



Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS

Standard Operating Procedure: 3.44	Effective Date: July 10, 2024
Subject: Law Enforcement Canine Care EMS	Section: Emergency Medical Services
Authorized: Eric Zaney, Assistant Chief of EMS	Revision Date: N/A

I. PURPOSE

The Carroll County Department of Fire and EMS (CCDFEMS) recognizes the need to urgently treat injured or ill law enforcement and working canines encountered during emergency incidents. CCDFEMS supports its clinicians in rendering emergency care to police canines, other working canines and other animals which may be present at an emergency scene. The care provided during an emergency should be commensurate with the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the EMS clinician.

II. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to Carroll County Department of Fire and EMS career and volunteer personnel.

III. DEFINITIONS

Law Enforcement Canine - Publicly owned dogs that are licensed under Md. Code, Pub. Safety 3-526 or used by a State or local fire and rescue entity in fire and rescue work.

IV. PROCEDURES

1. The MD. Courts and Judicial Proceedings Code Ann. 5-614 – Emergency Veterinary Assistance states:
 - a. A member of any State, county, municipal, or volunteer fire department, ambulance, rescue squad, or law enforcement agency, or a corporate fire department is not civilly liable for any act or omission in giving any

veterinary aid, care, or assistance. The aid, care or assistance must be provided without fee or compensation from the owner or custodian of the animal, and be provided at the scene of an emergency, in transit to a veterinary facility, or through communications with licensed veterinary personnel.

2. Clinicians should use their personal expertise and available resources when caring for an acutely ill or injured animal at the scene of an emergency unless such aid would interfere with the care of an ill or injured person.
3. Clinicians may utilize canine oxygen masks (if available), medical supplies and general medical equipment where appropriate.
4. When caring for an ill or injured police canine the clinician must work in conjunction with the canine's handler or a designated law enforcement official to determine the safest and most appropriate way to care for the animal.
5. Clinicians are expected to exercise their knowledge, skills and abilities in a manner that is in the best interest of the animal.
6. All care provided during an emergency should be commensurate with the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the EMS clinician.

V. RECISION

This Standard Operating Procedure rescinds all directives regarding law enforcement canine care or similar content previously issued for personnel of the Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS.