



ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
BASIC LIFE SUPPORT PROCEDURES
TRANSPORT OF PUBLIC SAFETY WORKING DOGS INJURED IN LINE
OF DUTY

#: B-009
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Orig. Date: 01/01/2019
Revised: 10/01/2026

INDICATIONS:

- Transport of public safety working dog's handler(s) and a public safety working dog injured in the line of duty.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Need to treat and / or transport human patient(s) at the same scene by the same ambulance crew / unit.

EQUIPMENT:

- None required.
- May supply public safety animal handler with access to oxygen, oxygen delivery equipment, gauze bandage, hemostatic dressings, and other medical equipment as needed.
- Agencies may elect to carry equipment specific to care of injured dogs.

PROCEDURE:

- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for potential blood exposure.
- Allow public safety working dog handler to place dog onto gurney.
- Allow handler to stabilize dog to gurney (may use straps available).
- Assist handler with setup of oxygen and provide sterile dressings, including hemostatic dressings if available. For oxygen delivery, may provide handler with a human non-rebreather mask, nasal cannula, or canine mask (if available).
- EMTs are not to ride in patient cabin during transport; handler(s) will attend to dog.
- Transport to veterinary location as directed by handler; may transport with lights and siren if directed to do so by handler.
- After off-loading dog, clean patient cabin area consistent with their agency's standard post-transport cleaning and infection-control policies.

DOCUMENTATION:

- Notify agency dispatch center of transport, including date, time, and public safety working dog's agency name. An OCEMS ePCR should not be generated.

NOTES:

- An injured public safety working dog may manifest unpredictable behaviors due to stress. Follow directions of handler and avoid direct contact with dog. Do not get between the handler and the dog.

Approved:

Abhaikh MD

Review Date: 04/2026
Final Date for Implementation: 04/01/2027