

CanineSidekicks Service Dogs Inc.
Emergency and Safety Response Guidelines

These Emergency and Safety Response Guidelines establish recommended response procedures, safety expectations, emergency management standards, welfare stabilization procedures, and incident response considerations for dogs, participants, trainers, volunteers, and members of the public involved in programs operated by CanineSidekicks Service Dogs Inc.

1. Purpose and Scope

- Emergency response procedures are intended to support canine welfare, public safety, handler safety, environmental safety, and operational consistency.
- These guidelines apply to training activities, public-access participation, transitional placement, transportation, boarding, evaluations, and program-related events where applicable.
- All emergency decisions shall prioritize immediate safety, welfare stabilization, and appropriate risk management.

2. General Emergency Response Priorities

- Ensure immediate safety of all individuals and dogs involved.
- Remove dogs from unsafe or escalating environments where possible.
- Contact emergency veterinary services, medical services, or emergency responders where appropriate.
- Provide reasonable stabilization measures within the responder's level of competence.
- Maintain calm, controlled handling procedures whenever possible.
- Document significant incidents using applicable incident reporting procedures.

3. Medical Emergency Procedures

- Seek veterinary assessment immediately where serious illness, injury, collapse, respiratory distress, seizure activity, heat injury, poisoning concerns, severe bleeding, or other medical emergencies are suspected.

- Dogs experiencing medical emergencies should be transported safely and appropriately.
- Emergency veterinary contact information should remain reasonably accessible during program participation.
- Handlers and participants should disclose known medical conditions, medication requirements, allergies, or emergency management considerations where applicable.

4. Behavioural and Aggression Safety Procedures

- If a dog displays escalating behavioural instability, aggression, or unsafe behaviour, handlers should prioritize environmental control and safe separation procedures.
- Dogs involved in behavioural incidents should not be subjected to punitive escalation, flooding, unsafe restraint procedures, or uncontrolled confrontation.
- Where necessary, dogs may be removed from activities pending reassessment, decompression, veterinary review, or behavioural stabilization.
- Public safety and canine welfare shall remain primary considerations during behavioural incidents.

5. Public-Access and Community Safety

- Handlers should maintain reasonable situational awareness during public participation.
- Unsafe public environments, overcrowding, environmental hazards, or escalating behavioural concerns may require temporary withdrawal from activities.
- Dogs should not be knowingly placed into unsafe, overwhelming, or unmanaged environments inconsistent with their training or welfare needs.
- Participants are expected to comply with public safety expectations, environmental management procedures, and handling recommendations.

6. Transportation and Vehicle Safety

- Dogs should be transported using safe and appropriate restraint or containment systems whenever possible.
- Dogs should not be transported loose within vehicles unless actively working.

- Dogs must not be left unattended in unsafe environmental temperatures or hazardous conditions.
- Emergency evacuation planning and emergency transportation procedures should be reviewed where appropriate.

7. Lost Dog or Escape Procedures

- If a dog becomes loose or escapes containment, handlers should prioritize calm recovery procedures and immediate environmental safety.
- Where appropriate, emergency contacts, local authorities, veterinary clinics, or microchip providers may be notified.
- High-speed pursuit, unsafe confrontation, or panic-based retrieval attempts should be avoided where possible.
- Incident documentation and reassessment procedures may be recommended following recovery.

8. Environmental Emergencies and Disaster Planning

- Emergency planning should consider wildfire, severe weather, evacuation requirements, power outages, transportation disruption, and other environmental emergencies where applicable.
- Participants are encouraged to maintain emergency supplies, medication access, transportation planning, and temporary housing arrangements appropriate to the dog's needs.
- Emergency evacuation locations and emergency caregiver arrangements should be identified where possible.

9. Incident Reporting and Follow-Up

- Significant safety concerns, injuries, behavioural incidents, welfare concerns, or emergency events should be documented using applicable incident reporting procedures.

- Follow-up recommendations may include behavioural reassessment, veterinary follow-up, temporary work restriction, environmental modification, decompression, retraining, or additional monitoring where appropriate.
- All incident management decisions remain subject to the authority of the Training Director or designated program authority.

10. Program Authority

- CanineSidekicks Service Dogs Inc. retains authority regarding emergency response recommendations, safety procedures, activity restrictions, reassessment requirements, and participation eligibility where necessary to support canine welfare, public safety, and program integrity.
- Emergency procedures may be modified where necessary based on evolving circumstances, veterinary recommendations, environmental hazards, or operational needs.