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|     | <p style="text-align: center;">SOUTHERN FOX VALLEY<br/>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM<br/>POLICY &amp; PROCEDURES</p> |  |                              |                            |  |
| <p>TITLE: INTERACTION WITH SERVICE ANIMALS AND TRANSPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT ANIMALS</p> |  |  |                              |                            |  |
| <p>SECTION: GENERAL</p>  |  |  | <p>POLICY NUMBER: D-40.0</p> |                            |  |
| <p>APPROVED BY: DR. ARTHUR PROUST EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR</p>                           |  |  |                              |                            |  |
| <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/01/2023</p>  |  |  |                              | <p>PAGE NUMBER: 1 OF 3</p> |  |

**PURPOSE:**

To provide guidance on the interaction of Service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) being transported in a transport vehicle and the treatment and transport of law enforcement animals

**DEFINITIONS:**

- 1) Service animal: The ADA defines a service animal as “dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, remind a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with PTSD during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties... The work or task a dog is trained to provide must be directly correlated with the person’s disability.
  - a) Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.
  - b) While the ADA has a separate provision about miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities, the presence of miniature horses in the back of ambulances would compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe EMS operations and therefore will not be transported via System transport vehicles.
  - c) When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. EMS personnel may ask two questions:
    - i) “Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?”
    - ii) “What work or task has the dog or service animal been trained to perform?”
  - d) EMS Personnel may not ask about the persons disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification care or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

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## POLICY:

### 1) Service Animal

- a) EMS Personnel must transport a service animal in a safe and secure manner provided following requirements are met.
  - i) The service animal must be under the control of its handler. If the animal is out of control and the handler does not, or cannot, take effective action to control it, this policy does not apply.
  - ii) The service animal can be safety restrained or secured.
    - (1) If the service animal cannot be safety restrained or secured in the vehicle the service animal will not be allowed to ride with the patient and the patient must make other arrangements for care of the animal.
  - iii) If the service animal is being transported while properly secured, the transporting medic should alert the ED before arrival that a service animal is accompanying the patient. Upon arrival the service animal can accompany the patient into the ED upon the receiving hospitals permission.
- b) A hospital may refuse for the service animal to accompany the patient to an area where the presence of the animal may compromise the function or sterility of the room (operating rooms or burn units).
- c) The patient or service animal handler must always maintain control of the service animal. The animal must be properly harnessed, leashed or tethered unless these devices interfere with the animal's work. In this case, the patient must demonstrate his/her ability to control the animal through voice or other commands.
- d) Allergies and/or fear of dogs are not valid reasons for refusing service to people with service animals. If a provider has an allergy or fear of dogs then thorough and reasonable effort must be made to treat the patient up to the standard of care required by the patient presentation until another provider can substitute in or a mutual aid ambulance can be requested and arrive on scene

### 2) Law Enforcement Animals

- a) A law enforcement animal is owned or used by a law enforcement agency which includes a search and rescue dog, service dog, accelerant detection canine, or other dog that is in use by a county, municipal, or State law enforcement agency.
- b) Southern Fox Valley EMS Providers may transport a law enforcement animal injured in the line of duty to a veterinary clinic or similar facility if no person requires medical attention or transport at that time.

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- c) EMS personnel will require the assistance of the animal's handler to approach and ensure it is safe for EMS personnel to attend to the injured animal.
- d) EMS personnel may provide BLS level emergency care (O2, pressure to stop blood loss, stabilize fractured bones, and apply bandages), CPR, and life-saving interventions. Personnel are not authorized to provide ALS-level care to the animal.

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