



SC-RSI K9 Therapy Teams

Comfort. Connection. Care.

Specialized Support for South Carolina's Emergency and Disaster Responders

Why K9 Therapy for First Responders?

"Therapy dogs reduce cortisol levels and help regulate heart rate and blood pressure during high-stress events." — National Institutes of Health

"Just 10 minutes with a trained therapy dog can significantly lower anxiety in first responders after trauma." — Journal of Emergency Medical Services

What Sets SC-RSI Apart?

Mission-Aligned Teams – Our K9 Therapy Teams are part of a larger responder wellness network under the South Carolina Responder Support Initiative (SC-RSI). We don't just show up—we are trained, connected, and purpose-built for supporting emergency and disaster responders.

Handler Qualifications Matter – Every handler on our team is a trained peer supporter, completing:

- 16 hours of peer support training
- 8 hours of Mental Health First Aid
- 3 hours of suicide awareness training
- Ongoing 8 hours of continuing education annually

Team-Based Model – Our K9 teams train and meet regularly, providing mutual support and quality assurance—because excellence in care starts with excellence in preparation.

How Our K9 Teams Serve

- Routine Station or Field Visits
- Special Agency or Community Events
- Critical Incident Debriefs (Even if we're not facilitating the debrief itself—our dogs help create the space for healing.)

Let Us Support Your Team

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All SC-RSI K9 Teams are certified, insured, and dedicated to showing up for those who show up for everyone else.