

# MEMORANDUM

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20472



# FEMA

**FOR:** Bill Brown  
Operations Group Chair

**DATE:** 21 Apr 09  
Revised May 10, 2011

**FROM:** Jim Ingledue  
Chair, Search Working Group

**K9 10-02**

**SUBJECT:** Canine Sub-Group Recommendation—Pre-Mission Veterinary Exam  
Guidelines

(Tactical)

The following is a request pursuant to a Canine Sub-Group recommendation as approved by the Search Working Group:

## **ISSUE STATEMENT**

- FEMA National US&R Response System canines do not have access to a standardized pre-mission hands-on veterinary exam.

## **GENERAL BACKGROUND**

- Currently, Task Forces do not have access to a standardized pre-mission veterinary exam to help ensure that canines selected for deployment are healthy. Task Forces could unknowingly deploy with injured, sick, and/or infectious canines that may affect the health and safety of Task Force members and/or other Task Force canines.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- The CSG, through the SWG, recommends that US&R Task Force canines selected for deployment be provided a standardized hands-on veterinary exam (Attachment A). The exam should be conducted by a licensed DVM no more than 10 days prior to a deployment and include documentation which attests that the canine appears free of infectious disease or physical abnormality that would endanger the animal, other animals or the general public. The exam should be in addition to, or in conjunction with, the issuance of a valid health certificate as required in the Operations Manual for canine deployment.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment A - A single page veterinary exam which attests that the canine appears free of infectious disease or physical abnormality that would endanger the animal, other animals or the general public. The exam parameters allow for it to be completed quickly.
- Attachment B - References for health certificate options.

**PROGRAM IMPACTS / DOCUMENTATION CHANGES**

- Costs may be submitted for approval as part of a deployment reimbursement claim. If a Task Force has been activated, a vet exam is reimbursable. If a Task Force has not been activated at the time an exam is conducted, the expense will not be reimbursable unless the Task Force is subsequently activated.
- Task Forces may arrange for a veterinarian to be on call for this service around the clock, ensuring that the deployment window can be met. Alternatively, handlers may be requested to provide documentation of an exam which attests that the canine appears free of infectious disease or physical abnormality that would endanger the animal, other animals or the general public and conducted no more than 10 days prior to a deployment by a licensed DVM.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT TO TASK FORCES**

- Reimbursable deployment expense – costs vary according to the individual Task Force agreements (or handler agreements) with their respective veterinarian services. An average fee for this service is approximately \$50.00 per canine.

**ALLIED WORK GROUP COORDINATION REQUIRED**

- Medical Work Group

**TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 2010

# Attachment A

## Pre-Mission Veterinary Exam

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Task Force \_\_\_\_\_ Incident \_\_\_\_\_  
Time \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Handler</u>	<u>Canine</u>		
Name _____	Name _____	DOB _____	
Phone _____	Breed _____	Weight _____	
Email _____	Sex _____	Spayed/Neutered _____	Color _____

**History** (illness, trauma, surgery) \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergies**  Yes  No; If yes, to what \_\_\_\_\_

**Medications** Heartworm Preventative  Yes  No      Flea/Tick Repellant  Yes  No  
Other \_\_\_\_\_ Adequate Supply  Yes  No

### Current Concerns

Coughing <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Lethargy <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	PU <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Sneezing <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Anorexia <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	PD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Vomiting <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Depression <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	PP <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Diarrhea <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Breathing <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Lame <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

### PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Attitude _____	Temperature _____ °F
MM _____	Hydration _____
EENT _____	CRT _____
Heart Rate _____ b/m	PLNs _____
Pulses <input type="checkbox"/> Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Weak	Rhythm _____ Murmur <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Lungs _____	Pulses <input type="checkbox"/> Synchronous <input type="checkbox"/> Asynchronous
Integument _____	Resp Rate _____ br/m
Orthopedic _____	Pads/Nails _____
Neurologic _____	Gait/Lame _____
U/G-Male (penis/prepuce, scrotum/testes) _____	
U/G Female (mammary glands, vulva) _____	
Notes _____	

### Deployment Recommendation

Accepted  Rejected Reason for rejection \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Contact number \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian (sign) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Attachment B

## Health Certificate Options

(1) Certificate of Veterinary Inspection

Issued by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Generally accepted for domestic travel. May be completed by any licensed veterinarian.

[http://www.avma.org/issues/policy/inspection\\_certificates.pdf](http://www.avma.org/issues/policy/inspection_certificates.pdf)

(2) APHIS Form 7001

Issued by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Universally accepted for domestic as well as international travel. Any licensed veterinarian may use this form, but for international travel the veterinarian must be USDA certified.

These are pre-printed forms and may be ordered:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/APHIS7001.pdf>

(3) Individual States

Each individual state has its own specific health certificate requirements.

Veterinarians may acquire the forms through their state office. These certificates do not ensure that the canine will be in compliance with a different state's requirements.