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OPERATIONAL BULLETIN

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2024-11-19-01	Using the Operational K9 Protocols	November 19, 2024
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Approved By:	Dr. Matthew Sholl & Dr. Kate Zimmerman	

The Medical Direction and Practices Board recognizes that EMS clinicians may work with Operational K9s (OpK9) as part of their job (e.g., search and rescue entities or law enforcement teams). Should the OpK9 become ill or injured in the line of duty, appropriately trained EMS clinicians may care for these working dogs per the Maine EMS Operational K9 Protocols. These protocols have been reinstated after collaborative work between Maine EMS, the veterinarian community, and our legislators with the passage of the bill, *An act to authorize the provision of emergency medical treatment for certain dogs* (32 MRS Chapter 2-B, §85, §9 and 32 MRS Chapter 71-A, §4860, §13).

Maine EMS and the Medical Direction and Practices Board recommends the following steps before use of the protocols:

1. Ensure that personnel have appropriate training to work around these animals.
    a. Courses that cover the material in our protocols and are taught by veterinary and EMS professionals include those offered by OpK9ME and the NH OPK9 Med.
2. Ensure that you have the appropriate equipment available to treat these animals safely.
3. Establish a relationship with the OpK9 and their handler as well as their veterinarian.
4. Understand the resources in your area and know where your closest emergency veterinarian is and their capabilities. We have attached a list of 24-hour Veterinary Emergency Hospitals and after-hours clinics.
5. Document care in MEFIRS—see the linked instructional video; it is important to document correctly so that the canine data does not contaminate human data.
    a. Fill out this form to have the OpK9 documentation activated for your agency.
6. Update your QI plan to reflect K9 care if you plan to engage with your local OpK9 teams.

Remember, these canine protocols are reserved for use only by appropriately trained EMS personnel on Operational K9s who are injured or become ill while on duty.

Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

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ANNEX

The following protocols require specialty training.
These protocols are not part of the standard prehospital patient care protocols.

Operational K9 Protocols Intro

The Medical Direction and Practices Board recognizes that EMS clinicians may work with Operational K9s [OpK9] as part of their job (with search and rescue or law enforcement teams). While the handler of the canine is ultimately responsible for their dog, they may grant permission to trained EMS personnel to provide care for their canine partner.

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

At no time should the care of an OpK9 take priority over a person. It is vital that the EMS personnel have a working relationship with the OpK9 handler(s) well in advance of needing to implement these protocols.

MRS Title 14, Chapter 7, subsection 164-B, *Immunity from civil liability for assistance given to law enforcement dogs, search and rescue dogs and service dogs (2017)*, and *An act to authorize the provision of emergency medical treatment for certain dogs* (2024), MRS Title 32, Chapter 85, subsection 9; MRS Title 32, Chapter 88, subsection 1 paragraph A, provides protections for emergency medical services clinicians who render aid to a working dog. Please refer to statutes for details.

At this time, these protocols do **NOT** apply to service dogs. Service dogs are defined by the ADA as a dog specifically trained to perform work for a person with a disability. Examples include guide dogs, medic alert dogs, and emotional support/psychiatric service dogs.

It is expected that clinicians maintain clinical competency and attend continuing education courses pertaining to the care of the Operational K9.

Denotes a potentially complex canine patient. Please consult the veterinarian to collaborate your efforts

Operational K9 Restraint #1

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

The goal is to *safely* provide the canine's initial medical evaluation, treatment and transport to definitive care. Injured and ill canines may pose an unintentional threat to clinicians, therefore it is imperative that the canine be secured prior to medical evaluation. This is best done by the canine's handler. It is preferable that the handler stay with their canine throughout all phases of care, evacuation, and transport unless they, themselves, are injured or required for threat neutralization. If the primary handler is not available, attempt to locate another handler or person that is familiar with handling OpK9s to secure and stay with the injured canine.

All injured canines should be muzzled before handling. The following are relative contraindications to muzzling:

1. Unconsciousness
2. Upper airway obstruction
3. Vomiting
4. Severe facial trauma
5. Heat-related injury (need to allow evaporative cooling via panting). If these canines need to be muzzled, a Cage- or Basket-type muzzle is preferred.

E A P

EMT/AEMT/PARAMEDIC

Muzzling

1. The type of muzzle used depends on the size of the of canine, available material, type of injury and desired canine access.

Muzzle Type	Required Materials	Suggested Use
Cage or Basket	Manufactured cage/basket muzzle (preferably made out of rubber)	~All-purpose ~Preferred muzzle: allows for open-mouth breathing ~Suggested if oxygen delivery is indicated
Fabric	Manufactured, pre-sized muzzle	All-purpose
Quick muzzle	Any available, broad-width (greater than 1-2 inches) tape, leash, webbing, gauze, etc.	~Use only if fabric or cage/basket muzzle is unavailable ~Narrow tape/gauze etc. can cause injury

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Operational K9 Restraint #2

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2. The canine should be restrained in a position of comfort, which may include sitting or standing. Do not restrain the canine in such a manner that its ability to breathe or pant is impeded.
3. Slide the appropriately-sized muzzle over the canine's snout from the rostral (anterior) to caudal (posterior) aspect. Be sure that the lower jaw is captured in the muzzle and not free.
4. Be sure to frequently check the security of the muzzle and make sure that it is not impeding the canine's ability to breathe.

****It is important that the clinician be adequately trained to restrain the Operational K9 in order to safely apply a muzzle. A stressed canine may not only bite the EMS clinician or others, but may bite its handler as well.****

E A P

Operational K9 Airway Obstruction #1

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

Clinical signs of airway obstruction include the following:

- **Gagging**
- **Pawing at the mouth**
- **Excessive drooling**
- **Frequent swallowing motions**
- **Extension of the head and neck**
- **Tripod position**
- **Reluctance to lie down**
- **Cyanosis (late sign)**

Similar to a person who can speak clearly without any respiratory distress, consider a canine that is barking, growling, or whining without any clinical signs of respiratory distress to have a patent airway.

E A P

EMT/AEMT/PARAMEDIC

1. Allow for position of comfort (sit or stand, sternal helps with gravity)
2. Secure canine with leash/rope
3. **Avoid** putting hands in canine's mouth (serious injury to clinician can occur)
4. Attempt Heimlich maneuver (avoid if sharp object involved)
    a. "Bear hug"or lay canine on side and place fist just below sternum or behind ribs
    b. Five (5) quick and upward abdominal thrusts followed by airway check
    c. If not successful, repeat 1-2 times
5. Palpate throat/trachea - you may be able to dislodge a supraglottic foreign body cephalad out of the pharynx.
    a. Palpate the object at the supraglottic region (ventral mandible)
    b. From caudal aspect of object, squeeze/push cranially
        i. Two-handed with both thumbs, or
        ii. Single-handed with thumb and index or middle finger

Pharyngo-laryngeal manipulation

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Operational K9 Airway Obstruction #2

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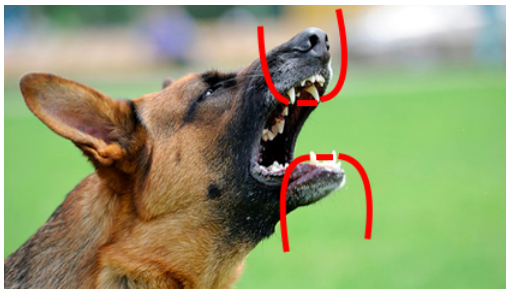
6. In an **unconscious** canine, open the airway by extending the head and neck, and pull the tongue forward. A second rescuer may use gauze/leash looped behind upper canine teeth to keep the mouth open. You may use a second length of gauze/leash for the lower jaw as well.



7. In an **unconscious** canine, if the obstruction is:
    a. **VISIBLE**: attempt to manually remove; do not push foreign body further back in airway
    b. **NOT VISIBLE**: do **not** attempt a blind finger sweep due to risk of pushing the foreign body further down the airway
8. If object is not removed and canine collapses, provide chest compressions and mouth-to-snout or BVM (with a canine mask). If unable to get chest rise, proceed to Airway Management protocol, **OD Green 6** and Cardiac Arrest protocol, **OD Green 10.**

E A P

Operational K9 Airway Management #1

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

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EMT/AEMT

1. Place the canine in the sternal (prone) position
2. Open airway
   a. Tilt head and slightly extend the neck
   b. If foreign body suspected, refer to Airway Obstruction protocol, **OD Green 4.**
3. Provide oxygen to maintain SpO_2 > 94%*
4. BVM (with canine mask) with goal respiratory rate of 10-12 breaths/minute

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PARAMEDIC

5. If unable to ventilate with basic airway maneuvers, proceed with intubation (only if canine is **unconscious**)
   a. **Prepare**
      __Suction
      __Light source (flashlight/headlamp/laryngoscope)
      __ET tube ready with lubricant, bougie and syringe
         Measure ETT from incisor to thoracic inlet (typical ETT size is 9-11 mm)
            __Tube-securing device ready
      __Continuous end-tidal CO_2 monitor ready if available
      __Consider surgical airway device as back-up
   b. **Pre-oxygenate** (If time allows, often the collapse is sudden, not allowing adequate time to pre-oxygenate)
      __Pre-oxygenate with face mask x 3 minutes
      __Ensure SpO_2 greater than 90%
   c. **Position**
      __Sternal/prone position
      __Assistant to help open mouth
         __Second rescuer may use gauze/leash and place behind upper canines to hold mouth/airway open.
   d. **Pass the tube**
      __Pull tongue straight out and over mandible
      __Visualize vocal cords
      __Directly visualize ETT passing through cords
      __Inflate cuff
   e. **Check tube placement**
      __Breath sounds/chest rise
      __End-tidal CO_2, if available (35-45 mmHg)
   f. **Secure ETT**
      __Consider using a mouth-gag to keep mouth open and prevent damage to the ETT. This can be achieved with a 1-2 wide inch roll of tape
   g. **Titrate oxygen** to maintain SpO_2 ~ 94%

6. If unable to intubate or ventilate with BVM, proceed to Surgical Airway, protocol **OD Green 8**

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*Pulse oximetry is most reliable in unconscious, sedated, or anesthetized canines. Finger probes used for people do not work well in canines. If possible, obtain and use a flat ear probe attachment. Place the probe on the tongue or non-pigmented portion of the lip. In conscious dogs, use the ear pinna, lip fold, inguinal skin fold or prepuce/vulva; although not optimal for oximetry, these alternate sites generally yield reliable results in most instances. Alternatively , a neonatal or disposable pulse oximetry adhesive sensor attached to the base of the canine's tail provides an alternative and very reliable site.

Operational K9 Surgical Airway #1

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

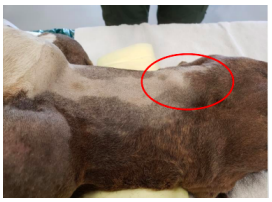
Indication: Inability to oxygenate or ventilate via less invasive means (i.e. Basic airway maneuvers, and inability to intubate.)

Materials/Equipment for Surgical Cricothyrotomy

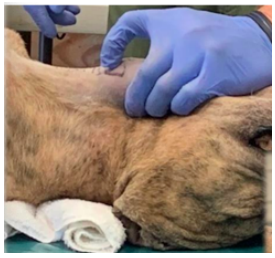
1. Cuffed tracheostomy tube or 6.0 - 10.0 ETT (dogs ~25 kg can accept a 9.0 mm tube)
2. Tracheal hook or bougie
3. Trousseau dilator (if available)
4. Syringe to inflate cuff
5. Scalpel (No. 11 blade)
6. Umbilical tape or other means to secure tracheostomy tube or ETT
7. 4x4 gauze
8. Suction, if available

Procedure:

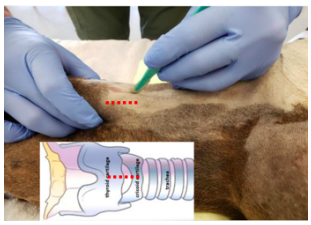
1. Extend the neck when possible to ensure best access to the trachea.
   a. Place a towel, IV bag or similar item under the neck to help extension. Swab/cleanse the area.



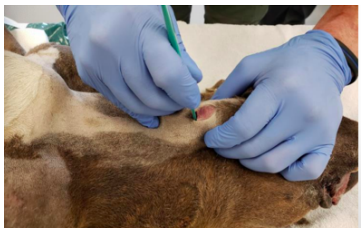
2. Stabilize the larynx and locate the cricothyroid membrane
   a. Immobilize the trachea with your non-dominant thumb and middle finger while palpating the cricothyroid membrane with your non-dominant index finger. It is best to start palpation over the trachea and move cephalad to locate the membrane. NOTE: The cricothyroid membrane is immediately ABOVE the cricoid cartilage and BELOW the thyroid cartilage.



3. Make a 3 - 5 cm **vertical** incision over the cricothyroid membrane through the skin and subcutaneous tissues. NOTE: Severe bleeding is possible with this procedure and may occur at this or the following steps. Be prepared to suction and provide direct pressure to control bleeding



4. Palpate the membrane through the incision to confirm anatomy.
5. Make a small (1 cm or less) incision **horizontally** through the cricothyroid membrane.



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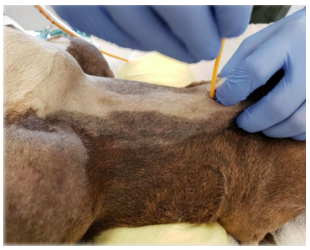
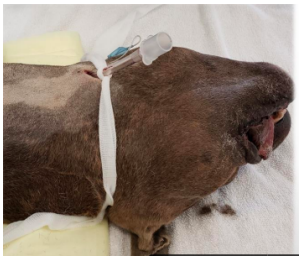
Procedure (continued from previous page)

6. Insert the tracheal hook or bougie in the opening of the membrane while maintaining hold of the thyroid cartilage with your non-dominant hand.
7. If Trousseau dilator available, insert into the incision site and spread vertical then rotate 90 degrees until the dilator is parallel with the neck.
8. Insert the cuffed tracheostomy tube or ETT tube into the incision site and advance caudally. Advance until the flanges rest on the skin of the neck (when using tracheostomy tube).
9. Carefully remove the dilator (if used), tracheal hook and obturator of the tracheostomy tube.
10. Inflate the balloon of the tracheostomy tube/ETT.
11. Ventilate and confirm position by physical exam and $ETCO_2$.
12. Secure the tube in place.





Photos compliments of: Sureiyan Hardjo, UQVETS Small Animal Hospital

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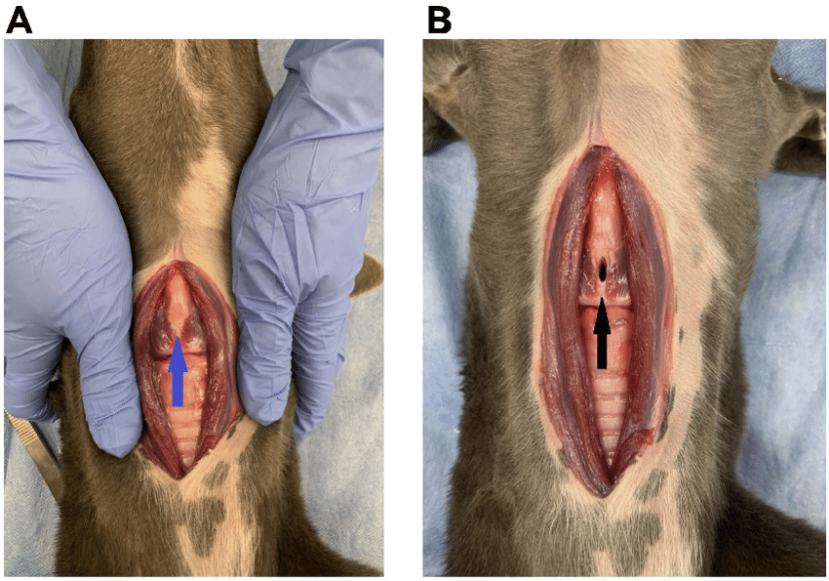

Dissection depicting the ventral laryngeal anatomy in a cadaver dog. (**A**) Blue arrow points to intact cricothyroid membrane and ligament. (**B**) Black arrow indicates the incision in the cricothyroid ligament. The cricothyroid membrane is located on the ventral aspect of the larynx, joining the caudoventral border of the thyroid cartilage and the cranioventral aspect of the cricoid cartilage. The medial part of the cricothyroid membrane is termed the cricothyroid ligament. The ligament is devoid of a major blood supply but may have small vessels associated near the cricoid and thyroid attachments

Hardjo S, Croton C, Haworth MD. A pilot study evaluating the utility of a novel tube cricothyrotomy technique in providing ventilation in small animals using a live porcine model.*Vet Med (Auckl)*. 2019;10:111-121
https://doi.org/10.2147/VMRR.S216551

Operational K9 Cardiac Arrest #1

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

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EMT

1. Initiate chest compressions
2. High-flow O_2 with BVM ventilation 1 breath every 10 chest compressions during recoil and without interrupting compressions or at a ratio of 30:2
    a. Compression rate of 100-120 compressions/minute
    b. Depth of 1/2 -1/3 of chest width
    c. End-tidal of >15 mmHg indicates good compressions
3. Continue 2-minute cycles of chest compressions with pulse checks
4. If ROSC occurs, refer to K9 Post-Resuscitation Care protocol, **OD Green 12**
5. If no ROSC in 20 minutes and ALS-trained K9 care clinician not on scene, terminate resuscitation.

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ADVANCED EMT

6. Establish **IV/IO** without interrupting chest compressions
7. Manage the airway per **OD Green 6**. Avoid respiratory rate greater than 10/minute in cardiac arrest

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PARAMEDIC

8. One medication intervention at each 2-minute reassessment per RECOVER clinical guidelines (doi. 10.1111/j.1476-4431.2012.00757.x)
9. EPINEPHrine 0.01 mg/kg of 1 mg/10 mL **IV/IO** push every 3-5 minutes
    a. VF/VT: amiodarone 5 mg/kg **IV/IO** push
    b. Asystole/PEA: atropine 0.04 mg/kg **IV/IO** push at the initiation of CPR, re-dose <u>every other</u> 2-minute cycle of compressions.
10. Consider causes of OHCA:
    a. Is hypovolemia suspected? If yes, give fluid bolus of 20 mL/kg
    b. Is hypoxia suspected? If yes, administer high-flow oxygen and manage airway per **OD Green 6**
    c. Do you suspect a pneumothorax? If yes, perform bilateral needle decompressions, refer to **OD Green 15**
11. Contact veterinarian for further treatment recommendations
12. If achieve ROSC, proceed to **OD Green 12**

		Weight (kg)	25	30	35	40	45	50
		Weight (lb)	50	60	70	80	90	100
	Drug	Dose	mL	mL	mL	mL	mL	mL
Arrest	Epi 1mg/10mL every other BLS cycle	0.01 mg/kg	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
	Atropine (0.54 mg/mL)	0.04 mg/kg	1.9	2.2	2.6	3	3.3	3.7
Anti-Arrhyth	Amiodarone (50 mg/mL)	5 mg/kg	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
	Lidocaine (20 mg/mL)	2 mg/kg	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
Reversal	Naloxone (0.4 mg/mL)	0.04 mg/kg	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5

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Termination of Resuscitation:
Consider terminating CPR when any of the following occurs:

1. ROSC
2. You are too exhausted to continue
3. Scene/situation becomes unsafe
4. No ROSC after 20 minutes of ineffective CPR **OR** 30-40 minutes of high-quality CPR

Operational K9 Post-Resuscitation Care

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines..

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EMT

1. Manage airway, **OD Green 6**
2. Administer O_2 only to keep O_2 sats greater than or equal to 94% and less than 99% (avoid hypo/hyperoxia).
3. Maintain ventilation rate between 10 - 12 breaths per minute

A

ADVANCED EMT

4. Obtain IV/IO access
5. Treat hypotension with fluid boluses.
   a. Goal systolic BP is measured by return of palpable femoral pulse.
   b. For post-resuscitation hypotension, administer fluid boluses of 20 mL/kg. Total volume should not exceed 60 mL/kg

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PARAMEDIC

6. If hypotension persists: Contact the veterinarian for options such as NOREPInephrine **IV/IO infusion**.
   Preparation: mix NOREPInephrine 8 mg in 250 mL NS
   a. **Dosing** - usual dose of NOREPInephrine is 1 mcg/kg/min, follow guidelines of your veterinarian for dosing.

7. If seizure develops, check blood glucose
   a. If glucose < 70 mg/dL, administer D_{50} 0.5 g/kg **IV/IO** (**diluted** to D_{25} or $D_{12.5}$ with NS) or give 0.5 g/kg of D10W.
   b. If glucose > 70 mg/dL, provide supportive care

8. If K9 suffers loss of spontaneous circulation and re-arrests, follow the K9 Cardiac Arrest protocol, **OD Green 10.**

Operational K9 Hemorrhage Control

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EMS

1. Ascertain all sites of bleeding and control with direct pressure
    a. Extremity: apply an elastic wrap/pressure bandage, or SWAT-T.

    ****Commercially made windlass tourniquets are not effective on canines due to the tapered shape of their extremities.****

2. For deep wounds in junctional areas or areas containing large muscle bellies (neck, thigh, shoulder/triceps area) control bleeding by applying a Maine EMS-approved hemostatic agent and packing the agent in the wound and applying/maintaining pressure over the agent for a minimum of 5 minutes.
    a. Check for ongoing bleeding. If bleeding has stopped, apply appropriate pressure bandage over top of dressing; if bleeding continues, reapply pressure for a minimum of 5 minutes.
    b. If bleeding continues, remove the initial hemostatic agent and repeat with a new hemostatic agent. Remember, for these agents to have maximal effectiveness, they must be packed inside the wound as close to the bleeding source as possible
3. Treat for shock, if indicated, **OD Green 14**
4. Manage airway as appropriate, **OD Green 6**

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ADVANCED EMT/Paramedic

5. IV/IO en route if feasible. Do not delay transport for IV/IO access.

Please note that the SWAT-T should be stored in the OpK9 first aid pack only. This is **not** a Maine EMS-approved tourniquet for use on humans.

Operational K9 Hemorrhagic Shock

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

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If history of illness or mechanism of injury consistent with signs/symptoms of shock (elevated pulse, elevated respiratory rate, pale mucous membranes, altered LOC, or lowered BP) then transport as soon and as efficiently as possible.

A

EMT

1. Control bleeding, refer to Hemorrhage protocol, **OD Green 13**
2. Manage airway as appropriate; see **OD Green 6**

ADVANCED EMT

3. IV/IO en route
4. If shock present (see below table), perform fluid bolus according to the following guidelines:
   a. Establish **IV/IO** access and perform 20 mL/kg fluid bolus (LR preferred) Repeat, as needed, within 15-30 min
      i. May repeat in 250-500 mL boluses to achieve palpable femoral pulse and improved mentation with MAX total dose 60 mL/kg.

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PARAMEDIC

5. In canines with either penetrating/blunt trauma and are hemodynamically unstable, as evidenced by tachycardia, hypotension (weak femoral pulse), or other evidence of shock, and who are less than 180 minutes (3 hours) from the time of injury/hemorrhage, consider:
   a. Tranexamic acid (TXA) 500 mg **IV/IO** mixed in 250 ml of NS over 10 minutes
   b. Notify receiving facility of the need for the second 10 mg/kg dose of TXA as a continuous infusion over 8 hours

Stage of Shock	HR beats/min	Capillary Refill secs	Mucous Membranes	Mentation	Pulse Quality	SBP mmHg
Normal (at rest)	<120	<2	Pink	Bright, Alert	Strong	>90
Acute Compensatory	>120	<1	Red	Alert	Fair	>90
Early Decompensatory	>140	>2	Pale	Depressed	Weak	<90
Terminal/ Irreversible	<80	Absent	Pale	Stupor/ Comatose	Absent	Low

Operational K9 Chest Trauma

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These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

EMT

1. O_2, as appropriate
2. Assist ventilations (PPV), if needed
3. Impaled Objects
   a. Secure in place with bulky dressings
4. Open chest wound
   a. Cover with vented or non-vented occlusive dressing
   b. If shock present, consider tension pneumothorax has developed and burp/vent the chest seal.
5. Flail segment with paradoxical movement and respiratory distress
   a. Consider PPV

ADVANCED EMT

6. IV/IO en route
7. If shock present,
   a. Perform fluid bolus of 20 mL/kg LR

PARAMEDIC

8. For presumed tension pneumothorax, perform chest decompression
   a. Landmark
      i. 7th - 9th intercostal space (canines have 13 ribs)

-OR-

      ii. Midpoint between shoulder and last rib/widest point on rib cage

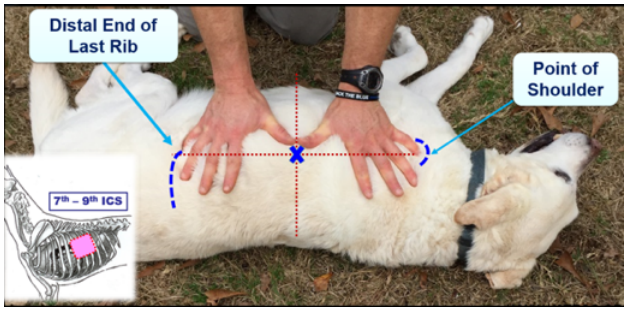

Photo used with permission from K9 TCCC Quick Reference Guide

   b. Go over top (cranial) aspect of rib
   c. Aspirate and consider decompressing the other side of the chest as well
      i. Remember the canine mediastinum is fenestrated
   d. DO NOT leave catheter(s) in place unless otherwise directed

NOTE: Chest decompressions will be performed using a Maine EMS-approved device.

Operational K9 Burns

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EMT

1. Remove collar/harness/vest/booties, etc. Avoid pulling away any gear that is melted in the the skin/coat
2. O_2, as appropriate
3. Give highest priority to airway problems and major trauma
4. If burn is < 15% of TBSA (superficial or partial thickness), consider cooling burn with cool water (sterile water/saline if available)
5. Cover burn with dry dressing, sterile sheet, or commercially prepared dry dressing
6. Prevent heat loss/hypothermia
7. If suspect CO/CN poisoning, refer to **OD Green 18**

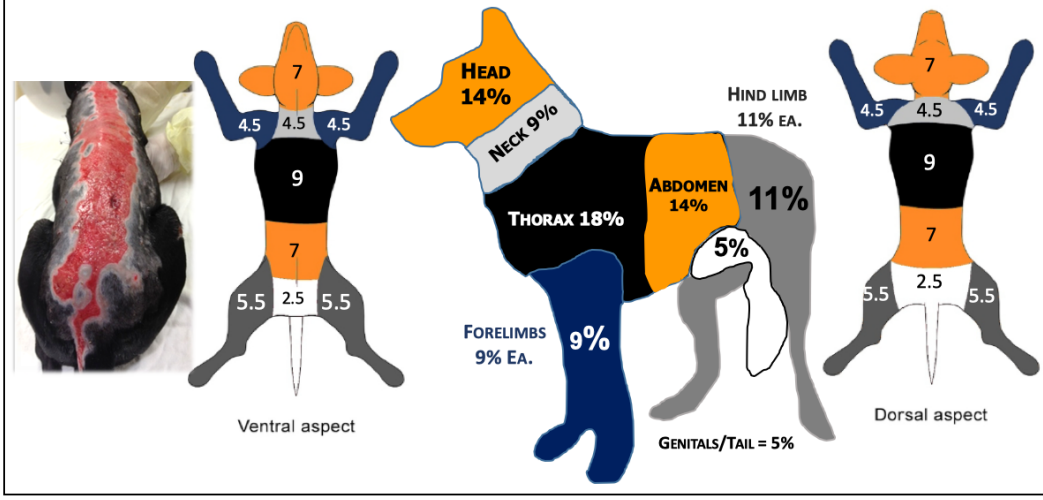
A P

ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC

8. IV/IO en-route
9. If shock present, perform fluid bolus of 20 mL/kg of lactated ringers
10. If shock NOT present and TBSA > 20% or full thickness burns present, deliver fluid bolus as follows:
    a. 2mL/kg x %TBSA burned = amount to be given in first 8 hours

Body Surface Area In K9s – "K9 Rule of 9's"

Henriksson A, Kuo K, Gerken K, Cline K, et al. J Vet Emerg Crit Care, 2021 (pending publication)



Operational K9 Opioid Overdose

E

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

WARNING: CONTACT WITH THESE TOXINS CAN BE FATAL TO RESCUERS CONSIDER SCENE SAFETY AND DECONTAMINATION

Don appropriate PPE as opioid exposure is often due to contact with the opioid in powder form and cross contamination can occur between the OpK9, handler, and EMS clinician. Please alert the Veterinary Hospital as soon as feasibly possible so that they can take appropriate precautions as well.

Opioid overdose in canines is manifested primarily by *excessive sedation*, *bradycardia*, and *hypothermia*. Canines are less susceptible than humans to the respiratory depressant effects of opioids.

EMT

1. Administer O_2, as appropriate
2. Manage airway providing rescue breaths if RR < 8, see **OD Green 6**
3. Consider securing canine with muzzle in anticipation of reversal of opioid
4. If it is suspected that the canine came into contact with an opioid and is showing symptoms of opioid overdose, administer:
   a. Naloxone 2-4 mg **IN**, repeat every 2-5 minutes as needed (dose depends upon pre-packaged medication); OR
   b. Naloxone 2-4 mg **IM** via auto-injector (dose depends upon device), repeat every 2-5 minutes as needed

A P

ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC

5. Establish IV/IO access
6. Alternative route of administration:
   a. Naloxone 2-4 mg **IV/IO**; may repeat every 2-5 minutes.
7. If canine is hypotensive, administer a fluid bolus of 20 mL/kg of LR

Northern New England Poison Center: (800) 222-1222
Animal Poison Helplines (Fees may apply):
- ASPCA Animal Poison Control: (888) 426-4435
- Pet Poison Control Helpline: (855) 764-7661

Operational K9 CO/CN Exposure/Smoke Inhalation

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

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Don PPE if necessary, assess canine after evacuation
Remove canine from source of smoke/inhalation

EMT

1. Secure canine per **OD Green 2**
2. Manage airway as per **OD Green 6**

If suspect CO/CN exposure:

3. Administer high-flow O2
   *pulse oximetry may be inaccurate in exposure to CO/CN

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AEMT

4. If hypotensive, administer IV/IO bolus of 20 mL/kg of LR, may repeat x 1

P

PARAMEDIC

5. In case of severe CN toxicity, either alone or in combination with CO exposure:
   a. Hydroxocobalamin (Cyanokit) - 150mg/kg **IV/IO** over 10-15 minutes, with consultation with the receiving veterinarian *strongly* encouraged.

Clinical signs of cyanide toxicity are frothing at the mouth, rapid/deep breathing, excitability (tremors, seizure), and can progress to severe respiratory depression, loss of consciousness, coma, and death.

Operational K9 Nerve Agent/ Organophosphate / Carbamate Exposure

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

PEARLS :

WARNING: CONTACT WITH THESE TOXINS CAN BE FATAL TO RESCUERS
CONSIDER SCENE SAFETY AND DECONTAMINATION

- Assess for **SLUDGEM** symptoms (**S**alivation, **L**acrimation, **U**rination, **D**efecation, **GI** Distress, **E**mesis, **M**uscle twitching/**M**iosis [constricted pupils]) and the **Killer-Bs** (**B**radycardia, **B**ronchorrhea, **B**ronchospasm)
- If you suspect a bioterrorism/WMD threat, see **Grey 27**
- Transport canine with all windows of ambulance open
- Decontaminate entire ambulance after canine transport
- All responders who contacted the canine require decontamination

E

In unstable canines with known organophosphate/carbamate poisoning:

EMT

1. Remove canine from contaminated area and consider decontamination as needed based on scene/call circumstances
2. O_2 as appropriate
3. Manage airway as appropriate, see **OD Green 6**
   Ventilatory support may be critical in these poisonings
4. Vigorous suctioning may be necessary
5. Mark 1 kit (noted as **auto-injector** in table below)

A P

ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC

6. IV/IO en route
7. In all cases, continue to monitor closely for worsening symptoms

Symptoms/ Medications	Dyspnea, twitching, nausea, vomiting. sweating, confusion, or pinpoint pupils	Apnea, seizure,unconsciousness, or flaccid paralysis
Atropine	0.2-0.5 mg/kg **IM/IV/IO** or **ONE** auto-injector (2mg) per 20 lb Repeat every 10-20 minutes as needed with preference of repeat doses of 0.1 mg/kg if feasible	
2-PAM Chloride	10-20 mg/kg **IM** every 8-12 hours as needed	

* If atropine is drawn up from a vial to administer **(Paramedic),** the concentration may require more than one injection site to achieve the full dose without exceeding the recommended 3-5 mL max IM volume

Atropine	Lb	Kg	Dose (mg)	Min #auto-injectors
	40	18	3.6 - 9	2
	50	22	4.5 - 11.4	2
	60	27	5.4 - 13.5	2
	70	32	6.4 - 16	3
	80	36	7.2 - 18	3
	90	41	8.2 - 20.5	4

2-PAM Chloride	Lb	Kg	Dose (mg)	Min # auto-injectors
	40	18	180-360	2
	50	22	227-450	2
	60	27	270-540	2
	70	32	320-640	3
	80	36	360-720	3
	90	41	410-820	4

Operational K9 Heat Illness #1

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

- Canines do not sweat. Their predominant cooling mechanism is by panting.
- The progression of heat injury in the canine can be quite rapid and requires immediate intervention.
- Causes are environmental, exertional or a combination of the two.
- Prevention is key - it is important for handlers to assure that their canines are acclimated, and physically conditioned to the climate and level of activity. Consider work:rest cycles and adequate hydration.
- **AVOID** muzzles unless required for safety reasons; an open basket muzzle is the preferred muzzle in this case to allow for panting.

	Core Temp* (F)	HR	MM	LOC	Panting**	Behavior/Performance
Mild (heat stress)	Varies 105-106	Fast, Strong	Moist, Pink	Alert	Heavy, Controlled	Excessive thirst, discomfort with physical activity, slightly decreased performance
Moderate (heat exhaustion)	106-108	Fast, Strong, or Weak	Tacky or Dry, Bright Red	Alert	Uncontrolled, Failure to Salivate	Weakness, anxiety, unwillingness to work, acts tired, unresponsive to handler commands
Severe (heat stroke)	Usually > 108	Weak	Dry Pale	Altered	Maybe	Vomiting, diarrhea, ataxia, head tremors, seizures, blindness, abnormal pupil size

*Many canines are not trained or tolerable of rectal temps; may use axillary temperature if a rectal temp is not achievable. Axillary temps are approximately 1-2 degrees F less than rectal
Refer to PEARL in **OD Green 22

E A P

Treatment for all stages of heat illness includes:

1. Remove the canine from the heat source and stop their work/exercise
2. Begin cooling methods
3. Monitor temperature (rectal or axillary)
4. Monitor for changes in mentation
5. Monitor closely for several hours to make sure illness does not progress to the next stage and that a rebound low body temperature does not develop.

Source: DHS Working Dog Handler Medical Care Manual 2017

(continued)

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EMT

Mild Heat Injury (heat stress)

6. Cool by bringing to a shaded or lightly air-conditioned area. If no A/C available, use circulating fan to blow a light breeze by the canine
7. As feasible, remove muzzles, harnesses, tactical gear, etc.
8. Place on a cool surface to promote conductive cooling
9. Offer cool water and encourage drinking
10. Ensure the canine is afforded ample time to rest and recover where they are displaying no signs of heat stress.
11. Monitor vital signs every 5 minutes; discontinue cooling efforts when core temp is 104F or less.
12. Ideally, these canines should not return to work or participate in outdoor activity for the rest of the day.

Moderate Heat Injury (heat exhaustion)

13. Follow guidelines above and start active external cooling
    a. Use cooling fans or air conditioning to reduce core body temperature
    b. Place cold compresses or wrapped in towels on the head and neck as well as the axillae and groin. Avoid placing ice packs on the limbs as this shunts hot blood back to the core.
    c. Douse or spray body with cold water; soak hair to skin with cold water and use fans or A/C to cool further.
14. Monitor vital signs every 5 minutes; discontinue cooling efforts when core temp reaches 104F
15. Dry canine off, place on dry surface and avoid direct application of air on canine from circulating fans or A/C.
16. Continue to monitor temperature every 10 minutes for at least the next few hours as body temperature may continue dropping to the subnormal range or rise excessively again.
    a. If body temperature drops below 100F (rebound hypothermia) consider passive warming by covering with blankets or other similar materials
17. Transport to appropriate veterinary treatment facility

Severe Heat Injury (heat stroke)

*****This is a life-threatening condition*****

18. Rapid cooling to a body temperature of 103.5-104 F
    a. Cool water (do not submerge in ice bath)
    b. Soaking the canine to the skin with cool water. Soak the entire canine as rapidly as possible through the hair, soaking the skin thoroughly and implement convective cooling with cooling fans or A/C.
19. When temperature reaches 104 F, remove from bath/water, dry hair and continue to monitor temperature, watch for rebound hypothermia, as above.
20. Transport to appropriate veterinary treatment facility

Source: DHS Working Dog Handler Medical Care Manual 2017

(continued)

Operational K9 Heat Illness #3

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AEMT/PARAMEDIC

21. Establish IV/IO access for moderate and severe heat-related illness
22. Administer 20 mL/kg fluid bolus IV/IO of LR
    a. Repeat as needed to achieve palpable femoral pulse and HR < 120 bpm and improved mentation
23. Check blood glucose. If <60 mg/dL, administer 0.5 g/kg D_{50} **IV/IO** (diluted to D_{25} or $D_{12.5}$ in NS) or give 0.5 g/kg of D10W
24. Supplemental oxygen via face mask
25. Transport to appropriate veterinary treatment facility

NOTE: No single core temperature value defines heat-related illness for all canines in all circumstances. Well-conditioned, acclimated canines may reach peak core temperatures as high 106 - 108°F while working, yet display no behavioral or clinical signs of heat stress. Base clinical assessment on presence and progression of clinical signs over core temperature.

Controlled panting: the canine can stop panting with an alcohol-soaked gauze is put in front of the nose or when the canine becomes interested in or distracted by something (i.e. toy, reward, noxious stimulus, verbal command).

Uncontrolled panting: the canine cannot stop panting even when offered a treat or reward or when exposed to alcohol-soaked gauze or other noxious stimuli.

Operational K9 Anaphylaxis

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

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EMT

1. Allow canine to assume position of comfort
2. Secure canine with leash/rope
3. Manage airway as appropriate, **OD Green 6**
4. Supplemental O2, as appropriate
5. If anaphylaxis identified, assist administration of EPINEPHrine auto-injector, administer an adult or pediatric (as applicable) auto-injector, or provide EPINEPHrine through the Maine EMS Check and Inject program.
    a. EPINEPHrine 0.3 mg **IM** (Adult auto-injector) for canine 20 kg or greater
    b. EPINEPHrine 0.15 mg **IM** (Pedi auto-injector) for canine less than 20 kg
6. Transport
7. May repeat IM EPINEPHrine dose every 5-15 min x 3 if signs/symptoms continue or return despite initial treatment

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ADVANCED EMT

8. If anaphylaxis identified:
    a. EPINEPHrine 0.3 mg **IM** [0.3 mL of 1mg/mL] for canine 20 kg or greater,
    b. EPINEPHrine 0.15 mg **IM** [0.15 mL of 1mg/mL] in canine less than 20 kg
9. IV/IO en route
10. If shock present, perform fluid bolus of 20 mL/kg and may repeat x 3 to MAX total volume of 60 mL/kg
11. If wheezing persists 5-15 minutes after EPINEPHrine administration, consider administration of albuterol via nebulizer 2.5 mg x 1

P

PARAMEDIC

12. Diphenhydramine 2 mg/kg **IM** (do **not** give IV)*
13. For mild allergic reactions/cutaneous allergies, the *handler* may administer 4 mg/kg diphenhydramine **PO**

PEARLS

In canines, cutaneous (i.e. urticaria/hives, pruritis/itching) signs of allergies are uncommon. However, with progression to anaphylaxis, clinical signs are most often associated with the cardiovascular (CV) and gastrointestinal (GI) systems. Respiratory signs may also develop, along with seizures and anxiousness, progressing to weakness and collapse.

Signs include:

- CV: tachycardia, weakness, weak pulses, mucous membrane color changes
- GI/GU: urinating, vomiting, and diarrhea that is often bloody
- Respiratory: increased respiratory effort, wheezes, and crackles

*IV diphenhydramine can cause significant hypotension, therefore give **IM**

Operational K9 Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV)

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

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GDV (aka "bloat") progresses very rapidly and recognizing the symptoms in the canine quickly can save their life. Initial signs are often associated with abdominal pain. These can include, but are not limited to:

- **an anxious look or looking at the abdomen**
- **extreme agitation due to acute pain**
- **standing and stretching, head and tail down with an arched back**
- **pacing, accompanied with the inability to sit or lay down comfortably**
- **drooling**
- **distending abdomen**
- **retching without producing anything except excessive saliva - this is the most common symptom, and sounds like dry-heaving but can sometimes sound like a repeated cough.**

EMT

1. Immediate transport in position of comfort
2. Notify veterinary center early of GDV concern

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AEMT

3. IV/IO access in the forelimb en route if feasible (do not delay transport for IV/IO access)
4. Administer fluid bolus of LR 20 mL/kg I**V/IO**

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PARAMEDIC

5. Place canine on their side with side of maximum distention up.
6. Palpate the dilated stomach and caudal edge of the rib cage.
7. Identify point of maximum tympany on the left side. Perform needle decompression of gastric dilation with a 12-14 gauge x 3.25-5.25 inch IV catheter or large-bore needle.
8. Monitor for recurrent gastric dilatation; decompress as indicated.

PEARL

The hallmark presentation of GDV is sudden onset of abdominal distention, distress, anxiety and pain (panting, guarding of the belly, anguished facial expression), and multiple attempts at vomiting that are frequently unproductive. Not every canine will have a classic appearance and some canines will not have obvious abdominal distention because of their body configuration.

Operational K9 M^3ARCH^2 PEDALS

These canine guidelines are reserved for use only on Operational K9s, who are injured or become ill while on duty, by appropriately trained EMS personnel. Ill or injured humans always take priority over canines.

- **Move** K9 to safety
- **Muzzle** the K9 if conscious, no upper airway obstruction present, and not heat stress; handle cautiously if mentation is altered, K9 may have increased aggression
- Control **Massive Hemorrhage**
  - Direct pressure
  - Pressure bandage and/or wound packing
  - Avoid windlass tourniquets
  - Consider elastic tourniquet (i.e. SWAT-T)
- **Airway**
  - Clear oral cavity
  - Manual airway maneuvers (head and neck extended and in-line, prone positioning)
  - Advanced airway (ETT or surgical cricothyrotomy in the unresponsive canine)
- **Respiratory**/Breathing
  - Seal open chest wound
  - Tension pneumothorax management
- **Circulation**
  - IV/IO fluid resuscitation
  - TXA
- **Hypothermia**
  - Minimize exposure to elements
  - Apply survival blanket/maintain warmth
- **Head** and Trauma management
- **Pain** management (not available on formulary at this time)
- **Environment**
- **Dehydration**
- **Antibiotics** (not available on formulary at this time)
- **Lacerations/Wounds**
  Bandage open abdominal wounds
  Moisten/protect exposed organs
- **Splint** fracture (if safe to do so)

CANINE-TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE CARD (cTCCC)

EVAC CAT: ☐Urgent ☐Priority ☐Routine

EVAC TYPE: ☐Fixed ☐Rotary ☐Ground ☐MEDEVAC ☐CASEVAC

UNIT: _____ **NAME:** _____ **TATTOO:** _____

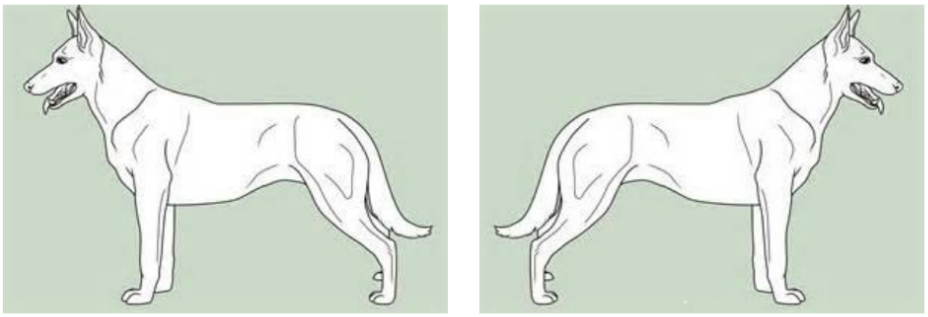
DATE: (DD-MM-YY) _____ **TIME:** _____ **GENDER:** ☐M ☐F

Mechanism of Injury: (Mark **X** all that apply

☐IED ☐GSW ☐MINE ☐BURN ☐GRENADE ☐ARTILLERY ☐FALL

☐OTHER: _____

Injury: (Mark all injuries that apply with an **X**)



Signs and Symptoms: (fill in the blank)

Time					
Pain Score (0-10)					
Temperature (99-102.5)					
Pulse Rate/Location (60-80)					
Respirations (16-30)					
Blood Pressure (120/80)					
Pulse Ox% (> 95%)					
Capillary Refill (< 2 sec)					

NOTES: _____

_____

_____

DD FORM 3073 OCTOBER 2019 (Send card to dog.consult@us.af.mill) Page of

https://jts.amed.army.mil/assets/docs/forms/DD_3073_Canine_Tactical_Combat_Casualty_Care_Card.pdf.

K9 Normal Vitals & Glasgow Coma Score

Parameter	Normal Value
RR	10 - 40 breaths/minute
HR	60 - 80 bpm (up to 130 post exercise)
Capillary Refill	less than 2 sec.
Rectal Temp	100 -102.5 F (103-106 F post exercise)
LOC	Bright, alert, responsive (BAR)
BP	120/75 mmHg
Blood Glucose	70 - 120 mg/dL
SpO2	greater than 94%
EtCO2	35 - 45 mmHg

K9 Modified Glasgow Coma Score	
Motor Activity	
Normal gait, normal spinal reflexes	6
Hemiparesis, tetraparesis, or decerebrate activity	5
Recumbent, intermittent extensor rigidity	4
Recumbent, constant extensor rigidity	3
Recubment, constant extensor rigidity with opisthotonus	2
Recumbent, hypotonia of muscles, depressed or absent spinal reflexes	1
Brain Stem Reflexes	
Normal pupillary light reflexes and oculocephalic reflexes	6
Slow pupillary light reflexes and normal to reduced oculocephalic reflexes	5
Bilateral unresponsive miosis with normal to reduced oculocephalic reflexes	4
Pinpoint pupils with reduced or absent oculocephalic reflexes	3
Unilateral, unresponsive mydriasis with reduced or absent oculocephalic reflexes	2
Bilateral, unresponsive mydriasis with reduced or absent oculocephalic reflexes	1
Level of Consciousness	
Occasional periods of alertness and responsive to environment	6
Depression or delirium, capable of responding to environment but response may be inappropriate	5
Stupor, responsive to visual stimuli	4
Stupor, responsive to auditory stimuli	3
Stupor, responsive only to noxious stimuli	2
Coma, unresponsive to repeated noxious stimuli	1

Score Interpretation	
Grave	3-6
Guarded	9-14
Good	15-18

Source: www.K9tecc.org

	Enter Weight Below (kg)			
	30.00			
Emergency Formulary for Operational K9s				
Drug	**Dosage**	**Dose for 30 kg dog**		**Units**
	ALS DRUGS			
EPINEPHrine	0.01 mg/kg **IV/IO** (1mg/10 mL) Cardiac Arrest q5min	0.3		mg
Atropine	0.04 mg/kg **IV/IO/IM** q4 min	1.2		mg
Amiodarone	5 mg/kg **IV/IO**	150		mg
Defibrillation	2-4 J/kg	60	120	J
	ANESTHETICS			
Tetracaine 0.5%		1-2 drops/eye		
	DRUG REVERSALS			
Naloxone	2-4 mg **IV/IO/IM/IN**; repeat q2-5 min	2 - 4		mg
	ANTIEMETICS			
Ondansetron	0.2 - 0.5 mg/kg PO or **IV/IO** (slowly over 2-15 min) q8h	6	15	mg
	MISCELLANEOUS			
Diphenhydramine	2-4 mg/kg **IM** or 4 mg **PO** q8-12h	60	120	mg
EpiPen	0.15-0.3 mg **IM**	0.3		mg
EPINEPHrine	0.01 mg/kg **IM** (1 mg/1mL) Anaphylaxis q3-5 min	0.3		mg
D50	0.5 g/kg **IV** slowly (dilute 1:1 with saline to make 25% or 1:2 to make D12.5) Can also deliver **IV/IO** via D10	15		grams
Atropine	0.2-0.5 mg/kg **IM** for organophosphate poisonoing	6	15	mg
	repeat dose of 0.1 mg/kg **IM** every 10-20 min	3		mg
2-PAM Chloride	10-20 mg/kg **IM** every 8-12 h	300 - 600		mg
Hydroxocobalamin	150 mg/kg **IV/IO** infuse over 10-15 min	4500		mg
Avoid **NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY** medications (ASA, ibuprofen, etc) in the trauma patients				
Fluid Resuscitation Guideline				
Acute Trauma 1. *Without active* Hemorrhage, **OR** *2. With controlled* Hemorrhage				
Crystalloid	20 mL/kg **IV/IO** (can repeat x 2)	600		mL
Traumatic Shock 1._ *With uncontrolled* active hemorrhage, **OR** 2. With internal body cavity bleeding				
Crystalloid	10 mL/kg **IV/IO** and only if evac time is >30 min (repeat only x2)	300		mL
TXA	500 mg **IV/IO** slow infusion	500		mg
Acute trauma with: 1. Head trauma, **OR** 2. Pulmonary contusions (blast, overpressure or blunt trauma)				
Crystalloid	10 mL/kg **IV/IO** given ONCE; no more than 250 mL total if pulmonary contusion known or highly suspected	300 (250 if pulm contusion)		mL

Maine EMS List of 24-Hour Veterinary Emergency Hospitals and After Hours Clinics
(As of October 2024)

After-Hours/24-Hour Emergency Clinics				
Animal Emergency Clinic of Mid Maine	37 Strawberry Ave Lewiston	(207)777-1110	M-F 5p-8a Sat/Sun 24 hours	https://aec-midmaine.com/index.cfm
Eastern Maine Emergency Veterinary Clinic	15 Dirigo Dr. Brewer	(207)989-6267	M-Th 5:30p-8a 5:30p F – 8a Monday	https://emevc.com
Maine Veterinary Medical Center	1500 Technology Way Scarborough	(207)885-1290	24/7/365	https://mvmc.vet
Midcoast Animal Emergency Clinic	191 Camden Rd (Rt 9) Warren	(207)273-1100	M-F 5:30p-7:30a Sat/Sun: 24h	https://www.midcoastaec.com
Portland Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Care	739 Warren Ave Portland	(207)878-3121	24/7/365	https://www.pvesc.com