

Search K9 Post Deployment Medical Follow Up

FEMA mandated post deployment medical advisories, evaluations, and testing are individualized per deployment. Conditions, search environments, and hazards vary so that these advisories are designed specifically based on those parameters.

FEMA Program Directives are listed under the IST DVM K9 health maintenance, and are summarized here.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE – 2010

As outlined in the document 'CANINE SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR HAITI – Jan 2010' potential diseases working canines may have been exposed to are vector-borne (tick, fly, mosquito), food/soil/water contaminants, or contact with other affected animals. The working conditions in Haiti were extraordinary and risks of exposure are likely increased. The following tests and veterinary checks are recommended for all US&R canines deployed to Haiti.

7-10 Days Post Deployment

- Complete Blood Count (CBC) – and ask lab to **check specifically for ehrlichia**
- Complete Chemistry Panel
- Urinalysis – due to reports of suspect urinary tract infections; urine sample should be obtained sterilely and submitted for culture and sensitivity if cytology indicates
- Fecal parasite screen
- Leptospirosis Testing- not all serovars are covered by the current vaccine; this is endemic in Haiti, transmitted via contact with contaminated soil, food, water, bedding and other fomites. Most commonly by ingestion, but also by wound contamination. **Both tests below are recommended.** Leptospirosis Real Time PCR testing on urine; Leptospirosis antibody panel microagglutination titer (MAT) on blood
- Wound Examination- any dogs that had any wounds or lacerations before or during deployment (no matter how small) should be examined for Screw Worm. **These larva, or grubs, may take several months to erupt so keep checking!**
- Prophylactic de-worming even if negative fecal results- with praziquantel (Droncit[®]) and fenbendazole (Panacur[®]) performed regardless of fecal results. Parasites will shed intermittently from the feces and may not be found on a single screen.

30-40 Days Post Deployment

- Complete Blood Count (CBC)
- Complete Chemistry Panel
- Tick Panel – to include ehrlichia
- Urinalysis for any dog with urinary tract infection or renal abnormalities on either chemistry panel
- Fecal parasite screen for any dog with a positive parasite result on prior test

OSO, WASHINGTON LANDSLIDE – 2014

For System canines that were in the operational environment:

- Demobilization examinations will be performed by the IST Veterinarian, Lori E. Gordon, DVM:
- Post-Mission Veterinary Screening – Within 7-14 days of demobilization:
 - Home-based primary care veterinary physical examination
 - Complete Blood Count (CBC)
 - Full Chemistry Profile
 - Urinalysis
 - Fecal (Centrifugation AND Giardia ELISA)
- Monitoring should occur for signs or symptoms of illness, specifically those associated with Leptospirosis, which include: not eating, tired, fever, vomiting, dehydration, shivering, and/or muscle tenderness). If seen, the canine shall see their primary care veterinarian for examination and Leptospirosis testing. This is a reportable disease in some states.
- A copy of all results and exam findings are to be sent to Dr. Gordon

HURRICANE IRMA – 2017

For System canines that were in the operational environment:

- System task forces should monitor any canines exposed to any of the forward operations in flood waters or other potentially hazardous environments for respiratory, gastrointestinal, urinary tract, and dermatologic illnesses.

HURRICANE FLORENCE – 2018

Upon demobilization for each search canine

- Conduct a general physical examination
- Record any illness or injury event(s) that occurred during deployment
 - Assessment(s)
 - Treatment(s)
 - Follow-up recommendations
- If injury is discovered after examination but before reaching home base, please report and follow up if needed with primary care veterinarian
- If illness occurs within 10-14 days after arrival to home base, please report the incident to your TF
- Please forward any medical issues, illness and/or injury, to Dr. Gordon

CHAMPLAIN TOWER COLLAPSE – 2021

For System canines that were in the operational environment:

- System task forces should monitor all canines exposed to any of the forward operations in the collapse zone for respiratory, gastrointestinal, urinary, ophthalmologic, neuromuscular, and dermatologic injury or illness.
- For canines that were deployed and present at the collapse site for at least five days and actively worked on the pile or debris field three or more times in a 12-hour shift, a post-deployment veterinary exam and CBC and chemistry profile ideally is recommend within two weeks of demobilization