

## Common Health Risks to Detection Dogs Based on Working Category

Knowledge Topics	Higher-Risk Work Environment	Moderate- to Lower-Risk Work Environment
<b>Urban search-and-rescue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respiratory, oral, ocular, or dermal exposure to toxic chemicals, waste, environmental (CBRNE)</li> <li>Injury from falls (MS) or penetrating, skin, pad, or foot injury</li> <li>Environmental (heat or cold)</li> <li>GI distress/illness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illicit drug or toxin exposure</li> <li>Direct exposure or hypersensitivity to plant toxins or animal venom (bees, snakes)</li> <li>Infectious agents (regional)</li> </ul>
<b>Wilderness search-and-rescue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Injury from falls (MS) or penetrating, skin, pad, or foot injury</li> <li>Direct exposure or hypersensitivity to plant toxins or animal venom</li> <li>Environmental (heat or cold)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illicit drug exposure</li> <li>Infectious agents (regional)</li> <li>Gunshot injury</li> <li>GI distress/illness</li> </ul>
<b>Agriculture/pest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing out of ordinary for canine companions</li> </ul>	
<b>Police and law enforcement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orthopedic injuries</li> <li>GI distress/illness</li> <li>Gunshot or attack</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toxin or illicit drug exposure</li> <li>Blast or gunshot injury</li> <li>Pad or foot injury</li> </ul>
<b>Medical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biohazard exposure</li> </ul>	
<b>Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental injury or exposures</li> </ul>	

The 2021 AAHA Working, Assistance, and Therapy Dog Guidelines are available at [aaha.org/workingdog](http://aaha.org/workingdog).

These guidelines were prepared by a Task Force of experts convened by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and were subjected to a formal peer-review process. This document is intended as a guideline only, not an AAHA standard of care. These guidelines and recommendations should not be construed as dictating an exclusive protocol, course of treatment, or procedure. Variations in practice may be warranted based on the needs of the individual patient, resources, and limitations unique to each individual practice setting.

