



## EMS PROVISION OF MEDICAL CARE AND TRANSPORT OF INJURED LAW ENFORCEMENT CANINE Emergency Medical Services Practice Act Chapter 38 Section 38-1239.

**38-1239. Law enforcement canine; transportation and emergency medical care; authorized, when; immune from liability.**

- 1) For purposes of this section, law enforcement canine means any canine that is owned or employed in the service of any state or local law enforcement agency, the Department of Correctional Services, any local fire department, or the State Fire Marshal for the purpose of aiding in the detection of criminal activity, flammable materials, or missing persons; the enforcement of laws; the investigation of fires; or the apprehension of criminal offenders.
- 2) An emergency medical service validly licensed for emergency transport may transport a law enforcement canine injured in the line of duty to a veterinary clinic or similar facility if there is no person requiring medical attention or transport at that time.
- 3) An emergency care provider may provide emergency medical care to a law enforcement canine injured in the line of duty while at the scene of an emergency or while a law enforcement canine is being transported to a veterinary clinic or similar facility if there is no person requiring medical attention or transport at that time.
- 4) An emergency care provider who acts in good faith to provide emergency medical care to an injured law enforcement canine pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) of this section shall be immune from criminal or civil liability.
- 5) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

**Source:**Laws 2024, LB910, § 2.

**Operative Date:** July 1, 2025

The following are Department of Health and Human Services recommendations have been approved by the Board of Emergency Medical Services and the Board of Veterinary Medicine. These recommendations are meant to provide a framework for EMS Services who wish to treat and transport injured law enforcement canines.

### DEFINITIONS:

- Law Enforcement Canine means a canine owned or employed by a local or state law enforcement agency, Department of Correctional Services, local fire department, or State Fire Marshal.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The treatment of canines should be secondary to the treatment of any people on scene.

- The EMS Service should have a back up ambulance or plan in place to respond to emergency calls through the duration of care and transport of a canine.
- Each emergency care provider within a transporting Emergency Medical Service (EMS) should be certified in Basic Life Support (BLS) through the RECOVER initiative. Information on this initiative may be found here: <https://recoverinitiative.org/how-certification-works/>.
- Training for canine care is recommended.
  - <https://www.k9medic.com/>
- The EMS Service should be closely aligned with a local veterinary emergency hospital, urgent pet care facility, or local veterinarian who would continue care for the canine officer after transport.
  - This relationship should allow for local veterinary services to make recommendations on the type of equipment that is carried (i.e., masks, endotracheal tubes, etc.)
- The EMS Service should stock their ambulances with oxygen masks suitable for animal use, and/or respiratory barrier masks intended for "mouth to snout" use. A few example product websites are linked below:
  - [https://www.petoxygenmasks.org/pet\\_oxygen\\_masks\\_order.html](https://www.petoxygenmasks.org/pet_oxygen_masks_order.html)
  - <https://petemergencyeducation.com/product/respiratory-barrier-masks/>
- Each EMS Service develop written policies and procedures in consultation with a local veterinarian for all of the following:
  - Appropriate training of the emergency medical care providers law enforcement canines with basic level first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and life-saving interventions.
  - Safe handling procedures for injured police dogs, including the use of a muzzle, and response coordination with a law enforcement agency member who is trained in handling police dogs.
  - Proper and complete decontamination of stretchers, the patient compartment and all contaminated medical equipment after a police dog has been transported.
    - This should including complete sanitizing of all allergens and disinfection to a standard safe for human transport before the ambulance returned to service.