

# Advanced First Aid for Operational K9

**This is a combined class for K9 Handlers and paramedics tasked to provide pre-hospital care for working K9s in the field**

The **3-day** course is presented using a multi-disciplinary approach focusing on pre-hospital care for tactical and non-tactical emergencies common to the Operational K9 (OpK9). The intent is to provide the attendee the knowledge necessary to manage immediate threats to life, limb, or eyesight, and to prepare the OpK9 for evacuation to definitive veterinary care. The curriculum incorporates current TECC guidelines with adaptations relative to canine anatomy and physiology. Training includes PowerPoint presentations and hands-on, scenario-based training. Topics of discussion include: general anatomy familiarization, restraint techniques, bandaging, bleeding control, CPR, care of environmental injuries, stabilization for GDV/Bloat, IV/IO catheter placement, subcutaneous fluid therapy, endotracheal intubation, emergency thoracentesis, and more.

Your instructors are veterinarians, veterinary technicians, tactical medics, and K9 handlers. All students will receive a job-specific Operational K9 first aid kit with supplies relevant to the skills learned in the class and specific to canine. Eligible for Maine EMS CEH credits.



**When:** November 2-4, 2022 8am-4pm

**Cost:** \$530 per person and includes first aid kit

**Where:** 250 Canco Rd, Portland, ME

For registration and payment information contact [eac@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:eac@portlandmaine.gov)

For class information or questions, please contact [micheller@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:micheller@portlandmaine.gov)

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS October 7, 2022. Payment is preferred in advance. Checks can be made payable and sent to:**

City of Portland

c/o Portland Police Department Training Division/K9 First Aid

109 Middle St, Portland, ME 04101

## **Advanced First Aid for Operational K9 Instructors:**

**Lee Palmer DVM, MS, DACVECC, CCRP, EMT-T, WEMT, NRP, TP-C  
Lieutenant Colonel, ALARNG**

Dr. Lee Palmer is a board-certified Emergency and Critical Care Veterinarian that provides training and consultation in K9 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (K9 TECC) to military, law enforcement and Search and Rescue (SAR) K9 handlers as well as Tier 1 operators and civilian tactical EMS (TEMS) personnel; He has served in the military since 1996 in both active and reserve status in the roles of a Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician and as a veterinarian in the US Army Veterinary Corps. Dr. Palmer also served in the following capacities:

- Founding member and co-lead of the K9 TECC working group;
- Lead of the Veterinary Committee on Trauma (VetCOT) Prehospital committee;
- Board of Adviser for the Committee of Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (CTECC);
- Instructor-CONTOMS Advanced EMT-T and North Carolina “K9 Down” training courses;
- Veterinary Consultant for the USAF Pararescue group, US Marshals Service (USMS), and Department of Homeland Security;
- Veterinary SME for Domestic Highway Enforcement, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) K9 working group;
- Reserve Deputy Sheriff / SWAT Medic, Lee County Sheriff Office;
- Section Head, Ongoing Series – Canine Medicine, Journal of Special Operations Medicine.

### **Meghan E. Vaught DVM, DACVECC**

Dr. Vaught obtained her doctorate from St. George University in May 2013 after completing her clinical rotations at the University of Pennsylvania. In June 2014, she completed a small animal rotating internship at Tufts Veterinary Emergency Treatment and Specialties hospital. Dr. Vaught completed a three-year Emergency and Critical Care Residency at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in 2017. Later that year, she earned board certification as a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care. Dr. Vaught’s clinical and research interests include but are not limited to respiratory disease/mechanical ventilation, sepsis, polytrauma and severe acid/base or electrolyte disorders. Dr. Vaught’s priority is to provide the highest quality of care and medicine to each patient and their family. In her free time, Dr. Vaught enjoys spending time with her husband, their young daughter and their two cats.

### **Kate Domenico, DVM**

Dr. Kate Domenico has been practicing small animal medicine and surgery for over 14 years. Originally from Chicago, she attended Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine and finished her clinical year at the University of Illinois, School of Veterinary Medicine in 2004.

Prior to joining the Maine Veterinary Medical Center team as a full-time Emergency Clinician in March 2014, she was a Medical Director of two veterinary hospitals in New Jersey. She is a Veterinary Medical Officer on The National Veterinary Response Team and works closely with the Department of Defense and Secret Service working canines. She also participates on the Board of the Maine Veterinary Medical Association as Chair of Member Benefits Committee, and assists in legislative affairs involving veterinarians.

### **Kate Zimmerman, DO**

Dr. Zimmerman started her career in EMS in 1991 and has practiced at the basic, advanced and paramedic levels prior becoming a board-certified in Emergency Medicine and Emergency Medical Services physician. She has worked clinically at Maine Medical Center since 2006 after completing her residency at the same institution. She currently serves as the Associate State Medical Director and Trauma Systems Manager for Maine EMS. She has served as the medical director of the Portland Police Special Reaction Team since 2017 and is a member of the National Association of EMS Physicians where she sits on their operations/tactical medicine committee. Dr. Zimmerman has authored the Operational K9 Medicine protocols for Maine EMS – supported by many local and national experts and is excited to introduce these protocols during this course.

### **Bruce Carleton, EMT-P, (Ret.) Portland, ME, Fire Department**

Bruce retired as a 33-year career paramedic/firefighter with the Portland Fire Department. He worked as a tactical medic for the Portland Police Department's SRT team for 22 years. Since 1987, Bruce has taught combatives, tactical medicine, and firearms at Executive Security International. He has taught various law enforcement agencies both in the US and Latin America. He was a K9 Medic instructor and has taught ATF SOG, US Marshal's, Border Patrol, FBI and Air Force Pararescue personnel K9 medicine.

### **Deputy Chief John Kooistra, EMT-P, Windham, ME, Fire/Rescue**

Deputy Chief John Kooistra was a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Portland Fire Department for 28 years. He was an active member of the SRT team as a tactical paramedic and was on the team for 25 years. He recently retired and was hired as the Deputy Chief for Windham Fire/Rescue, overseeing training. He has been instructing TCCC for the last 11 years and has been instructing K9 first aid and tactical first aid for the last 6 years.

### **Officer Ted Mahar, EMT, EMT-T, TR-C**

Ted Mahar has a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and started in law enforcement in 1997. He continues to work as a Reserve Officer for Scarborough Police Department. In 2002 he became a licensed EMT and the same year was selected as a SWAT team member. He served first on the Scarborough Police SRT and then as a founding member of Southern Maine Regional SWAT for

a total of 18 years. He was the Executive Director of Wilderness Medical Associates International overseeing daily operations of training for 10,000 students per year globally. In 2014 he started his own company selling medical gear and teaching trauma classes as well as contracting to teach TCCC, TECC and K9 TECC. He is a firearms instructor and holds instructor ratings in multiple specialties from several organizations including FLETC and NAEMT.

### **Officer Michelle Cole, K9 Handler, Veterinary Assistant, EMT**

Michelle has been a police officer with the City of Portland for 24 years. She was a Military Police officer in the United States Army Reserves for 8 years. She is currently a State of Maine licensed EMT- Basic. In 2016, she earned her Associate's Degree as a Veterinary Technician, currently working part time as a veterinary assistant. Over the last 20 years, she has held certifications as a police canine handler in patrol/narcotics detection as well as explosives detection through the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, United States Police Canine Association, and Department of Homeland Security. She is a former Assistant K9 Trainer for detection work through the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. She is currently working her fourth certified canine, K9 Barni, a Department of Homeland Security explosives detection canine.

### **Lt. Colin Ayer, EMT-P, Portland, ME, Fire Department**

Lt. Ayer holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and is a nationally registered Paramedic. He is a shift EMS Operations Supervisor with the Portland Fire Department. He has 16 years of service in an EMS capacity, 13 years in Portland. He currently serves as a Tactical Paramedic on the Portland Police Department's Special Reaction Team. Lt. Ayer holds an Advanced Certificate in Community Paramedicine and is a certified National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians and American Heart Association instructor.

### **Lt. Brendan Joyce, EMT-P, Portland, ME, Fire Department**

Lt. Joyce is a 2000 graduate of the University of Maine with a major of Forest/Land Management. He is a graduate of Southern Maine Community College's Paramedicine program. He has been working as a Paramedic for 19 years, 17 years with the Portland Fire Department. Lt. Joyce is currently an EMS Operations Supervisor and has served as a Tactical Paramedic on the Portland Police Department's Special Reaction Team for 9 years. He is an avid outdoorsman and competitive cross-country mountain bike racer.

### **Jody McPhail, LVT**

Jody has been a licensed veterinary technician since 2003. She has worked in small animal practice, mixed animal and emergency medicine and is currently employed at Little River

Veterinary Clinic. She is certified in RECOVER BLS and ALS. She currently partners with local K9 handlers of Washington County and is responsible for coordinating routine and emergency care for all types of situations. She established local protocols to handle exposures to specific narcotics as well as hosts classes for handlers for in the field care.