, either intranasal or

