

CERTIFICATION PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR A LAW ENFORCEMENT OR CORRECTIONS CANINE TEAM

General Rules for Certification:

The handler and the dog will be considered as a team and it will be the team that is certified. If one member of the team changes, a new team exists, and the team will need to be certified.

GENERAL PATROL AND INVESTIGATIVE CANINE TEAM

To obtain a “general patrol and investigative canine certification, the handler and the canine must pass all phases of this testing area.

Phase I – Obedience

This test is to determine the ability of the handler to control the police dog while the animal is off lead. (This test must be passed before proceeding to any other phase of the testing process.) The evaluator may terminate any exercise for lack of progress, failure to perform, or unsafe conditions.

The evaluator will conduct the exercises in the obedience phase in the order listed, and will be the only person to determine when each of the exercises has been completed.

The obedience phase will be done off leash.

- 1. Heeling:** This exercise will consist of normal, slow, and fast paces and right, left and about turns. The dog must stay within arms length of the handler and sit at halt.

Note: A minimum of one right turn, one left turn, one about turn. Each leg of the above must be a minimum of (30) thirty feet long. The different phases may be conducted on any leg.

- 2. Recall:** This exercise will begin with the canine in a stay position. The handler must indicate what position the canine will stop in. The handler will move 100-feet away in a straight line from the canine. At the direction of the evaluator, the handler will call the canine to him/her stopping the canine at the 50- foot position. During this time the evaluator will have the handler perform a stay exercise. The handler will indicate which position to leave the canine in. The length of time that the canine shall stay shall not exceed one-minute.

- 3. Heeling Control:** This exercise will begin with the canine in the heel position. At the evaluator's direction, the handler and canine will step off, moving in a straight line. At the 50- foot position, the handler will stop the canine while continuing to move to the 100- foot position where the handler will stop and face the canine. At the direction of the evaluator, the handler will cause the canine to return to the handler's side.

Phase II- Protection and Control

1. The evaluator will conduct the exercises in the order indicated, and will be the only person to determine when the exercise has been completed.
2. All exercises in this phase may be performed on or off leash. It must be clear to the evaluator at all times that the handler is not physically restraining the canine.
3. **Standing Call –Off:** There will be three clearly marked positions: the 50- foot position, the 75- foot position, and the 100- foot position. At the direction of the evaluator, the decoy will begin to run from the 50- foot position. The canine will be sent after the decoy passes the 75- foot position. The decoy will stop at the 100- foot position with his hands at his side. The canine will be recalled/stopped after passing the 50-foot position. The handler may run with the K-9, but must stop at the 50-foot mark.
4. **Protection from the stay position:** The team will move to a location designated by the evaluator. The decoy will approach to within 20 feet of the team's position. The handler will leave his dog and approach the decoy. After a period of conversation, the decoy will assault the handler. After the canine makes contact, the trainer will direct the handler when to recall the canine.

Note: The evaluator may conduct the scent phase in any order. *The evaluator may terminate the exercise for lack of progress, failure to perform the scent work, or unsafe conditions.*

Phase III- AREA SEARCH

This scent exercise will consist of an area (minimum of 200- feet by 200- feet) and may vary in size, location and environment, and will be designated by the evaluator. The decoy will be placed in an area contaminated by human scent. The search will have a minimum set-up time of 10-minutes. The handler will determine the starting point. The handler and canine will be evaluated on the manner in which they accomplish the exercise. The handler must locate the decoy through scent work.

Phase IV – Building Search

This scent exercise will consist of a building (minimum of 3 rooms and may vary in size, location and environment) designated by the evaluator. The decoy will be placed in a building contaminated by human scent. The search will have a minimum set-up time of 10 minutes. The handler and the canine will start at a point determined by the evaluator. The team will be evaluated on the manner in which they accomplish the exercise. The canine must locate the decoy through scent work.

Phase V – Tracking

The track will be planned by and /or approved by the evaluators. The track will be a minimum of 600 –feet and consist of minimum of one turn, and 2 legs with at least 1 change of surface. Three (3) articles of evidence, (options of a firearm, purse, flashlight, or an article of clothing) will be placed on the track by the decoy. The articles of evidence will be well scented by the decoy. The track will have a minimum time delay of 10 minutes. The handler and the canine will start at a point determined by the evaluator. The team will be evaluated on the manner in which they accomplish the exercise. The canine must locate the decoy through scent work. The team must locate a minimum of 1 article of evidence. The evidence may be recovered during the original track or on the back track.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

NARCOTICS DETECTION CANINE TEAM

The handler and the dog will be considered as a team and it is the team who will be certified. If the handler or the dog changes, a new team exists and the team will need to be certified.

This test is designed to determine the proficiency and reliability of a canine team in the detection of narcotics. The general rule for testing narcotics detection dogs will be as follows:

1. The “reward toy or object” used to reward the dog upon finding a narcotic hide, will not contain any narcotic odor or residue.
2. The aids will be set in each phase not less than 30 minutes prior to the phase being evaluated.
3. The handler must verbally indicate to the evaluator that he/she has a positive alert from their dog and believes that a controlled substance has been found. The handler will indicate to the evaluator the location of the substance. The evaluator may request the handler to be more specific as to the location if necessary.

4. The types of narcotic training aids will consist of two each representing the five different odors: marijuana, cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin. Seven of the ten aids must be located and the finds must represent at least one of each of the five odors. The amount of narcotics to be hidden will not be less than 1 gram nor more than 28 grams.
5. The amounts and types of controlled substance in each phase will be at the evaluator's discretion, as long as all types of controlled substances are included somewhere in these phases. (*No pseudo narcotics will be used*)
6. Time limits on searches will be at the discretion of the evaluator and so long as the evaluator determines that the team is still working.
7. The order in which the search will occur is at the direction of the evaluator.

Phase I - Buildings

The building search will consist of an area designated by the evaluator, and may vary in size, location or environment, but will consist of a minimum of three rooms. The canine will start at a point determined by the handler.

Phase II - Vehicles

The vehicle search will consist of a minimum of three vehicles, which may vary in size, location and environment. The search may consist of both the interior and exterior of the vehicles. The canine will start at a point determined by the handler.

Phase III – Exterior Search

The exterior search phase will consist of an area (minimum of 30 ft. by 30 ft.) in open air that may vary in location and environment and may include buried narcotics. The canine will start at a point determined by the handler.

Phase IV – Obedience

Each handler will demonstrate obedience and control with their canine. A heeling exercise will be done on leash.