



## STAFF NOTICE

22 January 2026

### Assistance dogs on emergency ambulances

From 1 February 2026, assistance dogs will be welcomed onto emergency ambulances where appropriate and where they will be of benefit and support to a patient who is conscious.

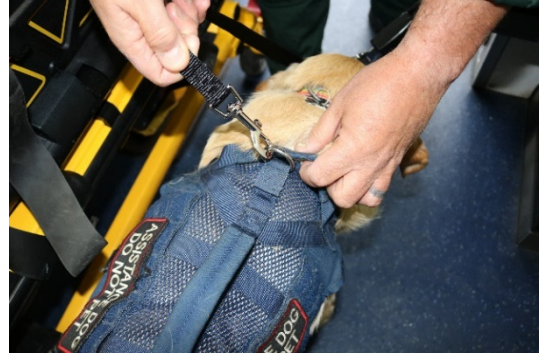
There are different types of assistance dogs providing a wide range of support to their owners. Not all assistance dogs wear an identifiable jacket and some patients may have a health condition that is not obvious or visible but will still have an assistance dog. They are highly trained, and their owners will have had specialised training in the safe and effective use of their dog. As the dog's behaviour is a key part of this training, it is unlikely to cause any disruption.

To ensure the safety of our crews, patients and dogs, each emergency ambulance will be equipped with a dog seat belt restraint, shown in the photo below. These will be stored in the long cupboard adjacent to the stretcher (where the child stretcher is stored) on board the vehicle.

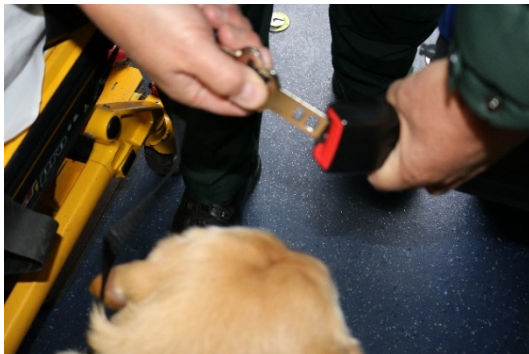


A procedural flow chart for transporting assistance dogs by 999 Operations staff is available on **Pulse**.

When securing the assistance dog in the back of the vehicle, ensure that the clip (labelled A in the photograph) is securely and properly clipped onto the dog's jacket as shown below.



Next, select the correct latch plate (labelled B) to clip into the seatbelt buckle of the seat opposite the stretcher if possible.



If possible, the assistance dog should be within arm's reach of the patient. The dog seat belt restraint is adjustable, so the length can be extended (or shortened) if necessary. By securing the dog to the chair opposite the stretcher, the clinician should still be able to carry out all their observations as shown below.



After the journey, please remove the dog seat belt restraint. Both the restraint and the vehicle should be cleaned with biocide wipes as detailed in the SOP for Intermediate Vehicle Cleaning (022). There is no requirement to deep clean a vehicle following transportation of an assistance dog unless there is visible soiling; in which case, this should be arranged immediately.

***Issued by Internal Communications***