3 January 2023

**K9 Basic Life Support (BLS) Training for MA EMS Providers (T3) Didactic Outline**

# Authors: Sean majoy, dvm, MS, dacvecc, cummings school of veterinary medicine at tufts University; david schwarz, dvm, president, state of massachusetts animal resource team (SMART)

# MOdule 1: Introduction to nero’s law, k9 prehospital care and application

10 minutes, 3 “Check on Learning Questions” to be completed correctly before moving to next section

## Nero’s Law - Defined

1. Who is K9 Nero?
2. Specifics of law- how to find the statute, what provisions it covers regarding treatment and transport of Police K9s in Massachusetts by EMS personnel
3. Definition of “Police K9” in Massachusetts.

## Role of Police K9 Handler During Emergencies

1. K9 Handler involved in all aspect of care and restraint
2. Brief example of safety issues regarding handling Police K9s (to be covered in detail later)

## What is K9 Pre-hospital Care?

1. Defining K9 Prehospital care
	1. K9 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (K9TECC) versus K9 Tactical Combat Casualty Care (K9TCCC)—Application of principles for care of Police K9s
2. How Nero’s law allows (and limits) aspects of pre-hospital care to the Police K9
3. Introduction to the M3ARCH2 Algorithm for triage and assessment of the Police K9 in the prehospital care environment.

# MOdule 2: point of entry, documenting care, and dog-specific equipment

20 minutes, 3 “Check on Learning Questions” to be completed correctly before moving to next section

## Point of Entry Care

1. Hospital requirements for reception of injured Police K9
2. Current list of locations of specialty hospitals in Massachusetts
3. Advising handler teams and establishing relationships with veterinary hospitals

## Documentation of care

1. Use of current patient care reports with Police K9s

## Dog-Specific Equipment

1. Required equipment: muzzle, oxygen mask, SWAT-T bandage
2. Types of muzzles and overview of use
	1. Re-emphasize handler’s primary role for muzzle and restraint
	2. Online video demonstration of use
3. Types of oxygen masks and indications for use
	1. Online video demonstration of use
4. SWAT-T usage in police K9s—why not use traditional windlass tourniquets?
	1. Online video demonstration of use

# MOdule 3: approach, restraint, assessment, and handling of the police k9

15 minutes, 6 “Check on Learning Questions” to be completed correctly before moving to next section

## Approach to the Injured Police K9

1. Human safety the first priority
2. Detailed role of K9 handler in emergencies
3. Examples of injuries suffered by providers from injured Police K9s

## Restraint and Handling of the Police K9

1. Handler has the primary role
2. Alert and conscious dogs- “position of comfort”
3. Unconscious dogs- “recovery position”
4. Video demonstration of approach and restraint of the police K9

## Assessment of the Police K9

1. M3ARCH2 Algorithm -detailed overiew of use in assessment of the injured Police K9
2. Video demonstration of usage of algorithm in simulation

# MOdule 4: non-traumatic/environmental injuries

45 minutes, 8 “Check on Learning Questions” to be completed correctly before moving to practical portion of learning (T2)

## Allergic/Anaphylactic Reaction

1. Recognizing anaphylaxis versus allergic reaction in the Police K9
2. Dosing and administration of epinephrine- intramuscular landmark and injection technique

## Heat-related injuries

1. Recognition of heat injury in the Police K9
	1. Early signs
	2. Heat injury versus heat stroke
2. Treatment protocols – BLS level

## Burns and Smoke Inhalation

1. Recognition of burns
	1. Estimate of extent of burns in the Police K9
	2. BLS treatment for burns
		1. Remove burning items
2. Smoke inhalation- treatment
	1. Oxygen supplementation

## Hypothermia and Cold-Related Injuries

1. Recognition of hypothermia in the Police K9
2. Treatment protocols – BLS level

## Toxins and Poisonings

1. Opioid exposure and overdose
	1. Human safety the first priority- take precautions
	2. Clinical signs in the Police K9
	3. Nalaxone dosing and use in the Police K9
		1. Intramuscular injection
		2. Intranasal spray
2. Riot control agents
	1. Clinical signs in the Police K9
	2. Treatment protocols- BLS level
3. Other potential toxin exposures- brief listings
	1. Illicit drugs- cocaine, methamphetamine
	2. Organophosphates and carbamates
	3. Garbage/mold intoxication
	4. Chocolate/caffeine
	5. Household medications/prescription medications