



State of New Hampshire

Department of Safety

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CLINICAL BULLETIN

Bulletin #	Title			Date Issued
82	Treatment & Transport of Operational Canines			August 3, 2023
Superseded	Released By	Approved By	Source	For More Information
	FSTEMS	Chief Romanello	FSTEMS	FSTEMS (603) 223-4200

On July 28, 2023, Governor Sununu signed SB268 allowing for pre-hospital treatment and transportation of operational canines*. This new RSA allows all licensed ambulances to transport operational canines to a veterinary care facility if the canine is ill or has been injured in the course of their official duties and no human needs transport or treatment. Treatment of operational canines will require prior approval at the licensed unit level through prerequisite protocol authorization. Part of this approval process will require additional training for EMS providers as well as relationships to be formed between the operational canine owners, their veterinarians, 24-hour veterinarian clinics and the licensed EMS unit.

The Division is currently working with the NH Medical Control Board on an Operational K9 Prerequisite Protocol which licensed EMS units will be able to apply for. The prerequisite protocol, and its accompanying administration packet, will outline all the necessary requirements to ensure care is performed at a similar level and expectation as human patients. A future notification will be released when the prerequisite protocol is available.

**Operational canine means a canine owned or used by a law enforcement department or agency, or fire department, in the course of the department or agency's work, including a police canine, search and rescue canine, scent detection canine, comfort canine, or other canine that is in use by a county, municipal, or state law enforcement agency.*