



TRANSPORT OF PUBLIC SAFETY WORKING DOGS INJURED IN LINE OF DUTY

I. AUTHORITY:

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, 1797.10, 1797.220, 1798 (a), (b).

II. APPLICATION:

This policy describes the guidelines for treatment and/or transport of an injured public safety working dog.

III. DEFINITIONS:

Public Safety Working Dog: A canine that is owned, or the service of which is employed, by a state or local law enforcement agency, a correctional agency, a fire department, a special fire district, or the State fire Marshal for the principal purpose of aiding in the detection of criminal activity, flammable materials, or missing persons (including search and rescue); the enforcement of laws; the investigation of fires; or the apprehension of offenders.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Police K9s
- Search and rescue dog
- Detection dogs such as, but not limited to, accelerant, bomb, cadaver, arson
- Peer support dog
- Tracking / Trailing dog
- Other dogs in the service of a public agency for public safety

IV. GUIDELINES:

A. General Policy

- It is the policy in the Orange County EMS system that public safety working dogs injured in the line of duty may be transported by an Orange County EMS licensed ambulance and / or fire department vehicle for emergency care provided that there is no other person requiring medical attention or transport at that time by that crew.
- The public safety working dog's handler shall accompany and maintain control of the injured animal during transport, if feasible. If the dog's handler is unable to accompany and maintain control of the injured public safety working dog during transport, the crew should not transport the animal unless qualified individual designated by the handler is available to assume control. If no such individual is available, transport should not occur.
- Transport of an injured public safety working dog and any first aid provided is voluntary, not required.
- Transport should only occur when the handler confirms the dog is secured or under control and does not pose a safety risk to crew members.
- Following transport, crews shall perform vehicle and equipment decontamination consistent with their agency's standard post-transport cleaning and infection-control policies. Agencies electing to transport public safety working dogs should ensure appropriate decontamination supplies and procedures are available.



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B. Transport to a veterinary emergency center:

- Transport destination is determined by the injured dog's handler.
- Transport procedure for ambulance crews is described in OCEMS Policy # B-009.
- Medical supplies are appropriate to supply to the dog's handler during transport of an injured public safety working dog. These include but are not limited to: oxygen with delivery by mask or nasal cannula, gauze dressings, and hemostatic dressings.

C. Documentation / Notifications

- Transport of a public safety working dog should not be recorded on an OC-MEDS ePCR
- Following transport of a public safety working dog, the ambulance service provider shall notify the OCEMS Medical Director by email within 24 hours.

Approved:

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Original Date: 01/01/2019
Review Date: 04/2026
Release Date: 10/01/2026
Final Implementation Date: 04/01/2027