

2022 -- H 7021

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LC003225  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- ANIMAL CARE

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, C Lima, Solomon, Edwards, Shanley, Serpa,  
Amore, Carson, Craven, and Noret

Date Introduced: January 10, 2022

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 4-19 of the General Laws entitled "Animal Care" is hereby amended  
2 by adding thereto the following section:

3 **4-19-23. Humane transportation of K-9 partners.**

4 (a) For this purposes of this section "police dog" means: a dog owned by a police  
5 department or police agency of the State of Rhode Island or any political subdivision thereof, that  
6 is used by the department or agency for official duties.

7 (b) EMS personnel shall provide emergency treatment to a police dog injured in the line of  
8 duty and transport such police dog by ambulance to a veterinary care facility equipped to provide  
9 emergency treatment to dogs; provided, however, that EMS personnel shall not transport an injured  
10 police dog if providing such transport would inhibit their ability to provide emergency medical  
11 attention or transport to a person requiring such services.

12 (c) The department of health, in consultation with the Rhode Island's veterinary medical  
13 association and the department of state police's K-9 unit, shall develop policies and procedures that  
14 include, but are not limited to:

15 (1) Appropriate training of EMS personnel to provide police dogs basic level first aid,  
16 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and life-saving interventions, including, but not limited to,  
17 administering naloxone; provided, however, that nothing in this section shall authorize the  
18 provision of advanced life support care to a police dog;

19 (2) Safe handling procedures for injured police dogs, including, but not limited to, the use

1 of a box muzzle and response coordination with a law enforcement official trained in handling  
2 police dogs;

3 (3) Identification of veterinary facilities that provide emergency treatment for injured  
4 police dogs;

5 (4) Decontamination of stretchers, the patient compartment and any contaminated medical  
6 equipment after a police dog has been transported by ambulance or EMS vehicle; and

7 (5) Sterilization of the interior of an ambulance or EMS vehicle before being returned to  
8 human service, including, but not limited to, sanitizing all allergens and disinfection to a standard  
9 safe for human transport.

10 (d) The department of health may grant a waiver from this section if the department  
11 determines that compliance poses a safety risk to the public. The department shall develop  
12 regulations regarding applications and issuance of such a waiver.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- ANIMAL CARE

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1           This act would authorize emergency medical treatment to police dogs injured in the line of  
2 duty which includes transporting by ambulance.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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