**“K9 Operational Medicine”**

**Main Goal:** The goal of this course is to give students the knowledge and ability to render the proper medical care to a working canine at the point of injury and during a heat emergency.

**Objectives:** 1. Students will identify life threatening injuries and perform a canine trauma sequence.

2. Students will be proficient with bandaging and intervention techniques necessary to perform a point of injury canine trauma sequence.

3. Students will be able to recognize and treat a heat emergency in a working canine.

4. Students will be able to recognize and treat opioid exposure in a working canine.

5. Students will be able to recognize and treat gastric dilatation volvulus in a working canine.

I. **Canine Trauma Sequence**

A. Identify life threatening injuries

B. Follow a canine trauma sequence to treat life threatening injuries  
 1. SM2ARCH sequence

II. **Bandaging and Intervention Techniques**

1. Apply wound dressings

1. Direct pressure dressing

2. Wound packing

3. Tourniquet

B. Perform airway interventions (based on skill level)

1. Airway obstruction

2. Endotracheal intubation

3. Surgical airway

C. Apply chest seal and breathing intervention

1. Apply different chest seals

2. Perform needle decompression

III. **Pain Management**

A. Routes for administration  
1. IM, IV, IO

B. Different opioid options

IV. **Heat Injuries**

A. Causes of heat injuries  
1. Poor canine conditioning  
2. Hot and humid weather  
3. Confinement to small areas without proper ventilation

B. Heat injury categories  
1. Mild  
2. Moderate  
3. Severe

C. Treatment of heat injuries  
1. Cooling techniques  
2. Intravenous placement and fluid therapy

D. Prevention of heat injuries  
1. Acclimation  
2. Canine conditioning  
3. Water intake  
4. Work/rest cycles

VI. **Opioid Exposure**

1. Routes of exposure
2. Inhalation
3. Transdermal
4. Oral ingestion
5. Signs and symptoms of opioid exposure
6. Narcan/Naloxone administration  
    1. Routes of Narcan/Naloxone administration  
    2. Dosages for Narcan/Naloxone administration  
    3. Onset of action of Narcan/Naloxone
7. Important phone numbers for poison control centers

VII. **Gastric Dilatation Volvulus/Bloat (GDV)**

1. What is GDV?
2. Causes of GDV
3. Signs and Symptoms of GDV
   1. Abdominal distension
   2. Non-productive vomiting
   3. Evidence of abdominal pain
4. Treatment of GDV
   1. Treat shock symptoms
   2. Decompress the stomach