

RISK ASSESSMENT OF: USAR Challenge – Canine Specific

PREMISES
EQUIPMENT
VEHICLE
SYSTEM OF WORK

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RISK ASSESSMENT BY: Phill Mould

DATE COMPLETED: 29/08/2023

DISCIPLINE LEAD SIGN OFF:
DATE FOR REVIEW: after event for any learning

Notes:

Canine Specific Risk Assessment

TASK	HAZARDS IDENTIFIED	WHO MAY BE HARMED AND HOW?	EXISTING CONTROLS	IS THE RISK ADEQUATELY CONTROLLED? (YES / NO)	ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES & COMMENTS	SECTION / PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Search Dog Demo	Injury/illness due to infections including zoonotic contamination.	Dog handlers People interacting with the dog, staff, officers members of the public.	General precautions for all biological agents, infections: Ensure handlers are aware of risk Encourage handlers to keep routine vaccinations up to date Avoid contact with known sources of infection Ensure open wounds are covered Practice good personal hygiene – regular hand washing and before eating, handling food Adequate hygiene and washing facilities	YES		

			<p>Use specialist contractors for cleaning as necessary</p> <p>Ensure regular cleaning and disinfection of areas such as kennels and vehicles</p> <p>Ensure first aid kits are adequately stocked</p> <p>Appropriate storage and special laundering of contaminated items</p> <p>Report any known / suspected infections</p> <p>Through accident, incident reporting process</p> <p>Dynamically assess situations before taking action</p> <p>H&S brief to be given by Handler during visit.</p>			
Search Dog Handler	<p>Injury/illness as a result of specific infections associated with dogs:</p> <p>Hydatid disease – caused by a tapeworm, which lives in the gut of dogs</p> <p>Rabies - transmitted from being bitten by an</p>	<p>Dog handlers</p> <p>People interacting with the dog, staff, officers members of the public.</p>	<p>In addition to general precautions above:</p> <p>Regular worming and vaccinations for dogs</p> <p>Use of protective gloves, when cleaning up dog faeces</p> <p>Proper cleaning / waste disposal</p>	YES		

	<p>infected animal (dogs in particular)</p> <p>Toxocariasis - spread from animals (dogs/ cats) to humans via infected faeces</p>		<p>Provision and use of adequate PPE (including respiratory protection as appropriate)</p> <p>Avoid contact with infected animals wherever possible</p> <p>Seek medical advice if bitten by known/ suspected rabid animal</p>	YES		
	<p>Leptospirosis - Illness through ingestion/ exposure to contaminated water - (spread most commonly from rats urine)</p>	<p>People interacting with the dog, staff, officers members of the public.</p>	<p>Adequate PPE provided and worn when searching or working near sewers, rivers etc.</p> <p>Cuts and abrasions covered with waterproof dressings</p> <p>Wash thoroughly after contact with water from sewers, rivers, drains or ponds</p> <p>Handlers to be issued with HSE Leptospirosis warning/ information card/ leaflet</p>	YES		
	<p>Lyme Disease - Illness contracted by being bitten by an infected tick (most common in wooded or heath areas)</p>	<p>People interacting with the dog, staff, officers members of the public.</p>	<p>In addition to general precautions:</p> <p>Dogs regularly treated and checked for ticks</p>	YES		

	known to have a high tick population)		<p>Handlers made aware of risk</p> <p>Cover skin with long-sleeved shirt and trousers</p> <p>Wear gators or tuck trousers into your socks</p> <p>Use insect repellent</p> <p>Officers to check for ticks after potential exposure</p> <p>Ticks to be safely removed - seek medical advice as required</p>			
	Injury/illness due to exposure to hazardous substances e.g. cleaning chemicals	Dog Handlers.	<p>COSHH assessments in place and followed</p> <p>Substances used in line with manufacturer's instructions</p> <p>Provision and use of appropriate PPE</p>	YES		
	Slips, trips and falls due to uneven ground and/or work at height		<p>Handlers to be mindful of conditions underfoot and adjust pace accordingly</p> <p>Provision and correct use of suitable footwear (i.e. boots with ankle support)</p> <p>Provision of sufficient lighting (torches etc.)</p>	YES		

			<p>Where possible handlers to be made aware of additional hazards present during night operations</p> <p>Dynamic risk assessment to identify and manage hazards</p> <p>First Aid kits training to be given to Handler and First Aid kit available for both the dog and people the dog may encounter.</p> <p>Handler to be competent at manual handling of dogs if needed.</p> <p>H&S briefing to be given by Handler during visit.</p>			
	<p>Handlers, officers, staff, members of public taking part in search dog events are bitten or knocked over by search dog</p>	<p>Dog handlers, officers, staff, members of public</p>	<p>Person in charge of Demonstration/Exercise to ensure that:</p> <p>Deployment is properly planned and safely conducted</p> <p>Deployment is carried at a safe and suitable location.</p> <p>Adequate information, instructions and briefings are given</p>	<p>YES</p>		



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	Those taking part in activity being bitten, scratched or knocked over by search dog	Dog handlers, officers, staff, members of public	Dog handlers to work in pairs or have a safety observer at all times. Cordons in place and monitored. Signage and verbal instructions to those taking part and observing demonstrations. Commentary of demonstration given throughout.	YES		
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