

## K-9 EMS

### ENSURE OFFICER SAFETY!

#### 1 Purpose of K-9 EMS

- ✓ Relieve suffering
- ✓ Stabilize the dog's vital signs until professional help is obtained

#### 2 Handling An Injured Dog

- ✓ Approach the dog slowly, speaking in a reassuring tone of voice
- ✓ Move toward dog without touching it
- ✓ Stoop and observe its eyes and facial expression
- ✓ If dog is growling do not attempt to pet it
  - Place leash around dog's neck and tie to fixed object
  - Pull dog against object
  - Secure leash so that dog cannot move its head
- ✓ Place muzzle on dog
- ✓ Emergency muzzle can be made from cloth, neck tie, etc.
  - Loop around jaws and tie single knot under chin
  - Bring ends up and behind ears and tie in bow
- ✓ Once secured with muzzle, begin evaluation

#### 3 A = Airway

- ✓ Determine if dog is breathing
  - Decreased level of consciousness or inadequate respirations, begin rescue breathing
- ✓ If unconscious and not breathing - suspect airway obstruction
  - Extend the neck, pull the tongue forward, sweep the mouth with your finger
  - Give 5 abdominal thrusts
  - Repeat finger sweep and ventilate dog

#### 4 B = Breathing

- ✓ Artificial Respiration
  - Place dog on a firm flat surface



- Open the mouth and clear airway debris / fluids
- Grasp the tongue and pull it forward and close the mouth
- Seal the lips with your hand
- Place your mouth over the dog's nose
- Blow in steadily for 3 seconds
- Release and allow air to come out
- Ventilate at a rate of 20 breaths / minute
- Continue until dog breathes on its own, or for as long as a heartbeat can be felt

## 5 C = Circulation

- ✓ Check for heartbeat
  - Place two fingers firmly on the dog's chest about 2" behind its elbow in the center of its chest
- ✓ Cardiac Massage
  - When no heartbeat is felt or heard
  - Place dog on a flat surface
  - Place heel of your hand on the ribcage just behind the elbow, which is the area over the heart
  - Perform simultaneous chest compressions with ventilations every 2 to 3 compressions
  - Chest compressions should continue at a rate of 80 – 120 per minute
  - Continue chest compressions until the dog has a heartbeat or until no pulse can be detected for 5 minutes

## 6 Shock

- ✓ Signs of Shock: shivering, listlessness, weakness, cold feet, pale skin, pale gums, weak pulse
- ✓ If no breathing or pulse is found, proceed with CPR
- ✓ Lift upper lip to examine gums
- ✓ Determine heart rate ( $\downarrow 150 / \text{min} = \text{shock}$ )
- ✓ Elevate hindquarters to increase blood flow to brain
- ✓ Control bleeding with direct pressure



- ✓ Cover dog with warm blanket
- ✓ Give oxygen if available
- ✓ Immediately transport to veterinarian

## 7 Wound Care

- ✓ Objectives: Stop Bleeding & Prevent Shock
  - Arterial bleeding — bright red spurting blood
  - Venous bleeding — oozing dark red blood
- ✓ Pressure dressing: Take several pieces of clean or sterile gauze and place them directly over the wound & apply firm, even pressure
- ✓ After bleeding is controlled, apply bandage

## 8 Transportation

- ✓ Do not move dog more than necessary
- ✓ Notify department veterinarian
- ✓ Moderate injuries: Lift dog by placing one arm around chest and other around back legs
- ✓ Suspected spinal injury: place dog on backboard
  - Ensure backboard fits in transport vehicle
  - Place board next to dog
  - Put the straps underneath the board
  - Gently lift or slide dog onto board
  - Secure dog to board with straps
  - Cover dog with warm blanket

## Department Veterinarian

Name:

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Address:

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Phone:

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