



RESCUEPAW

Not by choice. Conventional boots block the paw pad sensation a K9 relies on to read unstable ground, and they cover the claws it uses to grip debris — so the moment the boots go on, agility goes down. That leaves handlers sending the dog onto rubble, glass and rebar with nothing between skin and steel. RescuePaw is being built to resolve that paradox.

01

Boots on: senses off.

Rubber soles dull the paw pad, which is the organ a dog uses to read vibration, slope and texture, while enclosed toe boxes cover the very claws it needs to scale rubble. Veterinary literature notes booties stay viable only where safe manoeuvring does not depend on bare-paw traction — which describes most collapse sites.

Gordon LE, Ho B. *J Am Vet Med Assoc.* 2020;256(3):322

02

12-18 months

of training before a single K9 search team can be certified

US House Homeland Security testimony, 2017

45.5%

of working dogs sustained injuries — most were musculoskeletal

Spinella et al., 2023

84%

of FEMA-certified dogs were injured or ill after the Oso landslide; pad wear and paw pad splits led the list

Gordon LE. JAVMA. 2015;247(8):901

35.6%

of all K9 mission-loss days traced back to injury

Harroun-White et al., 2024

Across deployments, wounds to the paws and lower limbs are consistently among the most reported injuries, and the tradeoff that causes them has been documented for as long as these teams have been deploying. What has not happened is a solution.

03

A Semi-open toe guard

A carbon shell protects the top of the toes while the front stays open, so the claws can keep working as the climbing spikes they already are.

B Full-leg carbon exoskeleton

A single continuous frame runs from the paw to the femur, shielding the lower joints without the bulk of a conventional harness, while bio-flexible joints let it move with the leg rather than against it.

C On-device AI — works where signal doesn't

Sensors in the sole feed an AI that lives inside the boot itself, so it can sense unstable ground, decide and warn without a network, a cloud, or any signal at all — which is exactly the condition inside a collapsed structure.

D Load path

The impact of each landing is routed along the frame so that it bypasses the knee joint and disperses into thigh muscle instead.

04

We're building this — but not without you

RescuePaw is at concept stage. Before we commit to hardware we want to hear from the organizations that actually run K9 SAR operations — your answers directly shape what we build first.

01 Field demand

Have your dogs sustained paw or lower-leg injuries on debris deployments, and did the gear available to you meet the need?

02 Advisory input

Would you be open to a short call? We can walk you through the concept, and would value your view on what a device must meet to be usable in a real operation.

03 Pilot and adoption

If demand is confirmed and we build a working prototype, would your organization consider a small field trial, and later a conversation about adoption?

TEAM

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