

GENERAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS GOVERNING CERTIFICATION

PATROL DOG I

This certification test will consist of the following:

1. **Obedience**—To show the extent of control by the handler at heel and at a distance.
2. **Searching**—To locate, indicate and/or retrieve articles containing the scent of a stranger (Evidence Recovery) and to locate and indicate a hidden suspect by scent only (Suspect Search).
3. **Criminal Apprehension and Recall**—To show the control of the dog under various circumstances, including apprehension under gunfire.

GENERAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS

These general rules and guidelines will govern testing unless specifically stated otherwise herein. Rules may be discussed for clarification prior to certification, but no changes will be made prior to the test. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1st, 2012, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2013) If there is a discrepancy between the printed version of the rules and the on-line rules, the on-line rules are to be considered the correct and accurate version. The USPCA, inc. encourages its regions to offer an annual certification for their members and encourages each member to certify on an annual basis. The regional executive board shall approve all certifications held within their regions.

1. ASSOCIATION: The term “**association**” when used in the context of these regulations shall refer to the rules committee, the judges committee or the National USPCA Executive Committee.

2. INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES:

A. **Each handler must be a member of the USPCA** and a full-time paid law enforcement officer of a city, town, county, state, or federal agency. The handler must also be a working K-9 officer assigned to a K-9 and duties appropriate to it. Any member who has retired in good standing with a minimum of 10 consecutive years as a member of the USPCA may also certify their trained K-9 if they are working in a part time status for a law enforcement agency and are assigned K-9 duties. This would also apply to any full retired member who is a reserve, special deputy, or any status where the member is still recognized as a law enforcement officer. The member must maintain continuous membership with the USPCA upon retirement. If their membership is not continuous, they will not be eligible to certify their K-9.

B. Regular members wishing to certify in a National PDI trial must qualify annually in a sanctioned Regional/District Certification with a score of **512** or above, before being eligible to enter the National Field Trials. “Annually” shall mean from the end of one National Field Trial to the beginning of the next National Field Trial. National Field Trial registration forms will ask the handler to declare the date and location of the last PDI trial that the K-9 team attended.

1. Medallions for **512** points and above will be issued and supplied by the nationals for the National Field Trials only.

2. A score of **448** points, or better, in any sanctioned regional/district certification will earn a PDI rating and a USPCA Certification.

C. Certifications will not be permitted for the purpose of marketing or selling dogs.

D. Testing order will be drawn prior to the test and is at the Chief Judge's discretion, as is scheduling of participants at each location or venue . For clarification - The order of testing will be drawn by the Chief Judge or Region prior to the start of the testing. The order of testing will not be released to any participant earlier than 24 hours before the start of testing.

E. For National Certifications, each handler is allowed to enter only one dog, and it must be the dog used in the performance of their K-9 officer responsibilities.

3. TEAM ENTRIES:

A. The entry of dogs from each department is unlimited. However, each department may enter only one team, consisting of four dogs, into each trial.

B. Each region/district may enter as many teams as they like consisting of four teams who are primary members with that region or district, forming a region/district team for National Certifications. See E below concerning regional/district certifications.

C. Participants comprising a team must be announced to the officials at the handlers meeting and each handler may only participate on one team, either a region/district team, or a department team.

D. Teams wishing to designate an alternate team member must do so at the handler meeting. If during the certification, a designated member of the team cannot continue, the alternate member's scores will be considered for the overall team score.

E. Regions/districts may establish entry criteria for participating teams (optional) if teams are established.

4. JUDGES AND JUDGING:

A. All judges for Regional, District and National Certifications must be active regular or associate members of the USPCA and must have handled or trained a PDI dog. The Chief Judge for a **National** PDI Certification must be a Nationally Certified PDI Judge AND a National Trainer. The Chief Judge for a **Regional** or District PDI Certification must be a Nationally Certified PDI Judge and meet all requirements set by the Judges Committee unless they are a National Trainer. * *See Chief Judges requirements found online.* (Approved 4-2-17 in Raleigh, NC) Those who were already certified as a regional or national judge are grandfathered in effective September 22nd, 1989. The National PDI trial will have five nationally certified PDI judges on each event (high and low score discarded). A regional trial will have a minimum of three judges with all scores counted or a maximum of five judges (high and low score discarded) on each event.

Minimum qualifications for a PDI judge at a Regional trial are:

1. A PDI dog Trainer
2. Or a person who has certified a PDI dog with the USPCA.
3. Has served as a non-scoring judge in at least one PDI certification if possible.

NOTE: *Region and District Certification should have at least one certified judge for each event.*

B. The Chief Judge at the National Field Trials shall not judge. The Chief Judge is there to oversee the complete operation, including judging, scoring, stewards and all other events of the certifications. Once the testing has started, it shall be the Chief Judge's responsibility to make any and all final decisions regarding the completion of the trials, such as factors caused by weather, time schedules, etc.

C. The Chief Judge at Region and District Certifications shall have the same responsibilities but may be a scoring judge if needed. The Chief Judge for a regional or district trial may be from within that same region or district. The Chief Judge for a national trial must be from outside the host region or district. The National will pay travel expenses for the Chief Judge twice per year for a Region or District PD 1 Certification.

D. The Chief Judge will be responsible for the fair and equal method of testing for all participants. All Judges on each event will be responsible to see that their event is run according to the rules and regulations of this association. The lead judge on the event will set guidelines to promote consistency of rule application and penalties.

E. The lead event judge on national events will also be a USPCA certified trainer.

F. The National Executive Board will work with the host to select the Chief Judge for a National Certification from outside the hosts region. The National Executive Board will select the remaining required judges. (September 20, 2020)

G. Judges are not required to explain their scoring and should not enter into any discussions with any member who appears to be dissatisfied. Any interested person, who thinks there has been a mathematical error or an error in identifying a dog, may report the fact to one of the officers of the Association or the certification committee. Judges should explain point deductions on the score sheets whenever possible.

H. Scores will be considered unofficial until checked and officially released by the chief scorekeeper and Chief Judge. Scorekeepers will not change a judge's score sheet unless it is an obvious mathematical error and then only after the error has been confirmed by the judge and chief judge. On completion of an event the Chief Judge or chief scorekeeper will release the judges.

I. No judge shall require a dog or handler to do anything, nor shall they penalize a dog or handler, for failing to do anything not required by these rules.

J. Judges must carry a mental picture of a theoretically perfect performance in each exercise and score each dog and handler against this visualized standard, which shall combine the utmost willingness, enjoyment, and precision on the part of the dog, and the naturalness, gentleness, and smoothness of the handler. Lack of willingness or enjoyment on the part of the dog must be penalized, as should a lack of precision in the dog's performance or roughness in handling.

K. Members of the rules and judges' committees cannot rule on protests of their own department. The committee ruling on protests shall consist of three or more odd number members as selected by the Chief Judge.

L. There shall be no penalty of less than one-half (1/2) point.

M. If a dog fails in a particular part of an exercise, it shall not ordinarily be rejudged or given a second chance unless so stated in these rules. But if in the opinion of the judges, the dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar circumstances, the judges may, at their own discretion, re-judge the dog on the entire exercise, or that portion of the exercise, that the dog failed.

N. Dogs will be judged on obedience control during all phases of the trials. Lack of control or disobedience by the K-9 will result in points deducted from the score achieved in that specific phase.

O. One non-scoring judge or test steward will be positioned at the eighteen-yard line in the Criminal Apprehension phase. A marker (white line, cones, etc.) must be provided to identify the 18-yard line. When the dog crosses the eighteen-yard marker, the non-scoring judge or test steward will signal the handler by activating a light or by a hand signal. The 18-yard line steward/judge will inform the judges if the handler leaves the start line before signaled, or if the dog is recalled early.

P. A National Judge is not allowed to Chief Judge a region/district trial during the week before or the week after a national trial.

Q. No National Scoring Judge shall compete or participate in the National Trials other than in a judging capacity—i.e., this person cannot be a judge and a decoy, etc.

R. Unless otherwise stated in these rules, judging will not begin until the handler has nodded his head indicating that he is ready to begin. If the handler obviously begins an exercise without nodding his head, the judges will start scoring the team at that point.

5. STEWARDS- OPTIONAL:

A. There can be two types of stewards for each event: "Field" and "Test."

1. **Field Stewards** shall hold any leashes or other gear and check and list equipment of handler and dog.
2. **Test Stewards** will conduct or direct the particular exercise. During the National Field Trials, test stewards will be certified NON-SCORING judges if available.

B. Stewards will ask each contestant if they are ready. If the handler is ready, he will verbally respond in the affirmative, or nod his head. Stewards will commence the exercise when the handler is ready. *NOTE: There will be no lengthy or unnecessary delays by either stewards or certifying teams.*

C. In some circumstances a judge may act as a steward and also judge.

D. Stewards must immediately conceal leads without disturbing the dog.

6. TEST REQUIREMENTS:

A. A qualifying score of 70% must be obtained in Obedience (84 points) and Criminal Apprehension (238 points) and a total score of **448** points in order to certify as PDI at region/district trial. A team scoring less than 70% in Obedience will be permitted to continue in the certification for experience only at the direction of the Chief Judge

B. During testing, handlers will not carry any leashes or paraphernalia that would indicate an attempt to control or influence the dog. No whistles, ultrasonic devices or related aides not specifically stated herein will be allowed. All these devices must be left in the parking area. Spike or pinch collars are permitted. A dummy collar or non-operational electronic collar shall be allowed. Prior to entering the testing field, a field steward will check the K9's E-Collar to ensure that the devise is a dummy collar or that it is shut off. The competitor will also hand the remote to the steward prior to the exercise.

C. All handlers will be tested in their standard department duty uniform, except for foot apparel or any equipment that will conflict with Rule 6B. Baseball hats may be worn as long as they are professional in appearance. Numbered vests may be provided for ease of identification and are required when provided.

D. The collar(s) used on the K-9 during the obedience phase will be used for all other phases. No additions, deletions, or modification of collars. A team, upon entering the obedience phase, will have both themselves and their K-9's equipment checked and listed. The equipment will then be checked before each subsequent phase and must be the same for each event.

E. All phases of the test will be conducted off leash and all handlers will do all exercises with both hands at a normal side position.

F. **Protests:** The committee ruling on protests shall consist of three or more odd number members as selected by the Chief Judge. Members of the rules and judges' committees cannot rule on protests of their own department. Handlers will advise the steward at the time of occurrence or

immediately after the test or phase (before leaving the field) that a protest may be entered or lodged. The steward will note the protest and scoresheets will be marked that a possible protest may be filed. All formal protests will be lodged in writing to the Association (Chief Judge), identified by the team's number only, (no name) before they are considered. Any potential disqualification (DQ) from testing will be considered (as a DQ or not a DQ) by the protest committee. Protests and disqualifications must consider the rules of this Association and be ruled on accordingly. Written protests should be kept and submitted to the National Secretary by email and should indicate the protest committee's names and the outcome of the protest. In the case of a question concerning rules, the Chief Judge should contact the Judges Committee Chairman. *Approved 5-7-23 in Evansville.

G. No dog will be left unattended at any time in such a manner as to create a danger or hazard to any other dog, person, or itself.

H. Each handler will be responsible for any damage done by his or her K-9.

I. There will be no aggression training or practice in areas of testing where it may disturb the normal tranquility of fellow handlers or persons not involved with or participating in the certification.

J. ***Any extreme or abusive correction or treatment of a dog—loss of temper or display of poor sportsmanship will result in disqualification from the certification trial.*** The Executive Board may undertake its own investigation and take any action it deems appropriate based on the totality of the circumstances.

7. HANDLER'S PREPARATION:

A. There will be no lengthy explanation of the exercise while on the field. It is the handler's responsibility to know what he or she must do on each exercise.

B. A handler, who is familiar with these rules, should be able to enter the test area under any judge without having to inquire as to how the judge wishes to have the exercise performed and without being confronted with some unexpected requirement.

C. All teams will start and end each test from a finish position.

Teams failing to successfully certify will not immediately be given a second chance. Multiple tests of the same team will not be conducted. The team has to undergo a period of retraining, documenting successful performance, before any attempt at re-certification. Only Official Certificates of Certification (provided by the National office) will be issued to participants who successfully pass a USPCA certification test.

8. DEFINITIONS:

- **Command**—One word or signal to achieve or halt a maneuver. The dog's name when used in conjunction with a command will also be considered a command (i.e., "Fritz come"—will be scored as two commands).
- **Signal**—A single gesture of any part of any limb, which will be returned to the normal position immediately. One signal to achieve or halt a maneuver. (Extra body movements will be penalized).
- **Voice Command**—One word to achieve or halt a maneuver. *NOTE: Definition- Double Command - a combination of a voice command and a signal command is a double command and will be penalized.*

- **Heel Position**—Heeling on the right or left side shall be handler’s choice. However, they must heel their dogs throughout the entire tests on the same side in which they started their obedience phase. For explanation purposes, the left side heel will be described. Whether the dog is heeling, sitting, standing or moving, at heel means—the dog shall be straight in line with the direction in which the handler is facing at the handler’s left side and as close to the left leg as is practical without crowding and permitting freedom of movement at all times. The area from the dog’s head to shoulders shall be in line with the handler’s left hip. When the handler and K-9 come to a halt position, or when the dog is called to a heel while the handler is stationary, the dog should come to a finish position as described without further commands.
- **Finish Position**—The dog shall assume the finish, which could be either a sit or down position, with the dog’s head to shoulders in line with the handler’s left hip. The dog will be facing parallel with the handler. The dog will come to this position upon a single command to recall or whenever the handler comes to a halt while the dog is heeling. Whenever executing a command from the finish position—a command may be given (i.e., “stay” or “heel”).
- **Normal Pace**—A brisk even gait
- **Fast Pace**—Handler and dog moving forward together at a noticeably accelerated speed.
- **Slow Pace**—Handler and dog moving forward together at a noticeably decreased gait from that of normal.

Measurement Specifics—In those events that call for the dog to be placed within ten or fifteen feet, the tail shall not be included.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

- A. Any K-9 relieving itself in the working areas during testing will be penalized once for 10 points in that phase. Multiple incidents will be penalized 1/2 to 2 points as minor deductions off of work points.
- B. There will be no consuming of alcoholic beverages on or in the area of the testing sites during testing hours by judges, handlers or participating officials.
- C. All score sheets will be mailed or given to participants after the trials.
- D. If there is a tie for any position in a National Trial, duplicate awards shall be awarded.

10. PROFESSIONALISM—CERTIFICATION:

A. This is a certification test, not a competition, scored under artificial conditions with equal difficulty for each team. The purpose is for certification and training. Points are awarded and reflect a scale of performance on the exercises. Lower scores encourage improvement of training methods and ideas. It is the sharing of those methods and ideas that create continual improvement of the canine team’s performance.

TEST PHASES

OBEDIENCE

A. The complete obedience phase will be done at the direction of a steward who will direct the maneuvers in a military manner. This obedience exercise will not necessarily be done in the below order. The Association, prior to the commencement of the exercise, will select the order. Order of heeling phase will not be drawn but determined by the Chief Judge. The order of testing will not be released to any participant earlier than 24 hours before the start of testing.

B. Handlers will start and end each phase from a finish position.

C. The complete exercise will be done off leash. Leashes (see event rules) and other restricted paraphernalia will be left with the steward or a judge. Handlers and dogs will be tested in the following maneuvers:

1. Heeling phase which will consist of normal, slow, and fast paces, left, right and about turns. The heeling phase will be no less than seventy-five feet or more than 100 feet for each leg. Except for heeling fast and heeling slow, all phases will be done at a normal pace.

2. Distance control will be done with the handler fifty feet (marked) in front of his or her dog and will include one "sit" and one "down" by hand command and one "sit" and one "down" by voice command. The Association prior to the start of testing shall select the order of commands. Handlers will be allowed one command for each of the above. If the dog fails the command, he will lose those points, but will not be assessed points for extra commands to achieve the desired position. The handler may return to the dog to position it, if necessary to complete the phase, and will not be penalized for doing so. In distance control the judging starts when the handler leaves the dog.

NOTE: The steward(s) shall position themselves so as not to be behind the dog at any time.

3. Obedience Recall: This will consist of calling the dog from fifty feet (marked) and stopping the dog at twenty-five feet (marked) with a sit, down or stand command. The Association prior to the start of testing shall select the command and maneuver. The dog shall then be called to a finish position with a voice command.

4. Walking Control: Handlers will walk their dogs at a heel position. They will down, sit and stand their dogs at a position determined by the steward. At another point determined by the steward, the handler will return to and heel the dog without breaking stride or pass their dog making an about turn at the direction of the steward and pick their dog up without breaking stride. One of the three will be a pass by determined by the Association. All commands for this exercise will be by voice command only.

D. If the steward or the Association does not specify a command, it becomes the handler's choice.

E. Handlers may not praise or intentionally touch their dogs during the tests. The steward will advise the handler when to praise their K-9 (i.e., "Exercise finished")

F. This entire exercise will be done without interruptions.

G. Each handler will have the same identical exercise.

H. Check sample score sheets for areas of penalties.

I. The three Obedience phases will not be intermixed.

SEARCH TESTS

1. Evidence Search:

A. Articles will be supplied by the host city or region/district.

B. The Chief Judge or designee for the test will select two of the following articles.

1. Expended shotgun shell (dark in color)

2. Key on a ring with tab

3. Book of paper matches (dark in color)

4. Metal gun (OPTIONAL)

5. Plastic credit card or card of equal size and material (dark in color)

6. Screwdriver—four to six inches long

7. Piece of leather—one-eighth to one-fourth inch thick, three inches by three inches (dark in color)

C. Articles will be tossed into the search area after being scented for a minimum of thirty seconds in a clenched fist by only one judge or steward.

D. Two new or unused articles of the same type will be used for each participant.

E. The dog will be required to search, find and retrieve or indicate the two selected articles within a defined area. See below for the two listed options. (*Teams will have a choice of two options in the indication of articles. The same option must be used for both articles. The handler will inform the steward / judge as to which option they will use prior to the start of this phase*)

F. The search area will be thirty feet by thirty feet of raised grass approximately twelve inches high.

G. The number of search areas will be as many as possible and practical—to be determined by the host city.

H. There will be a three-minute time limit for the total exercise with a thirty-second warning at the two-and-one-half (2.5) minute mark for each participant. Time will begin when the handler sends their dog.

I. Handler will start his dog from a finish position and will secure their lead on their person before commencing the exercise. They will not reattach the lead to the dog until completion of the search.

J. The handler may start from anywhere around the perimeter. The time will start when the handler sends their dog. If the handler chooses to walk the perimeter prior to starting the exercise, time will begin as the team crosses the point at which they started. The handler will not enter the search area except as defined for Option Two, the passive indication.

K. The dog will be judged on the indication and alert on the article. This must be obvious to the judge.

L. The evidence search must be done in a lighted area with article made safe for the protection of the dog and the handler.

Option One - RETREIVE

Upon finding the article, the dog will retrieve the article and return it to the handler, holding the article until commanded to release it in hand. The handler must remain in a stationary, upright position. The dog will be sent to find the second article. Finding the second article, the dog will return it to the handler, and again, hold it until commanded to release it in hand. After releasing the second article, the dog will be commanded to a finish position. Unnecessary movement on the part of the handler will be penalized.

The handler may not enter the search area. If the K-9 indicates on an article but does not retrieve it, a judge or handler may retrieve the article. (This is for points on the find for the benefit of the handler)

Option Two - PASSIVE

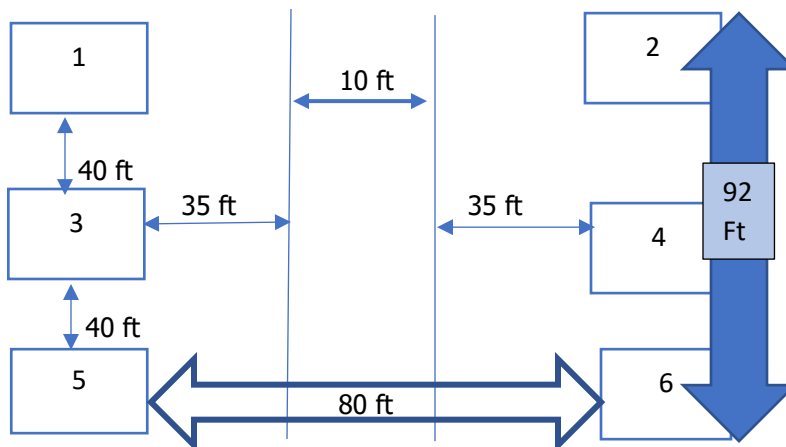
Upon finding the article, the dog will give a passive indication of the article, remaining stationary in a sit, down or stand close to the article but without touching or disturbing the article. The handler will tell the judges that his dog has indicated and walk directly to the dog, picking up the article and showing it to the judges. During this time the dog must remain in the original indication position. The handler will then return to the perimeter of the area by the shortest route. The handler may command his dog to heel or leave the dog in the area. Once the handler is out of the area, he will command the dog to search for the second article. When the dog indicates the second article, the handler will tell the judges that his dog has indicated, enter the area, pick up the article and show it to the judges. During this time the dog must remain in his indication position. The handler will return to the perimeter and bring his dog to a finish position. The handler may not enter the search area until his dog has indicated and the handler notifies the judges that his dog has indicated.

2. Suspect Search:

- A. The Suspect Search shall consist of six boxes, each being four feet by four feet with tops but without bottoms. Boxes shall be placed on (as near) flat and level ground as possible.
- B. There will be two rows of three boxes, forty feet apart and each row forty feet from the centerline, with the door facing away from the centerline. All sides of the boxes shall be left exposed for the dogs to work.
- C. All boxes shall be closed during each test.
- D. There will be no deductions for boxes not checked.
- E. There shall be two lines down the center of the search area, ten feet apart in which the handler must remain during the search exercise. The handler may start at any point in the work area and may move along the line while working the dog at their direction. The team may finish at any point along the handler work area.
- F. The team will start from a finish position. The handler will secure their lead on their person before commencing the exercise. They will not reattach the lead to the dog until completion of the entire search. Time limit for this exercise is 4 minutes, with a 30 second warning.
- G. The handler is permitted to walk the length of the work area prior to sending their dog. The handler may issue a K-9 warning before starting the search. Time will start if the handler turns and walks back through the area at any point. Otherwise, time will start when the handler sends their dog.
- H. Upon the dog making the find, the dog must return to the handler to a finish position for maximum points. The exercise shall be completed after the handler informs the judges what box their dog has indicated, before time runs out.
- I. The type of indication shall be determined by the lead judge—such as, pointing out or calling the number of the box selected.
- J. Teams shall be judged on the way they work. The indication may be physical, or verbal, but must be obvious to the Judges. There shall be penalties for dogs relieving themselves in the area, lack of interest, leaving the area, etc.
- K. Suspects:

1. There can be a maximum of four suspects used in this entire event. The Chief Judge shall determine their order of use, but each suspect must hide for at least six dogs before being relieved by the second suspect.
2. All boxes must be contaminated prior to the first handler/dog team and at any time that the suspect is changed or there is a break in the phase.
3. A suspect (hider) must be at least 18 years old.

Diagram
of
Box Field



L. Contamination of each box shall be one minute each. When all boxes are initially contaminated, they must be left open for a minimum of one minute.

M. Working areas and facilities shall determine the time between each handler/dog team for working the boxes, however, the time allowed for each handler/dog team shall be the same.

E. **Purge Time**—there will be a minimum of one minute air out time for the box to purge. The purge time will be with the box empty and the door open.

CRIMINAL APPREHENSION

There will be five parts to this certification test:

- 1. Recall**
- 2. False Start**
- 3. Apprehension without Gunfire**
- 4. Apprehension with Gunfire**
- 5. Handler Protection**

The order of occurrence will not necessarily be the same as above but will be drawn by the handler as they enter the testing field. Apprehension with gunfire and handler protection will always be last. The criminal apprehension field must be marked off with traffic cones or other means easily distinguishable by the handler. Markings will be placed at the starting line; eighteen-, thirty-, forty-, and sixty-yard lines.

1. Decoys:

A. Decoys must be members of the USPCA, at least 18 years old, and will be furnished by the handlers.

- B. Handlers will use the same decoy through all phases. The decoy must also wear the same type/style of clothing, same type/style of jacket, or the same type/style sleeve, on the same arm, and must face (at the start of each phase) the same direction, throughout all phases.
- C. Handler and decoy will have the choice of using a hidden sleeve, or a protection suit (just the top, or top and bottom.) All sleeves or suits worn and used for the apprehension phase will be covered or concealed by a garment, which shall cover the upper torso of the decoy.
- D. Maximum diameter of the arm (sleeve or suit) shall be six inches to elbow. With both arms of the decoy extended towards the front, the protected sleeve arm shall not be over six inches longer than the unprotected arm. Recommended checking of width of sleeves/arms: A 6-inch diameter hole cut in wooden board will be set in the vicinity of the starting point of apprehension phases. The decoys arm must be in the sleeve or protective suit jacket/top when measured and be able to pass through the ring to the elbow.
- E. Decoys will run at a sprint speed and in the same style throughout all phases, and in a straight line directly away from the handler and dog.
- F. Decoys will be judged against the handler's score.
- G. All decoys will take the dog in a natural stride so that it does not appear that the arm is drawing in the dog. Presenting the arm to protect themselves will not penalize decoys.
- H. Decoys will stand erect with arms at their sides, facing the dog, after the dog has been called from the decoy. The decoy must remain in this position during the search.
- I. Decoys cannot be penalized for lifting the dog or bending down to fight the dog before the call off. During the apprehension, the decoy will work the dog in a side-to-side motion backing away slowly from the dog and shall continue this action until the handler gives the release command.

2. Handlers:

- A. Teams will start each phase from the elected finish position at the starting line.
- B. Handlers will remain at the starting line for all phases until the dog has crossed the eighteen-yard line (with the exception of apprehension with gunfire, the handler may go as soon as the dog has started the pursuit.)
- C. When entering the test area, the dog must remain under the control of the handler prior to the nod of the handlers' head, which indicates the start of the apprehension work. Should the dog leave the handler and make contact with the decoy, the team will be penalized 10 points for each occurrence up to a maximum of two times. Should the K9 contact a decoy a third time, the team will be disqualified. (Criminal apprehension and apprehension with gunfire are to be considered separate phases)
- D. After each phase the dog will be returned to a finish position.
- E. The handler will secure their lead on their person before commencing the exercise. They will not reattach the lead to the dog until completion of the entire criminal apprehension phases. The exception shall be after the apprehension (no gun), upon completion of the pat down; the handler may attach the lead to the dog when returning to the starting line.

3. Recall:

- A. The dog will be at a finish position at the starting line and the decoy will be at the thirty-yard line. After the handler has nodded his head that he is ready, the steward or judge will signal the decoy to run and the decoy will continue to run until the recall has been completed and the judge signals the decoy to stop. Certification will allow a standing recall for a maximum score of 25 points. The handler will declare standing or running recall prior to starting the exercise.

Standing Recall—The decoy will stop with their arms at their sides upon hearing the recall command by the handler.

- B. When the decoy starts, the handler will command his dog to apprehend. Only under gunfire and handler protection may the dog apprehend without command.
- C. After the amber light has been lit, or the 18-yard line steward/judge gives the signal, the handler can recall their dog.
- D. If the dog recalls between the eighteen and sixty yard lines there will be no major penalties. The judge will score the dog according to the response.
- E. The handler may use only one command to send the dog, one command to stop the apprehension, and one command to recall the dog to the finish position. Extra commands will be penalized.

4. False Start:

- A. The dog will be at a finish position at the starting line and the decoy will be at the thirty yard line. After the handler has nodded his head that he is ready, the steward or judge will signal the decoy to run ten yards to the forty-yard line.
- B. After the nod of the head, handlers will be allowed only one command to keep their dog in the finish position.
- C. The dog will be judged on the control and movements or if it breaks from the line.

5. Criminal Apprehension phases:

Criminal Apprehension without gunfire and Criminal Apprehension with gunfire are judged the same with the only exceptions being listed below.

1. **Criminal Apprehension without gunfire** includes the apprehension and the above listed recall and false start. The order- recall, false start, and apprehension, will be drawn by the handler from a steward upon entering the venue. The decoy will start from the 30-yard line. When the handler is ready and at the direction of the steward or judge, the decoy will run straight away from the dog. With one command, the handler will command the dog to apprehend. The handler will not leave the start position until the dog passes the 18-yard line.

- A. Judging the apprehension will be guided by the evaluation/score sheets.
- B. After the dog makes the catch, the decoy will fight the dog for a reasonable time to allow the judges to observe the apprehension. The handler may call their dog from the apprehension at any time after the judge calls their number or signals the handler.

Call off options:

Option One

With one command, the handler will call their dog from the apprehension and with one command call their dog to a finish position, approximately fifteen feet from the decoy. The handler may stay their dog in the finish position, for clarification the dog does not have to sit before downing. The handler will then approach the decoy to perform the search. On completing the search after apprehension without gunfire, the handler will return to their dog and the judge will advise exercise is finished. On apprehension with gunfire the handler will do a complete search before the handler protection phase. After handler protection, the judge will signal the handler, the handler will call their dog to the finish position and judge will signal the exercise is complete.

Option Two

With one command the handler will call their dog from the apprehension and with one command, place the dog either in a sit or down at the decoy. The handler will instruct the decoy to back away from their dog.

The decoy will back away approximately fifteen feet from the dog. The handler will then approach their dog, at the finish position, or if not in a finish position, with one command place their dog in the elected finish position. The handler will then approach the decoy, one command may be used to stay their dog on leaving, to perform the search. On completing the search after apprehension without gunfire, the handler will return to their dog and the judge will advise exercise is finished. On apprehension with gunfire, the handler will do a complete search before the handler protection phase. After the handler protection, the judge will signal the handler, who will call their dog from the apprehension. The handler will move to the dog's position or with one command place in the finish position. For clarification, the dog does not have to sit before downing. The judge or steward will signal when the exercise is complete.

- C. The handler, after the search, will return to their dog and if dog is not in a finish position, command the dog to a finish. It is not necessary, during the apprehension phases, that the K-9 start and finish in the same position. The finish position can be a down or a sit.
- D. The handler will be penalized (once) 25 points for physically removing his dog from the apprehension. *NOTE: the team can only be penalized 25. Prior additional deduction points for extra commands, slow release, finish, etc. cannot be added to physical removal points.*
- E. The handler will do a complete search of the decoy. There will be no simulated searches. The search will consist of both arms, both legs and the torso of the decoy.
- F. The judge will signal when the exercise is complete.

2. Criminal Apprehension with gunfire includes the apprehension under gunfire and a handler protection phase. The decoy will start at the 30-yard line. When the handler is ready and at the direction of the steward or judge, the decoy will fire one shot, turn, and run, firing the second shot as he runs straight away from the dog. No shots will be fired once the dog is within fifteen feet of the decoy. The decoy may drop the gun after all the shots have been fired. The dog will start from a finish position at the starting line and will not be penalized for leaving the line after the first shot. If he is commanded, then only one command will be used.

- A. After the dog makes the catch, the decoy will fight the dog for a reasonable time to allow the judges to observe the apprehension. Calls off options are listed above.
- B. Judging the apprehension will be guided by the evaluation/scoresheets.
- C. All guns used in this phase must be capable of firing 38-caliber blanks. In lieu of 38-caliber, (if 38 caliber weapons or blanks are unavailable) a starter gun or another caliber handgun capable of firing blanks may be used with the prior approval of the Chief Judge of the certification. Guns will be loaded with two live blanks and will be checked by a judge or steward before and after this phase. **Approved May 2018.*
- D. The handler protection test will begin when the handler leaves the dog in a finished position for the search after the gun apprehension. (As described in one of the two above options)
- E. The handler will do a complete search of the decoy as listed under letter 5E.

F. After the search, the decoy will assault the handler. The assault shall be no less than an aggressive move or motion towards the handler, by the decoy, with his arm and no more than one contact of the decoy's arm to the handler's body. Either must be obvious to the judges.

G. A judge will signal when the exercise is complete.

H. The handler will be penalized (once) 25 points for physically removing his dog from the apprehension. The exception is the handler protection phase with a physical removal limited to a 10-point deduction. The handler will remove the dog; bring the dog to the finish position and continuing the exercise. *NOTE: The team can only be penalized 25. (10 handler protection) Prior additional deduction points for extra commands, slow release, finish, etc. cannot be added to physical removal points.*

Physical removal of a K-9 during criminal apprehension phases:

A K-9 team may not certify if the physical removal of the K-9 was necessary during the three scheduled apprehension exercises. Physical removal of the K-9 during the false start, recall and search phases will not be included.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork.

Mail or E-mail completed trial paperwork or program to include: (within 30 days of the trial)

- Original Master score sheet
- Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged.
- The high-low sheets showing the scores of all judges.
- Trial paperwork including the scoring program should be uploaded on the web site, www.uspcak9.com and look under the CERTIFICATION tab.

Or email to: National Secretary Melinda Ruopp
secretary@uspcak9.com

2024

GENERAL RULES and DEFINITIONS GOVERNING CERTIFICATIONS

Tracking Canines

This certification test will evaluate the ability of the canine to track the scent of a specific person. It will evaluate the ability of the canine to locate items of evidence left by that person and it will evaluate the ability of the canine to discriminate from a cross track.

GENERAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS

These general rules and guidelines will govern testing unless specifically stated otherwise herein. Rules may be discussed for clarification prior to certification, but no changes will be made prior to the test.

- A. ASSOCIATION: The term "association" when used in the context of these regulations shall refer to the rules committee, the Judges Committee or the National USPCA Executive Committee.
- B. Entries: **Each handler must be a member of the USPCA** and a full-time paid law enforcement officer of a city, town, county, state or federal agency. The handler must also be a working K-9 officer assigned to a K-9 and duties appropriate to it. Any member who has retired in good standing with a minimum of 10 consecutive years as a member of the USPCA may also certify their trained K-9 if they are working in a part time status for a law enforcement agency and are assigned K-9 duties. This would also apply to any full retired member who is a reserve, special deputy or any status where the member is still recognized as a law enforcement officer. The member must maintain continuous membership with the USPCA upon retirement. If their membership is not continuous, they will not be eligible to certify their canine. **Additionally, a special member as defined in the By-laws may certify a dog in a regional tracking trial if approved as a special member by their region.** Approved 6-12-22
- C. Certifications will not be permitted for the purpose of marketing or selling dogs.
- D. Testing order will be drawn prior to the test and is at the Chief Judges' discretion as will the articles used on the track.
- E. Each region or district shall offer a tracking test annually or more often as determined and approved by the region. That region will determine the required fee. This region will also keep a list of those dog teams that have passed this certification test.
- F. No whistles, ultrasonic devices or related aides not specifically stated herein will be allowed. Spike or pinch collars are permitted. All these devices must be left in the

parking lot. A dummy collar or non-operational electronic collar shall be allowed. Prior to entering the testing field, a field steward will check the K9's E-collar to ensure that the device is a dummy collar or that it is shut off. The competitor will also hand the remote to the steward prior to the exercise.

G. No dog will be left unattended at any time in such a manner as to create a danger or hazard to any other dog, person or to itself.

H. Each handler will be responsible for any damage done by his or her K-9.

I. **Protests:** The committee ruling on protests shall consist of three or more odd number members as selected by the Chief Judge. Members of the rules and judges' committees cannot rule on protests of their own department. Handlers will advise the steward at the time of occurrence or immediately after the test or phase (before leaving the field) that a protest may be entered or lodged. The steward will note the protest and scoresheets will be marked that a possible protest may be filed. All formal protests will be lodged in writing to the Association (Chief Judge), identified by the team's number only, (no name) before they are considered. Any potential disqualification (DQ) from testing will be considered (as a DQ or not a DQ) by the protest committee. Protests and disqualifications must consider the rules of this Association and be ruled on accordingly. Written protests should be kept and submitted to the National Secretary by email and should indicate the protest committee's names and the outcome of the protest. In the case of a question concerning rules, the Chief Judge should contact the Judges Committee Chairman.

*Approved 5-7-23 in Evansville.

J. There will be no consumption of alcoholic beverages on or in the area of the testing site during testing hours by judges, handlers or participating officials.

K. *Any extreme or abusive correction or treatment of a dog—loss of temper or display of poor sportsmanship by the handler—will result in disqualification from the certification as determined by the chief judge.* The Executive Board may undertake its own investigation and take any action it deems appropriate based on the totality of the circumstances.

L. JUDGES:

1. All judges for Regional, District and National Certifications must be active regular or associate members of the USPCA. The Chief Judge of a Tracking Certification Trial must be at least a regional certified Tracking Judge and must meet the requirements as set by the Judges Committee unless they are already a National Trainer. *See Chief Judges requirements found on line. (approved 4-2-17 in Raleigh, NC)* Regionally certified tracking judges or technically qualified USPCA evaluators will be used. The minimum qualifications for a tracking judge are:

* A tracking dog trainer

* OR a person who had handled a tracking dog for at least three years and who has certified through USPCA in a sanctioned USPCA Tracking Trial two of the three years;

* And has served as a novice judge in at least one tracking dog certification.

* In the event that the above criteria cannot be met, then the Chief Judge will select the most qualified individuals to judge. When using the approved USPCA Tracking trial program, only two scoring judges per participant is required. (Additional judges scores can be put in the "novice" area of the program)

2. Judges must carry a mental picture of a theoretically perfect performance in each exercise and score each dog and handler against this visualized standard, which shall combine the utmost in willingness, enjoyment, and precision on the part of the dog, and the naturalness, gentleness, and smoothness of the handler. Lack of willingness or enjoyment on the part of the dog must be penalized, as should a lack of precision in the dog's performance or roughness in handling.

3. There will be no penalty of less than one-half (1/2) of a point. Prior to testing, judges should determine if partial scores will be given for incomplete tracks. See scoresheets for areas of evaluation.

4. Judges are not required to explain their scoring and should not enter into any discussions with a member who appears dissatisfied. Any interested person, who thinks there has been a mathematical error or an error in identifying a dog, may report the fact to one of the officers of the Association or the certification committee. Judges should explain point deductions on the score sheets whenever possible.

5. Scores will be considered unofficial until checked and officially released by the chief scorekeeper and Chief Judge. Scorekeepers will not change a judge's score sheet unless it is an obvious mathematical error and then only after the error has been confirmed by the judge and chief judge. On completion of an event the Chief Judge or chief scorekeeper will release the judges.

6. No judge shall require a dog or handler to do anything, nor shall they penalize a dog or Handler, for failing to do anything not required by these rules.

7. There will be no lengthy explanation of the exercise while on the field. It will be the handler's responsibility to know the requirements of each exercise. A judge will direct the team to the starting location and start the test.

8. If a dog fails in a particular part of an exercise, it shall not ordinarily be re-judged or given a second chance unless so stated in these rules. But, if in the opinion of the judges, the dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar circumstances, the judges may, at their discretion, re-judge the dog on the entire exercise, or that portion of the exercise, that the dog failed.

9. Judges will stay away from the team to avoid distracting or interfering with the K9.

Teams failing to successfully certify will not immediately be given a second chance. Multiple tests of the same team will not be conducted. The team must undergo a period of retraining, documenting successful performance, before any attempt at re-certification. Only official Certificates of Certification (Provided by the National Office) will be issued to participants who successfully pass a USPCA Certification test.

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR TRACKLAYERS:

1. The track layer, after laying the track, must stay away from the starting point and the K9 team prior to the test.
2. If possible, all tracks for all participants should be done on the same type of surface. For example, all grass or all part grass and part dirt.
3. The track layer should draw a diagram of the track and location of articles, along with the cross track.

GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

TRACKING CERTIFICATION

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to track the scent of a particular person and indicating articles of evidence left on the track. The test also evaluates the canine's ability to discriminate from the cross track by following the original track to a successful conclusion. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1st, 2021, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2022)

1. TESTING:

A. The test track will consist of a three-legged track laid at the direction of the Chief Judge. The length of the track will be from 150 yards to 300 yards in length depending on the space available. There will be two turns with the first turn being either to the right or the left.

B. As many individual tracks as possible will be laid in the area utilized. If the area is limited and will be used more than once, a dog and handler will contaminate all areas prior to the first test.

C. The age of the track will be a minimum of thirty (30) minutes and not to exceed one hour. DO NOT allow tracks to sit too long. If one hour is your starting time, you should use forty-five minutes as the target time to not exceed the one hour.

D. Handlers will have the option to use leads, tracking ropes, tracking harnesses, or any other collars approved by the USPCA. The test will be conducted on leash.

2. START:

A. The approximate area of the start of the track will be marked with two markers placed by the tracklayer. The markers may be cones, flags, etc. They will be placed ten feet apart and the track may start anywhere between the markers.

B. The K9 team will be brought to the general area of the markers and told that the track starts somewhere between the markers. The team will be evaluated on locating the track and determining the track direction.

3. ARTICLES:

A. Track Articles - Three of the PDI articles will be used. Articles used will be supplied by the host city or region. Prior to the start of the exercise, the Chief Judge will select the articles used. Three new articles will be used for each participant. The articles will be concealed on the track, with one article on each leg.

B. End Article – The end article will be determined by the Chief Judge and must be the same for each participant. It will be concealed at the end of the track.

C. Article scoring - The canine will be evaluated on indication and alert of the track articles. Finds must be obvious to the judges. Each article will be judged separately with the end article having a higher point value. If a canine does not locate an article, he will still be evaluated on the work on the track. The canine does not have to retrieve the article. The handler must inform the judges of the find.

4. CONTAMINATION:

The test track will be contaminated on one of the three legs by having another person cross over the laid track. The cross track will be laid at least fifteen (15) minutes after the initial track was laid.

5. TIME:

There will be no time limit on the test. A judge will conclude the test if the team has stopped working or it obviously unsuccessful.

6. PROFICIENCY:

Total possible points in a Tracking Certification is 180. Certification (passing) will be 130 or more points.

GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

TRACKING EXCEPTIONAL CERTIFICATION

The Tracking Exceptional Certification Test will be open to all members who have already achieved certification as a Tracking dog. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1st, 2021, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2022) By that definition, if your Tracking Dog Certification is still valid, then you are qualified to participate in a Tracking Exceptional Certification.

1. TESTING:

A. The Tracking Exceptional Certification test will be a track consisting of a five-legged track with four turns laid at the direction of the Chief Judge. The length of the track will be a minimum 880 yards (one-half mile) to 1760 yards (one mile).

B. The track will have two cross tracks.

C. The age of the track will be a minimum of one hour and not to exceed two hours. DO NOT allow tracks to sit too long.

D. A minimum of two types of surfaces will be used and can consist of roads, streams, and parking lot crossings.

E. Handlers will have the option to use leads, tracking ropes, tracking harnesses, or any other collars approved by the USPCA. The test will be conducted on leash.

2. START:

A. The approximate area of the start of the track will be marked with two markers placed by the tracklayer. The markers may be cones, flags, etc. They will be placed ten feet apart and the track may start anywhere between the markers.

B. The K9 team will be brought to the general area of the markers and told that the track starts somewhere between the markers. The team will be evaluated on locating the track and determining the track direction.

3. ARTICLES:

A. Track Articles - Five of the PDI articles will be used. Articles used will be supplied by the host city or region. Prior to the start of the exercise, the Chief Judge will select the articles used. Five new articles will be used for each participant. The articles will be concealed on the track, with one article on each leg.

B. End Article – The end article will be determined by the Chief Judge and must be the same for each participant. It will be concealed at the end of the track.

C. Article scoring - The canine will be evaluated on indication and alert of the track articles. Finds must be obvious to the judges. Each article will be judged separately with the end article having a higher point value. If a canine does not locate an article, he will still be evaluated on the work on the track. The canine does not have to retrieve the article. The handler must inform the judges of the find.

4. CONTAMINATION:

The test track will be contaminated on two of the five legs by having another person cross over the laid track. The cross track will be laid at least thirty (30) minutes after the initial track was laid.

5. TIME:

There will be no time limit on the test. A judge will conclude the test if the team has stopped working or it obviously unsuccessful.

6. PROFICIENCY:

Total possible points in a Tracking Exceptional Certification is 270. Certification (passing) will be 190 or more points.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork.

Mail or E-mail completed trial paperwork to include: (within 30 days of the trial)

- Original Master score sheet
- Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged
- The high-low sheets showing the scores of all judges.
- Just the excel program if that is what is used for scoring

**Mail to: National Secretary Melinda Ruopp
1575 Wallace Avenue
Marshalltown, Iowa 50158**

E-mail to: uspcasec@heartofiowa.net

GENERAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS GOVERNING CERTIFICATIONS

DETECTION CANINES

These certification tests will consist of the following:

- 1) Outdoor, area or vehicle searches – depending on the type of detection certification.
- 2) Indoor searches

GENERAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS

These general rules and guidelines will govern testing unless specifically stated otherwise herein. Rules may be discussed for clarification prior to certification, but no changes will be made prior to the test. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1st, 2022, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2023) If there is a discrepancy between the printed version of the rules and the on-line rules, the on-line rules are to be considered the correct and accurate version. The USPCA, Inc. encourages its regions to offer an annual certification for their members and encourages each member to certify on an annual basis. The regional executive board shall approve all certifications held within their regions.

The substance and weight of the tested substances will be recorded on the master score sheet along with event score sheets. **No pseudo substances can be used on any certification tests.**

1. ASSOCIATION: The term “**association**” when used in the context of these regulations shall refer to the rules committee, the judges committee or the National USPCA Executive Committee.

2. INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES:

A. **Each handler must be a member of the USPCA** and a full-time paid law enforcement officer of a city, town, county, state, or federal agency. The handler must also be a working K-9 officer assigned to a K-9 and duties appropriate to it. Any member who has retired in good standing with a minimum of 10 consecutive years as a member of the USPCA may also certify their trained K-9 if they are working in a part time status for a law enforcement agency and are assigned K-9 duties. This would also apply to any full retired member who is a reserve, special deputy, or any status where the member is still recognized as a law enforcement officer. The member must maintain continuous membership with the USPCA upon retirement. If their membership is not continuous, they will not be eligible to certify their canine.

B. A special member as defined in the by-laws may certify a dog in a regional detector trial if approved as a special member by their region.

1. Non-Law Enforcement/Peace Officers: This Association will offer DETECTOR certifications only to all NON-Law Enforcement/peace officer individuals. There will be no membership required for the certification and the participants will not be eligible for any of the benefits of this Association. Such certification will consist of our current detector certifications. This certification will not be held in conjunction with any USPCA certification trial. The cost, time, frequency, and location of these certification events will be established and controlled by

the National Executive Board. The National Executive Board will have full control of all non-Law Enforcement/Peace Officer Detector certifications for these individuals.

C. Regular members wishing to certify in a national detector trial must have certified in a sanctioned regional certification to be eligible for the nationals. This means they must have certified in a trial since the end of the last national detector trial to the beginning of the next national detector trial.

*Game, Cadaver, Arson are excluded. National detector dog registration forms will ask the handler to declare the date and location of the last detector dog trial that the canine team attended.

D. Certifications will not be permitted for the purpose of marketing or selling dogs.

E. Testing order will be drawn prior to the test and is at the Chief Judge's discretion, as is scheduling of participants at each location or venue.

F. For National Certifications, each handler is allowed to enter only one dog and it must be a dog used in the performance of the K-9 Officer responsibilities.

3. TEAM ENTRIES

A. An agency or department may enter as many teams as they like, consisting of two members who are working for the same agency or department for National Certifications.

B. Each Region/district may enter as many teams as they like, consisting of two members who are primary members with that region/district, forming a region/district team for National Certifications. See E below concerning regional/district certifications.

C. Participants comprising a team must be announced to the officials at the handlers meeting and each handler may only participate on one team, either a region/district team or a department team. All participants on a team must be certifying in the same discipline. (i.e. all narcotics, or all explosives)

D. Teams wishing to designate an alternate team member must do so at the handler meeting. If during the certification, a designated member of the team cannot continue, the alternate member's scores will be considered for the overall team score.

E. Regions and/or districts may establish entry criteria for participating teams if teams (optional) are established.

4. JUDGES AND JUDGING:

A. All judges for Regional, District and National certification tests must be active regular or associate members of the USPCA and must have handled or trained a detector dog. The Chief Judge for a **National** Detector Dog Certification must be a Nationally Certified Detector Dog Judge and a Level II, III or Detector dog trainer. The Chief Judge for a **Regional** or District Detector Certification must be a certified judge of detector dogs and meet all requirements set by the judge's committee unless they are a certified level II, level III or detector trainer. *See Chief Judges requirements found online.* The National Detector Trial will have five nationally certified detector judges on each event (high and low score discarded). A regional trial will have a minimum of three judges with all scores counted or a maximum of five judges (high and low discarded) on each event.

Minimum qualifications for a detector judge at a regional trial are:

1. A detector dog trainer.
2. Or a person who has certified a detector dog with the USPCA.
3. Has served as a non-scoring judge in at least one detector dog certification if possible.

NOTE: *Region and District Certifications should have at least one certified judge for each event.*

- B. The Chief Judge at the National Detector Certification Trials shall not judge. The Chief Judge is there to oversee the complete operation of the certification including judging, scoring, and stewards. Once the testing has started, it shall be the chief judge's responsibility to make all final decisions regarding the completion of the trials, such as factors caused by weather, time schedules, etc.
- C. The Chief Judge at Regional/District certifications shall have the same responsibilities but may be a scoring judge if needed. The Chief Judge for a regional/district trial may be from within that same region or district. The Chief Judge for a National Trial must be from outside the host region/district.
- D. The Chief Judge will be responsible for the fair and equal method of testing for all participants. All judges on each event will be responsible to see that their event is run according to the rules and regulations of the association. The lead judge on the event will set guidelines to promote consistency of rule application and penalties.
- E. The Chief Judge will determine the scope of the vehicle search phase. i.e. – exterior only, or exterior and interior.
- F. The National Executive Board will work with the host to select the Chief Judge for a National Certification from outside the hosts region. The National Executive Board will select the remaining required judges. (September 20, 2020)
- G. Judges are not required to explain their scoring and should not enter into any discussions with a member who appears dissatisfied. Any interested person, who thinks there has been a mathematical error or an error in identifying a dog, may report the fact to one of the officers of the Association or the certification officials. Judges should explain point deductions on the score sheets whenever possible.
- H. Scores will be considered unofficial until checked and officially released by the chief scorekeeper and Chief Judge. Scorekeepers will not change a judge's score sheet unless it is an obvious mathematical error and then only after the error has been confirmed by the judge and chief judge. On completion of an event the Chief Judge or chief scorekeeper will release the judges.
- I. No judge shall require a dog or handler to do anything, nor shall they penalize a dog or handler, for failing to do anything not required by these rules.
- J. Judges must carry a mental picture of a theoretically perfect performance in each exercise and score each dog and handler against this visualized standard, which shall combine the utmost in willingness, enjoyment, and precision on the part of the dog, and the naturalness, gentleness, and smoothness of the handler. Lack of willingness or enjoyment on the part of the dog must be penalized, as should a lack of precision in the dog's performance or roughness in handling.
- K. Members of the rules and judges' committees cannot rule on protests of their own department. The committee ruling on protests shall consist of three or more odd number members as selected by the Chief Judge. See 6.F.
- L. There will be no penalty of less than one-half (1/2) of a point.
- M. If a dog fails in a particular part of an exercise, it shall not ordinarily be re-judged or given a second chance unless so stated in these rules. But, if in the opinion of the judges, the dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar circumstances, the judges may, at their discretion, re-judge the dog on the entire exercise, or that portion of the exercise, that the dog failed.

N. A National Judge is not allowed to Chief Judge a region/district trial during the week before or the week after a national trial.

O. No national scoring judge shall compete or participate in the National Trials other than in a judging capacity – i.e., this person cannot be a judge and a decoy.

5. STEWARDS—OPTIONAL:

A. There can be two types of stewards for each event: "Field and "Test."

1. **Field Stewards** will direct the teams to any staging area and keep the next testing team ready to perform certification when summoned. This steward will check equipment and support logistics as needed. This steward works at the direction of the chief judge or senior event judge.

2. **Test Stewards** will work at the direction of the senior event judge and conduct details as delegated. *NOTE: There will be no lengthy or unnecessary delays by either stewards or certifying teams. (see 7.A & B)* In some cases, the judge may act as a steward and judge.

6. TEST REQUIREMENTS:

A. All aids used in testing shall be kept in separate containers to avoid cross contamination. All substances will be placed so they cannot be retrieved by the canine.

B. All handlers will be tested in their standard department duty uniform with the exception of foot apparel or any equipment that will conflict with rule 6D. Baseball hats may be worn if they are professional in appearance. Plain-clothes officers can be tested in civilian clothes if that is the accepted-on duty apparel. Numbered vests may be provided for ease of identification and required when provided.

C. During testing, handlers will not carry any rewards that are contaminated with any substance. Dry dog food, sterile rewards and/or sterile toys may be used during testing. The Association can opt to supply the rewards and/or toys.

D. No whistles, ultrasonic devices or related aides not specifically stated herein will be allowed. Spike or pinch collars are permitted. All these devices must be left in the parking lot. A dummy collar or non-operational electronic collar shall be allowed. Prior to entering the testing field, a field steward will check the K9's E-collar to ensure that the devise is a dummy collar or that it is shut off. The competitor will also hand the remote to the steward prior to the exercise.

E. All certifications will permit the handler the flexibility of working the dog on or off lead, or a combination of both.

F. Protests: **The committee ruling on protests shall consist of three or more odd number members as selected by the Chief Judge. Members of the rules and judges' committees cannot rule on protests of their own department. Handlers will advise the steward at the time of occurrence or immediately after the test or phase (before leaving the field) that a protest may be entered or lodged. The steward will note the protest and scoresheets will be marked that a possible protest may be filed. All formal protests will be lodged in writing to the Association (Chief Judge), identified by the team's number only, (no name) before they are considered. Any potential disqualification (DQ) from testing will be considered (as a DQ or not a DQ) by the protest committee. Protests and disqualifications must consider the rules of this Association and be ruled on accordingly. Written protests should be kept and submitted to the National Secretary by email and should indicate the protest committee's names and the outcome of the protest. In the case of a question concerning rules, the Chief Judge should contact the Judges Committee Chairman.** *Approved 5-7-23 in Evansville

- G. No dog will be left unattended at any time in such a manner as to create a danger or hazard to any other dog, person or to itself.
- H. Each handler will be responsible for any damage done by his or her K-9.
- I. There will be no training or practice in the area of the trials or other locations where it may disturb the normal tranquility of fellow teams or citizens not involved with or participating in the certification.
- J. The certification is for the team—handler and dog. If the dog has multiple handlers, each handler must certify as a team with the dog. In this event new hides will be made when certifying additional handlers.
- K. *Any extreme or abusive correction or treatment of a dog—loss of temper or display of poor sportsmanship by the handler—will result in disqualification from the certification as determined by the Chief Judge.* The Executive Board may undertake its own investigation and take any action it deems appropriate based on the totality of the circumstances.

7. HANDLER'S PREPARATION:

- A. There will be no lengthy explanation of the exercise while the certifications are conducted. It is the handler's responsibility to know what he or she must do on each exercise.
- B. A handler, who is familiar with these rules, should be able to enter the test area under any judge without having to inquire as to how the particular judge wishes to have the exercise performed and without being confronted with some unexpected requirement.

Teams failing to successfully certify will not immediately be given a second chance. Multiple tests of the same team will not be conducted. The team must undergo a period of retraining, documenting successful performance, before any attempt at re-certification. Only official Certificates of Certification (Provided by the National Office) will be issued to participants who successfully pass a USPCA Certification test.

8. DEFINITIONS:

- **Response**—This is the action of the dog when put in the scent cone of the substance.
- **Alert**—This is the behavior, physical and / or verbal, that the dog is trained to exhibit when the dog encounters the odor of a substance. Evaluation will be based on the degree of indication and the handler's / judge's ability to recognize that behavior. The indication and degree should be obvious to the judges.
- **Find**—The handler will call the location of the target substance as narrowly and as precisely as possible. An indication that is not precise to location, but the judge feels is in odor can receive partial points in the Find section. The judge's decisions are final. All indications of the concealed substances by the dog must be obvious.

9. TIME KEEPING:

The time allotted to each exercise will depend on the certification test. See specific tests for the allotted time.

A. The team will start from a point designated by the chief judge outside the test area. Time will start when the dog or handler leaves this point. Time will stop when the handler indicates that his search is complete, or time expires. The handler will call the location of the substances at this time.

B. If multiple rooms are involved (such as in narcotic/explosive tests), time will stop between the rooms but no unnecessary delays will occur between rooms. Time may stop or start at the direction of the senior judge who will announce time has stopped or has been restarted.

C. The set-up time will vary depending on the certification test. In each certification the target items will be placed a minimum listed time before the first handler & dog team.

10. LOCATION of TARGETED SUBSTANCES:

The tested substance in all detector certifications will be placed with the dual purpose of: *being in a practical location, and testing the dog's ability to locate the tested odor and the ability of the handler to interpret the dog's alert.* For inside room searches, no hide may be higher than six (6) feet from the ground or floor.

11. PROFESSIONALISM—CERTIFICATION:

A. This is a certification test, not a competition, scored under artificial conditions with equal difficulty for each team. The purpose is for certification and training. Points are awarded and reflect a scale of performance on the exercises. Lower scores encourage improvement of training methods and ideas. It is the sharing of those methods and ideas that create continual improvement of the canine team's performance.

12. MISCELLANEOUS:

A. Except for the AREA SEARCH PHASE in cadaver testing, any K-9 relieving itself in the working areas during testing will be penalized once for 10 points in that phase. Multiple incidents will be penalized ½ to 2 points as minor deductions taken off work points.

B. There will be no consumption of alcoholic beverages on or in the area of the testing site during testing hours by judges, handlers or participating officials.

C. In the event of any ties at the National Detector Trial, the team that uses the least time will place higher.

D. Handlers of canines that do an aggressive indication will take reasonable care not to allow their dogs to damage property unnecessarily.

E. Handlers who have been tested will not converse with a team waiting testing in their group. Hides are confidential until that day's testing is completed.

F. For maximum points all rooms and vehicles must be searched although it is at the handlers' discretion and not mandatory for certification.

G. A non-participating handler and dog will be walked through the test area prior to the first team to contaminate the area. This handler will touch room interiors and vehicles.

H. All score sheets will be mailed or given to participants after the completion of the trials.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork.

Upload or email completed trial paperwork or program to include: (within 30 days of the trial)

- Original Master score sheet
- Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged.
- The high-low sheets showing the scores of all judges.
- Trial paperwork including the scoring program should be uploaded on the web site, www.uspcak9.com and look under the CERTIFICATION tab.

Email : National Secretary Melinda Ruopp
secretary@uspcak9.com

GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

NARCOTIC DETECTION CANINES

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to detect and find narcotics concealed in various locations. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1st, 2012, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2013) Marijuana will not be used at the National Detector Dog Certification. The 4th odor will follow the guidelines below for non-marijuana trained dogs. The National Office requires that all k9's attending the National Detector Dog Certification must have certified regionally using marijuana if they are utilized to detect marijuana. (September 20, 2020)

Regions must offer the following testing to their members: K9's that are used to detect marijuana will be offered an alternate test on the regional level using the below testing option. (September 20, 2020)

1. TESTING:

A. The test will consist of two parts: vehicles and interior rooms of a building. **Certifications where marijuana is used as a substance will use four (4) separate narcotics for testing.**

The following substances may be used:

- **Marijuana**
- **Hashish**
- **Cocaine**
- **Heroin**
- **Methamphetamine**
- **MDMA or Mushrooms***
- **Any certified derivative of the above**

*The use of MDMA or Mushrooms should be determined by the Chief Judge subject to availability.

Certification where marijuana is NOT used as a substance will use at least three (3) different narcotics for testing. *see F in Vehicle search section.****

The following substances may be used:

- **Cocaine**
- **Heroin**
- **Methamphetamine**
- **MDMA or Mushrooms***
- **Any certified derivative of the above**

*The use of MDMA or Mushrooms should be determined by the Chief Judge subject to availability.

B. **Amounts**: A minimum of five (5) grams for each hide will be used for testing.

C. Care will be taken not to cross contaminate when handling the narcotics hides by the judges. Surface contamination (scratches, etc.) will be cleaned at the judges' discretion.

D. All testing aids will be placed so the dog cannot retrieve or come in physical contact with the narcotic.

E. The soak time for the target substances will be 30 minutes before the first search.

2. SCORING:

Maximum total point score of 200 is possible. Certification (passing) is 140 points. See score sheets for areas of evaluation.

VEHICLE SEARCH PHASE

A. Five vehicles will be used. The vehicles may be of any type or model and may include autos, trucks, buses, airplanes, boats, etc.

- B. The substance can be placed on the outside of the vehicle or placed inside where scent is available to the canine from the outside.
- C. The order of the vehicles will be approved by the Chief Judge and will permit teams easy access for searching.
- D. No two hides will be placed on the same vehicle.
- E. If only the outside of the vehicles are searched, there will be a 10 minute time limit total with a 2 minute warning at the 8 minute mark. If the interior of a vehicle is searched, there will be an additional one minute per vehicle added to the total time. If all 5 vehicle interiors are searched, a maximum time limit of 15 minutes will be allowed with a 2 minute warning.
- F. If you use vehicles for testing marijuana (rooms are recommended as it is easier to have an extra room), you have the following options:
 - a. Use two sets of five cars – one set would have a marijuana hide and the other set would not. Participants would be directed to the appropriate set of vehicles.
 - b. Move the “hide vehicle” in and out of the lineup. For Marijuana dogs, you pull the vehicle into place and then remove it for non-marijuana dogs. This is a good option if you separate the competitors that are doing marijuana from the non-marijuana competitors. *Passed 9-21-21 in Wilmington, NC

INDOOR / INTERIOR SEARCH PHASE

- A. The indoor search will consist of three rooms. Each room will be a minimum of 200 square feet. There will be a time limit of one and one half (1.5) minutes for every 100 square feet. Large rooms can (optional) be sectioned off with a makeshift or temporary barrier to reduce it to the 200 square foot minimum. The unused part of this room cannot be used as one of the three required searchable rooms. (i.e. A large classroom can be divided off to create a 200 ft search area, but the rest of the room cannot be used for the trial)
- B. The rooms must be furnished and can be kitchens, workshops, offices, schoolrooms or other rooms containing furnishings and/or equipment.
- C. There will be two hides within the three rooms, but only one hide can be placed in a room. * Note below for NON marijuana trained dogs.

D. There will be a two (2) minute warning given before the expiration of time. At the expiration of time, the handler will call his/her finds. The handler can elect to end search before time expires and call the location of the hidden narcotics.

E. The handler can use the allotted time to search any of the rooms at their discretion.

*If there are non-marijuana trained dogs, a steward will direct them to an additional room where the additional odor will be hidden, avoiding the marijuana room.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork.

Upload the Scoring program at www.uspcak9.com under the certification tab.

Or E-mail completed trial paperwork to include: (within 30 days of the trial)

- Original Master score sheet
- Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged
- The high-low sheets showing the scores of all judges.

Any issues, Contact Secretary Ruopp at secretary@uspcak9.com

GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

EXPLOSIVE DETECTION CANINES

****Explosive testing- modification to rules approved 12-10-23 by Executive Board.**

While handlers are permitted to reward their dogs during the certification process, handlers should use their agency's operational procedures during real-world situations.

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a trained canine team to detect and find explosives concealed in various locations. The General Rules and Definitions for Detector Dogs, stated earlier, will also govern testing unless specifically stated otherwise. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie – if you certify on April 1st, your certification will not expire until December 31st of the following year.)

An optional CROWD SCREENING ENDORSEMENT will be offered to all participants of the existing USPCA Explosive dog Certification test. Participants MUST participate in and pass all existing testing as an Explosive Detection Dog. The Crowd Screening endorsement will be offered at the conclusion of the Explosive Certification and this endorsement will be noted on the Certificate of Certification as: "Explosive Detection Dog with Crowd Screening". See Crowd Screening Endorsement Rules. **Crowd Screening testing is not offered at a National Trial. *6-12-22**

1. **TESTING:**

This test will be comprised of two parts: ODOR RECOGNITION (ORT) WITH SIX (6) ODORS AND OPERATIONAL TESTING WITH SIX (6) ODORS IN THREE VENUES. A maximum total score of 300 is possible, with certification (passing) at 210 points.

2. **JUDGES:**

The Chief Judge for this test must have a background in explosive detection, either as an explosive detection dog trainer, explosive detection dog handler, or has

successfully completed the ATF evaluators course or the USPCA sponsored Advanced Explosive Canine Team & Evaluators Course. A minimum of three (3) judges will be used for the operational phases and the optional Crowd Screening phase of this test. Only one (1) judge required for the Odor Recognition Phase.

3. ODORS:

For certification purposes, it is recommended that at least one (1) odor from each group be represented in the operational testing. Any explosive odor used beyond the list supplied below, must be agreed to by both Region participants and Chief Judge before the testing begins. The six (6) odors used for the ORT phase will be the same six (6) odors used in the operational testing.

GROUP 1: TNT

Military Block TNT	TNT Flake or Granular
Composition B	

GROUP 2: Chlorates/Nitrates

Black Powder	Pyrodex®	Potassium Nitrate	Potassium Chlorate
Ammonium Nitrate Prill or Powder	Black Powder Substitute Powders	Potassium Perchlorate	

GROUP 3: PETN-Based and Smokeless Powders

FLEX-X	Single Base Smokeless Powder	Double Base Smokeless Powder
Detasheet	Sheet Explosives	Semtex (A1, S, 10 or SE)

GROUP 4: RDX-Based Explosives

RDX A-5 pellets or powder	C-4
HMX	

4. **PART ONE:** Odor Recognition Phase

A. Part one of this test is an ORT that will use eighteen (18) one-gallon metal paint cans, securely fastened to a 12-inch square piece of half (1/2) inch plywood. Each of the one-gallon cans will have a quart sized or smaller container or can inserted inside it. (The inside container or can must be uniform in all 18 one-gallon cans) The quart sized or smaller containers will have lids either with ten (10) quarter (1/4) inch sized holes, or with "ATF" style punched holes. The one-gallon sized cans will be open without lids. All one-gallon sized cans will be numbered by placing a number on the floor in front of the can with chalk, crayon or some other marking utensil. Within the quart sized or smaller containers, there will be six (6) explosive compounds, **eleven (11) distractors and one (1) empty can in any order.**

B. The weight of each explosive will be approximately three (3) to four (4) ounces.

C. **Eleven (11) quart cans must contain distractor items and must come from the list below. One (1) quart can will be empty.**

Rubber Bands	Crayon	Batteries
Coins	Electrical Tape	Nail or screw
Packing Tape	Stick of Gum	Chalk
Band Aid	Cotton Ball	Sugar Substitute
Aspirin	Vitamin C	Leather piece
Paper Clips	Latex Glove	Piece of Paper

D. The ORT phase will have a thirty (30) minute MINIMUM set time for all explosives placed for this exercise.

E. The eighteen (18) one-gallon cans will be placed in a circle with a minimum 30 foot inside diameter, and each can should be a minimum of three (3) feet apart. Should a large number of teams participate, it shall be up to the Chief Judge to use more than one (1) circle of cans or configurations.

F. A K-9 team will be allowed two (2) revolutions of the circle, either inside or outside.

G. When a K-9 indicates on a can, the handler will tell a judge the can's number before the K-9 is rewarded. Any time a handler tells the judge a number, they are stating that they believe their K-9 has indicated to an explosive odor. If the K-9 is correct, the judge will say "reward your dog". **If the K-9 has made a Non-Productive Response (NPR), the judge will say "do not reward your dog".**

H. During the ORT, the team must correctly identify the six (6) explosive odors with no more than two (2) NPRs. If the team is taking the test and misses an odor(s) on the first pass, the judge shall have the team run only the section(s) of cans which contains the missed odor(s). If the team has MORE than two (2) NPRs, the team will be allowed one retest to pass the ORT. This retest shall take place after all other participants have completed the ORT. During this retest, the team must retake the entire ORT. Should the retest result in failure, the team will be prohibited from obtaining a certification. At the discretion of the Chief Judge, the team may participate in the operational tests for experience only.

I. To certify, a K-9 team must complete the operational phase within 48 hours of passing the ORT phase.

5. **PART TWO:** General Guide for Operational Phase

A. The Operational testing involves three different search venues with two (2) hides at each venue.

B. The soak time or set time for the target explosives will be thirty (30) minutes MINIMUM in place for all explosives used.

C. **The same six (6) explosive compounds from the ORT will be used in the operational testing.**

D. The explosives used will not be in airtight packaging. If the explosives are in an airtight package, they will be fully opened before it is placed. All hides shall be placed in such a manner that odor will be available to canine teams.

E. There will be no maximum weight of explosives. However, care should be taken not to use a large amount which would excessively contaminate the search venue.

F. A minimum of eight (8) ounces will be utilized for each of the six (6) hides.

G. SCORING: For certification scoring, the hide will be considered a miss if the average score of all scoring judges is 17.5 points or less, out of 35 possible points. (response + alert + find). To certify, a team must locate five (5) of the six (6) hides in the operational phase and pass the ORT.

H. An NPR (indicated by the dog's alert and called by the handler) will be judged as a miss by judges. **If a dog responds but it is not called by the handler, it will be judged against the dog as a distraction.**

I. Judges will not indicate to the handlers the accuracy-of the team's performance except on the score sheet during the operational phase testing.

J. If the explosives are intentionally disturbed or retrieved by the dog, the team will be disqualified from certification. (See general rules concerning the protest committee)

6. OPERATIONAL TESTING: ROOMS

A. The indoor search will consist of three (3) rooms. Each room will be a minimum of 200 square feet. There will be a time limit of one and one half (1.5) minutes for every 100 square feet. Large rooms can (optional) be sectioned off with a makeshift or temporary barrier to reduce it to the 200 square foot minimum. The unused part of this room cannot be used as one of the three required searchable rooms. (i.e. A large classroom can be divided off to create a 200 ft search area, but the rest of the room cannot be used for the trial)

B. The rooms must be furnished and can be kitchens, workshops, offices, schoolrooms or other rooms containing furnishings and/or equipment.

C. There will be two (2) hides contained within the three rooms. Only one (1) hide in a room.

D. For inside/room searches, no hide may be higher than six (6) feet from the ground or floor.

E. There will be a 2-minute warning given before the expiration of time. At the expiration of time, the handler will call his/her finds. The handler can elect to end search before time expires and must call the location of the hidden explosives.

F. The handler can use allotted time to search any of the rooms at their discretion.

7. OPERATIONAL TESTING: PARCELS

A. The parcel/package test will be conducted indoor or outdoor as space permits, with at least fifteen (15) items to be searched.

B. These items should be placed on the floor in any pattern, three (3) to four (4) feet from each other as search space permits.

C. There will be a 3-minute time limit for this venue, with a thirty (30) second warning given prior to ending.

8. OPERATIONAL TESTING: VEHICLES

- A. Five (5) vehicles will be used. The vehicles may be of any type or model and may include autos, trucks, buses.
- B. Vehicles will be searched outdoors at all times. The only exception to this requirement would be in the interest of safety due to severe weather conditions. The Chief Judge will make this decision.
- C. **The explosive** can be placed on the outside of the vehicle or placed inside where scent is available to the canine from the outside.
- D. No two (2) hides will be placed on the same vehicle.
- E. The vehicles will be spaced fifteen (15) to twenty (20) feet apart and can be placed in any order or position, as long as the team has access to them.
- F. Only the outside of the vehicles are to be searched. There will be a 10-minute time limit total with a 2-minute warning given at the 8-minute mark.

9. CROWD ENDORSEMENT SCREENING (OPTIONAL) **Sept 2018- Huntsville**

This testing will be offered to all participants of the existing USPCA Explosive dog Certification test. Participants must participate in and pass all existing explosive dog testing and will then receive a certificate of certification as an Explosive Detection Dog. The Crowd Screening endorsement will be offered at the conclusion of the Explosive Certification and will be noted on the Certificate of Certification as "Explosive Detection Dog with Crowd Screening."

- A. Odor- The Chief Judge shall select an odor from the above approved list of explosive odors shown earlier in #3.
- B. The Crowd Screening phase involves one venue with one find. The dog will demonstrate the ability to locate a moving or static odor, which is person born, while searching (straight line as well as at an angle) a crowd of people. This phase requires at least three judges, with pass/fail scoring.
- C. A minimum of 1 pound and a maximum of 5 pounds of any of the above listed odors will be worn or carried (hidden) on a decoy pedestrian. The odor will be placed on the decoy by the decoy himself, or by an assistant who will **not** be in the venue during testing. The odor must be placed or secreted on the decoy in such a way as to not be visually detected by the handler or the canine. If a backpack is used, other

pedestrians must also carry backpacks. Take care to ensure that there is no explosive odor on any backpacks, purses or bags (other than the target) on the pedestrians.

D. The soak time or set time will be a minimum of 30 minutes. Care should be taken to ensure that the "target decoy" does not mingle with the other pedestrians or judges. It is obvious that all volunteer pedestrians will not have any explosive odor on or about their person. If the target decoy has to be exchanged with a 2nd decoy, the exact same odor and amount will be used. The original target decoy is exempt from further participation as a pedestrian.

E. There should be a minimum of 15 (counting the target decoy) pedestrians. (Maximum number being 40) Pedestrians can be other bomb dog handlers (who are not testing in the crowd screening) and other judges. Volunteers can be used as long as there are no apprehension trained dogs doing the testing. Pedestrians can walk around, either alone or with other pedestrians, or they may choose to stand and talk with other pedestrians. Pedestrians and volunteers should behave normally, walking at a normal pace, with other pedestrians or by themselves- or they may choose to stand in a group of people. (**never alone when standing**) They will not attempt to avoid the working k9, but if walking, should continue progress as they would if they were walking through an airport, mall or sports venue.

F. The venue will be a minimum of 5,000 square feet. This can be a long hallway, warehouse, gym, stadium area, etc.

G. When a K9 indicates on the decoy, the handler will tell the judge that their dog has alerted to a trained odor and will identify the specific decoy by description or by pointing at the decoy. If the K9 is correct, the judge will say "yes" or "reward your dog". If the dog is incorrect, the judge will say "do not reward your dog" or "no". (this will be considered a false alert)

H. The team is allowed ONE false alert. A second false alert will be considered a fail. (no Certification) Crowd screening testing should be conducted within 48 hours of the other Explosive testing. (after obtaining USPCA Explosive certification)

I. The Crowd Screening test has a 15- minute time limit.

J. The Crowd Screening certification will not be an option at National Dog Trials.

Teams failing to successfully certify will not immediately be given a second chance. Multiple tests of the same team will not be conducted. The team has to undergo a period of retraining, documenting successful performance, before any attempt at re-certification. Only official Certificates of Certification (Provided by the National Office) will be issued to participants who successfully pass a USPCA Certification test.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork

Upload or E-mail completed program or trial paperwork to include: (within 30 days of the trial)

- Original Master score sheet
- Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged
- The high-low sheets showing the scores of all judges.

Upload to: www.uspcak9.com or
E-mail to: Secretary@uspcak9.com

GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION
ACCELERANT DETECTION CANINES

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to detect and find accelerants concealed in various locations. The General Rules and Definitions for Detector Dogs, stated earlier, will also govern testing unless specifically stated. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1st, 2023, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2024)

1. JUDGES:

The Chief Judge for this test must be on the approved list of Chief Judges as set by the Association in February of each year. A minimum of three judges will be used for this test.

2. ODORS:

This test will be comprised of four separate searches involving the following **four** major groupings. Any odor used beyond the list supplied below, must be agreed to by both Region participants and Chief Judge before the testing begins.

GROUP 1: Light Petroleum Distillate (LPD)

Cigarette Lighter Fluid	Paint thinner

GROUP 2: Medium Petroleum Distillate (MPD)

Charcoal Lighter Fluid	Lacquer Thinner	Citronella Fluid
Paint Thinner		

GROUP 3: Heavy Petroleum Distillate (HPD)

Kerosene	Diesel Fuel	Fuel Oil
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Lamp Oil		
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GROUP 4: Gasoline

Fresh Gasoline	50% evaporated Gasoline	75% evaporated Gasoline
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3. PREPARATION OF TESTING MATERIALS:

- A. The liquid accelerant amount to be used on each of the four individual search **phases** is specified. The time a tested substance will be in place is a minimum of twenty minutes after substance was air-dried for ten minutes prior to starting the search.
- B. Burnt materials will consist of **2 pieces of raw pine or any raw wood available. Size of the wood pieces will be 2x4 that is no less than 4 inches and no more than 12 inches long. The Chief Judge or selected official will select 6 ounces of liquid from one of the accelerant groups, and 6 ounces of liquid from a different group. One of the liquids will be poured onto the top of one of the 2x4's, ignited and let to burn unrestricted until out. The other liquid will be poured onto the top of the other 2x4, ignited and let to burn unrestricted until out.**
- C. The USPCA requires that at least one phase of this testing be conducted in a realistic environment. (Fire Scene) This should be controlled by the Chief Judge in cooperation with Fire Department or Fire Department personnel for safety reasons. At least one phase should have something burned. Options include at least ONE burned room, at least ONE burned vehicle or have the ground around the outdoor phases burned. The Chief Judge can select any or all of the above. For these burned areas, no accelerant should be used to start the burning of the areas. (torches or other means of starting a fire should be used) Please ensure that the Fire department does not use anything except water to extinguish any fire. The Chief Judge should monitor this process and ensure that no retardant or chemical was used to extinguish the burned area.

4. INDOOR TEST - INTERIOR ROOMS

A. The indoor search will consist of three separate rooms. Each room will be a minimum of 200 square feet. There will be a time limit of one and one half (1.5) minutes for every 100 square feet. Large rooms can (optional) be sectioned off with a makeshift or temporary barrier to reduce it to the 200 square foot minimum. The unused part of this room cannot be used as one of the three required searchable rooms. (i.e. A large classroom can be divided off to create a 200 ft search area, but the rest of the room cannot be used for the trial)

B. **One of the prepared 2x4's (as listed under 3 B) will be used for this phase.** No hide may be higher than six feet from the ground or floor.

C. There will be a two-minute warning before the time limit expires. The handler can call the location of the hide after time has elapsed.

5. VEHICLE SEARCH TEST:

A. Three Vehicles of any type will be used.

B. The order of the vehicles will be approved by the Chief Judge and will permit teams' easy access.

C. **The 2nd prepared 2x4 (as listed under 3 B) will be used for this phase. It shall be placed** on the outside of the vehicle or placed inside where scent is available to the canine from the outside at the Chief Judges discretion. No two hides will be on the same vehicle.

D. There will be a 10-minute time limit total with a 2-minute warning at the 8- minute mark.

6. PERIMETER SEARCH TEST:

A. Five containers of a one-gallon capacity size will be utilized. Containers will be selected by the Chief Judge and can be the same type, or various shapes and materials.

B. One container will be contaminated with a petroleum product. The contamination will consist of filling one container with four ounces of a petroleum product and then pouring the liquid out. Trace liquid will be left.

C. The outside perimeter test area will be thirty feet by thirty feet in tall grass or other vegetation or the five containers may be placed randomly around the perimeter of a building measuring an appropriate minimum area of 25 feet by 50 feet.

D. The perimeter search will have a five-minute time limit with a thirty second warning at four and ½ minutes.

E. The USPCA recommends using a different odor than used in the other phases if possible.

7. CROWD SEARCH TEST:

A. This search will consist of searching for contaminated clothing. Six individuals can be involved, or six articles of clothing can be used. The Chief Judge will make the determination depending on the circumstances and practicality.

B. One article of clothing (just the clothing or clothing on an individual) will be contaminated with two ounces of paint thinner or lighter fluid, and then air dried for ten minutes. The search will be conducted a minimum of twenty minutes after the airdrying period.

C. The USPCA recommends using a different odor than used in the other phases if possible.

4

D. The crowd search will have a five-minute time limit with a thirty-second warning at four and ½ minutes.

8. SCORING:

A maximum total point score of 200 is possible with certification at 140 points. The following is a breakdown of points for each phase:

- Vehicle search is worth 50 points
- Indoor search is worth 50 points
- Perimeter search is worth 50 points
- Crowd search is worth 50 points

See scoresheets for areas of evaluation. Any extreme or abusive correction or treatment of a dog – loss of temper or display of poor sportsmanship by the

handler will result in disqualification from the certification as determined by the Chief Judge. The Executive Board may undertake its own investigation and take any action it deems appropriate based on the totality of the circumstances.

Teams failing to successfully certify will not immediately be given a second chance. Multiple tests of the same team will not be conducted. The team must undergo a period of retraining, documenting successful performance, before any attempt at re-certification. Only Official Certificates of Certification, provided by the National office, will be issued to participants who successfully pass a USPCA Certification test.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork

Upload or E-mail completed trial paperwork to include: (within 30 days of the trial)

Original Master score sheet
Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged
The high-low sheets showing the scores of all judges.

E-mail to: Secretary@uspcak9.com

****All changes in red passed 5-7-23 in Evansville, IN**

GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

CONTRABAND CANINES

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to detect and find cellphones, tobacco and other contraband commonly found in a jail or corrections environment. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1st, 2023, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2024) Rules found in the General Guidelines for Detection Certification will apply unless specifically stated in this section.

This test is designed to be done if possible, within the confines of the actual work area. Other appropriate facilities can be used for testing at the discretion of the Chief Judge. **Cellphone/Electronics testing is a separate test from the Tobacco/Opioid Medication testing. The two cannot be combined.**

Judges will not carry cellphones, electronic devices or any tobacco products in the testing venues.

1. TESTING:

A. This test will consist of two venues: cells and general access areas. There shall be two hides in each of the two venues.

The following substances/amounts may be used: (based on needs of the region or department)

FOR **CELLPHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE** DETECTION DOGS: Testing may be conducted using only cellphones, cellphones and sim cards, or what is determined to be acceptable by the Chief Judge based on the odors below and the training of the participants.

Cellphone batteries- 1 up to 5 batteries in one hide

Thumb drive type storage device

Cellphone - Cellphone alone

Cellphone/electronic device charger used within the last 24 hours.

Cellphone in a case with charger

Sim Cards - (in cells only) no less than 5 cards in one hide

- Sim cards are to be used in Cell searches only. The 2nd hide in the cell search may be one of the other listed items. The Cellphones and Batteries used in this test must be fully (recently) charged.

FOR **TOBACCO/OPIOID MEDICATION** DETECTION DOGS: Testing may be conducted using only tobacco products (various ones from this list should be tested) or opioid medications only, as determined by the Chief Judge based on the training of the participants.

Loose tobacco - in a tin, baggie, etc. No less than 5 grams and no more than 3 oz.

Chewing tobacco – no less than one tin. No pouches.

One pack of cigarettes or 1 cigar

One cigarette- (in cells only)

Odor determined by and approved by the local region, used by facilities as an opioid withdrawal medication such as Buprenorphine or Suboxone. The amount should be kept realistic. See below.

- A single cigarette can only be used in Cell searches only. The 2nd hide in the cell search may be one of the other listed items.
- Amounts for the Opioid medication - For sublingual films (strips) – no less than three 8 mg/2mg films will be used. (Buprenorphine / naloxone combined) Pill form - Minimum of 12 mg and a max of 32 mg. (Buprenorphine/naloxone combo), typically called suboxone.

B. Care should be taken to ensure that the dog cannot retrieve or come in physical contact with the hidden substance or item.

C. The items or substances should be in place 30 minutes before the first search.

2. SCORING:

A. Maximum total point score of 200 is possible. Certification (passing) is 140 points, which is 70%. Dog must find three of the four hides to certify. See score sheets for areas of evaluation.

CELL OR HOUSING SEARCH PHASE

- A. Five (5) cells will be searched. These are cells that house no more than 4 occupants. The cells should contain items typically found in occupied cells. (ie bed, desk, etc) Testing should be done with NO inmates or occupants inside the cells.
1. Other appropriate and similar rooms can be used for this testing in lieu of using actual facility cells.
- B. The order of searching will be determined by the Chief Judge.
- C. Two hides will be placed in two of the five cells. No two hides will be in one cell. See Testing A. above for details on the amounts and substance. One of the two hides will be either the single cigarette (if testing for tobacco) or the sim cards. (Sim cards are optional. If the K9 is not trained on sim cards and option would be a single phone charger, thumb drive or small battery)
- D. There will be a 12-minute time limit, with a warning at the 10-minute mark.

GENERAL AREAS (other than cells) INDOOR or OUTDOOR

A. This phase will consist of the K9 searching three (3) areas. Each room will be a minimum of 200 square feet and should be a room that would be consistent with areas where prisoners would be allowed. Examples would include dayrooms, exercise rooms, visitation areas, kitchens, etc. There will be a time limit of one and one half (1.5) minutes for every 100 square feet. Large rooms can (optional) be sectioned off with a makeshift or temporary barrier to reduce it to the 200 square foot minimum. The unused part of this room cannot be used as one of the three required searchable rooms. (i.e. A large room can be divided off to create a 200 ft search area, but the rest of the room cannot be used for the trial) If an outside yard(s) is used, it should still be approximately 200 square feet, but should not be just a blank area. (it should contain weight equipment, tables, chairs, etc – Not an empty area)

1. Other appropriate and similar rooms can be used for this testing in lieu of testing on the prison/jail grounds.
- B. The rooms or area must be furnished.
 - C. There will be two hides within the three areas.
 - D. There will be a two (2) minute warning given before the expiration of time.
 - C. The handler can use the allotted time to search the areas at their discretion.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork.

Mail or E-mail completed trial paperwork to include: (within 30 days of the trial)

- Original Master score sheet
- Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged
- The high-low sheets showing the scores of all judges.

Upload trial paperwork on the National web page. OR

E-mail to: secretary@uspca9.com

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING CERTIFICATION

EVIDENCE DETECTION DOGS

GENERAL RULES and DEFINITIONS GOVERNING CERTIFICATION

EVIDENCE DETECTION DOG (EDD)

This certification test will consist of the following:

1. **Obedience** – To show the extent of control by the handler at heel and at a distance.
2. **Searching** – To locate, indicate and/or retrieve articles containing the scent of a stranger.

This regional certification may be held separately or in conjunction with a PDI certification. If the Evidence Detector Dog (EDD) certification test is ran in conjunction with a PDI certification, the handler must declare which certification the team is trying to attain before the start of the certification. EDD Certification will not be a part of a National Field Trial. Regional Trials only.

GENERAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS

These general rules and guidelines will govern testing unless specifically stated otherwise herein. Rules may be discussed for clarification prior to certification, but no changes will be made prior to the test. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1st, 2023, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2024) If there is a discrepancy between the printed version of the rules and the on-line rules, the on-line rules are to be considered the correct and accurate version. The USPCA, Inc. encourages its regions to offer an annual certification for their members and encourages each member to certify on an annual basis. The regional executive board shall approve all certifications held within their regions.

1. ASSOCIATION: The term “**association**” when used in the context of these regulations shall refer to the rules committee, the judges committee or the National USPCA Executive Committee.

2. INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES:

A. **Each handler must be a member of the USPCA** and a full-time paid law enforcement officer of a city, town, county, state or federal agency. The handler must also be a working K-9 officer assigned to a K-9 and duties appropriate to it. Any member who has retired in good standing with a

minimum of 10 consecutive years as a member of the USPCA may also certify their trained K-9 if they are working in a part time status for a law enforcement agency and are assigned K-9 duties. This would also apply to any full retired member who is a reserve, special deputy or any status where the member is still recognized as a law enforcement officer. The member must maintain continuous membership with the USPCA upon retirement. If their membership is not continuous, they will not be eligible to certify their K-9.

B. **A special member as defined in the By-laws may certify a dog in a regional EDD trial if approved as a special member by their region. (Approved 9-16-18 in Huntsville)**

C. Certifications will not be permitted for the purpose of marketing or selling dogs.

D. Testing order will be drawn prior to the test and is at the Chief Judges' discretion, as is scheduling of participants at each location or venue.

3. TEAM ENTRIES:

See team entry information from the General Rules and Definitions under the Patrol Dog I certification. EDD certification will not be a part of the National Field Trials. Regional Certification only.

4. JUDGES AND JUDGING:

See General Rules and Guidelines under Patrol Dog I Certification.

5. STEWARDS – OPTIONAL:

See General Rules and Guidelines under Patrol Dog I Certification.

6. TEST REQUIREMENTS:

A. **A qualifying score of 70% is required in obedience and in article/evidence search for certification as an EDD.** A team scoring less than 70% in either phase will be allowed to continue in the certification for experience only at the direction of the Chief Judge. 70% in obedience is 84 points. 70% in article/evidence search is 49 points.

B. During testing, handlers will not carry any leashes or paraphernalia that would indicate an attempt to control or influence the dog. No whistles, ultrasonic devices or related aides not specifically stated herein will be allowed. All these devices must be left in the parking area. Spike or pinch collars are permitted. A dummy collar or non-operational electronic collar shall be allowed. Prior to entering the testing field, a field steward will check the K9's E-Collar to ensure that the device is a dummy collar or that it is shut off. The competitor will also hand the remote to the steward prior to the exercise.

C. All handlers will be tested in their standard department duty uniform, with the exception of foot apparel or any equipment that will conflict with Rule 5B. Baseball hats may be worn as long as they are professional in appearance. Numbered vests may be provided for ease of identification and are required when provided.

D. The collar(s) used on the K-9 during the obedience phase will be used for all other phases. No additions, deletions or modification of collars. A team, upon entering the obedience phase, will have both themselves and their K-9's equipment checked and listed. The equipment will then be checked before each subsequent phase and must be the same for each event.

E. All phases of the test will be conducted off leash and all handlers will do all exercises with both hands at a normal side position.

F. **Protests:** The committee ruling on protests shall consist of three or more odd number members as selected by the Chief Judge. Members of the rules and judges' committees cannot rule on protests of their own department. Handlers will advise the steward at the time of occurrence or immediately after the test or phase (before leaving the field) that a protest may be entered or lodged. The steward will note the protest and scoresheets will be marked that a possible protest may be filed. All formal protests will be lodged in writing to the Association (Chief Judge), identified by the team's number only, (no name) before they are considered. Any potential disqualification (DQ) from testing will be considered (as a DQ or not a DQ) by the protest committee. Protests and disqualifications must consider the rules of this Association and be ruled on accordingly. Written protests should be kept and submitted to the National Secretary by email and should indicate the protest committee's names and the outcome of the protest. In the case of a question concerning rules, the Chief Judge should contact the Judges Committee Chairman.
*Approved 5-7-23 in Evansville.

G. No dog will be left unattended at any time in such a manner as to create a danger or hazard to any other dog, person or itself.

H. Each handler will be responsible for any damage done by his or her K-9.

I. There will be no aggressive training or practice in areas of testing where it may disturb the normal tranquility of fellow handlers or persons not involved with or participating in the certification.

J. *Any extreme or abusive correction or treatment of a dog—loss of temper or display of poor sportsmanship will result in disqualification from the certification trial.* The Executive Board may undertake its own investigation and take any action it deems appropriate based on the totality of the circumstances.

7. HANDLERS PREPARATION:

A. There will be no lengthy explanation of the exercise while on the field. It is the handler's responsibility to know what he or she has to do on each exercise.

B. A handler, who is familiar with these rules, should be able to enter the test area under any judge without having to inquire as to how the particular judge wishes to have the exercise performed and without being confronted with some unexpected requirement.

C. All teams will start and end each test from a finish position.

Teams failing to successfully certify will not immediately be given a second chance. Multiple tests of the same team will not be conducted. The team has to undergo a period of retraining, documenting successful performance, before any attempt at re-certification. Only official Certificates of Certification (Provided by the National Office) will be issued to participants who successfully pass a USPCA Certification test.

8. DEFINITIONS:

- **Command**—One word or signal to achieve or halt a maneuver. The dog's name when used in conjunction with a command will also be considered a command (i.e., "Fritz come"—will be scored as two commands).
- **Signal**—A single gesture of any part of any limb, which will be returned to the normal position immediately. One signal to achieve or halt a maneuver. (Extra body movements will be penalized).
- **Voice Command**—One word to achieve or halt a maneuver. *NOTE: Definition- Double Command - a combination of a voice command and a signal command is a double command and will be penalized.*
- **Heel Position**—Heeling on the right or left side shall be handler's choice. However, they must heel their dogs throughout the entire tests on the same side in which they started their obedience phase. For explanation purposes, the left side heel will be described. Whether the dog is heeling, sitting, standing or moving, at heel means—the dog shall be straight in line with the direction in which the handler is facing at the handler's left side and as close to the left leg as is practical without crowding and permitting freedom of movement at all times. The area from the dog's head to shoulders shall be in line with the handler's left hip. When the handler and K-9 come to a halt position, or when the dog is called to a heel while the handler is stationary, the dog should come to a finish position as described—without further command.
- **Finish Position**—The dog shall assume the finish, which could be either a sit or down position, with the dog's head to shoulders in line with the handler's left hip. The dog will be facing parallel with the handler. The dog will come to this position upon a single command to recall or whenever the handler comes to a halt while the dog is heeling. Whenever executing a command from the finish position—a command may be given (i.e., "stay" or "heel").
- **Normal Pace**—A brisk even gait.
- **Fast Pace**—Handler and dog moving forward together at a noticeably accelerated speed.
- **Slow Pace**—Handler and dog moving forward together at a noticeably decreased gait from that of normal.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

A. Any K-9 relieving itself in the working areas during testing will be penalized once for 10 points in that phase. Multiple incidents will be penalized 1/2 to 2 points as minor deductions off of work points.

B. There will be no consuming of alcoholic beverages on or in the area of the testing sites during testing hours by judges, handlers or participating officials.

C. All score sheets will be mailed or given to participants after the trials.

10. PROFESSIONALISM—CERTIFICATION:

A. This is a certification test, not a competition, scored under artificial conditions with equal difficulty for each team. The purpose is for certification and training. Points are awarded and reflect a scale of performance on the exercises. Lower scores encourage improvement of training methods and ideas. It is the sharing of those methods and ideas that create continual improvement of the canine team's performance.

TEST PHASES

OBEDIENCE TEST

- A. The complete obedience phase will be done at the direction of a steward who will direct the maneuvers in a military manner. This obedience exercise will not necessarily be done in the below order. The Association prior to the commencement of the exercise will select the order. Order of heeling phase will not be drawn but determined by the Chief Judge.
- B. Handlers will start and end each phase from a finish position.
- C. The complete exercise will be done off leash. Leashes (see event rules) and other restricted paraphernalia will be left with the steward or a judge.

Handlers and dogs will be tested in the following maneuvers:

1. Heeling phase will consist of normal, slow and fast paces, left, right and about turns. The heeling phase will be no less than seventy-five feet or more than 100 feet for each leg, With the exception of heeling fast and heeling slow, all phases will be done at a normal pace.

2. Distance control will be done with the handler fifty feet (marked) in front of his or her dog and will include one "sit" and one "down" by hand command and one "sit" and one "down" by voice command. The Association prior to the start of testing shall select the order of commands. Handlers will be allowed one command for each of the above. If the dog fails the command, he will lose those points, but will not be assessed points for extra commands to achieve the desired position. The handler may return to the dog to position it, if necessary to complete the phase, and will not be penalized for doing so. In distance control the judging starts when the handler leaves the dog.

NOTE: The steward(s) shall position themselves so as not to be behind the dog at any time.

3. Obedience Recall: This will consist of calling the dog from a distance of fifty feet (marked) and stopping the dog at a distance of twenty-five feet (marked) with a sit, down or stand command. The Association prior to the start of testing shall select the command and maneuver. The dog shall then be called to a finish position with a voice command.

4. Walking Control: Handlers will walk their dogs at a heel position. They will down, sit and stand their dogs at a position determined by the steward. At another point determined by the steward, the handler will return to and heel the dog without breaking stride or pass their dog making an about turn at the direction of the steward and pick their dog up without breaking stride. One of the three will be a pass by determined by the Association. All commands for this exercise will be by voice command only.

- D. If the steward or the Association does not specify a command, it becomes the handler's choice.
- E. Handlers may not praise or intentionally touch their dogs during the tests. The steward will advise the handler when to praise their K-9 (i.e., "Exercise finished")
- F. This entire exercise will be done without interruptions.
- G. Each handler will have the same identical exercises.
- H. Check sample score sheets for areas of penalties.
- I. The three Obedience phases will not be intermixed.

ARTICLE/EVIDENCE TEST:

- A. Articles will be supplied by the host city or region/district.
- B. The Chief Judge or designee for the test will select two of the following articles.

1. **Expended shotgun shell (dark in color)**
2. **Key on a ring with tab**
3. **Book of paper matches (dark in color)**
4. **Metal gun (if available)**
5. **Plastic credit card or card of equal size and material (dark in color)**
6. **Screwdriver—four to six inches long**
7. **Piece of leather—one-eighth to one-fourth inch thick, three inches by three inches (dark in color)**

C. Articles will be tossed into the search area after being scented for a minimum of thirty seconds in a clenched fist by only one judge or steward.

D. Two new or unused articles of the same type will be used for each participant.

E. The dog will be required to search, find and retrieve or indicate the two selected articles within a defined area. See below for the two listed options. *(Teams will have a choice of two options in the indication of articles. The same option must be used for both articles. The handler will inform the steward / judge as to which option they will use prior to the start of this phase)*

F. The search area will be thirty feet by thirty feet of raised grass approximately twelve inches high.

G. The number of search areas will be as many as possible and practical—to be determined by the host city.

H. There will be a three-minute time limit for the total exercise with a thirty-second warning at the two-and-one-half (2.5) minute mark for each participant. Time will begin when the handler sends their dog.

I. Handler will start his dog from a finish position and will secure their lead on their person before commencing the exercise. They will not reattach the lead to the dog until completion of the search.

J. The handler may start from anywhere around the perimeter. The time will start when the handler sends their dog. If the handler chooses to walk the perimeter prior to starting the exercise, time will begin as the team crosses the point at which they started. The handler will not enter the search area except as defined for Option Two, the passive indication.

K. The dog will be judged on the indication and alert on the article. This must be obvious to the judge.

L. The evidence search must be done in a lighted area with article made safe for the protection of the dog and the handler.

OPTIONS:

Option One – RETRIEVE

Upon finding the article, the dog will retrieve the article and return it to the handler, holding the article until commanded to release it in hand. The handler must remain in a stationary, upright position. The dog will be sent to find the second article. Finding the second article, the dog will return it to the handler, and again, hold it until commanded to release it in hand. After releasing the second article, the dog will be commanded to a finish position. Unnecessary movement on the part of the handler will be penalized. The handler may not enter the search area. If the K-9 indicates on an article but does not retrieve it, a judge or handler may retrieve the article. (This is for points on the find for the benefit of the handler)

Option Two - PASSIVE

Upon finding the article, the dog will give a passive indication of the article, remaining stationary in a sit, down or stand close to the article but without touching or disturbing the article. The handler will tell the judges that his dog has indicated and walk directly to the dog, picking up the article and showing it to the judges. During this time the dog must remain in the original indication position. The handler will then return to the perimeter of the area by the shortest route. The handler may command his dog to heel, or leave the dog in the area. Once the handler is out of the area, he will command the dog to search for the second article. When the dog indicates the second article, the handler will tell the judges that his dog has indicated, enter the area, pick up the article and show it to the judges. During this time the dog must remain in his indication position. The handler will return to the perimeter and bring his dog to a finish position. The handler may not enter the search area until his dog has indicated and the handler notifies the judges that his dog has indicated.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork.

Mail or E-mail completed trial program or paperwork to include: (within 30 days of the trial)

- Original Master score sheet
- Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged
- The high-low sheets showing the scores of all judges.

E-mail to: secretary@uspcak9.com or upload to the USPCA web page.

GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION FIREARMS DETECTION CANINES

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to detect and find firearms and ammunition (both live and expended) concealed in various locations. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (I.E. If you certify on April 1st, 2023, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2024). **Firearms testing is not offered at a National Trial.** *Approved 6-12-22

***FIREARM SAFETY IS A MUST. The USPCA mandates that all guns used be unloaded. A safety officer designated by the Chief Judge will confirm that all guns used during this test be checked and confirmed to be unloaded. The USPCA will not sanction a test without a safety officer.**

***ALL Judges for the FIREARMS TEST should safely secure ALL personal weapons and ALL live or spent ammunition away from the testing venue to avoid interfering with the canine's detection of the hidden testing aids.**

***ALL canines performing this test SHALL be passive alert canines for safety reasons.**

1. TESTING:

A. The test will consist of three parts, **vehicle search, interior room search and area search**. For certification purposes at least one odor from each group (Firearm, Live Ammunition, and Expended Ammunition "casings") shall be represented in the operational testing. No combination of live ammunition or firearms shall be placed in the same hide location. **Live ammunition and casings must be placed in scent box or left in its original container, magazine or carton.** All firearms used for testing must be secure with a trigger locking device or cable lock.

B. Amounts- A minimum of one firearm **or** six rounds of ammunition (live or expended) for each hide will be used for testing. All firearms used for certification must have been fired within 24-72 hours of certification (verified by Chief Judge). Expended casings will then be collected and also used for operational testing.

C. Soak time- Time placed of the operational testing odors, will be one half hour (30 minutes) before the first search.

GROUP 1: FIREARMS (UNLOADED)

Shotgun, pistol or rifle. (Any caliber, no minimum barrel length, semi-automatic or revolver) Must be secured with a trigger locking device or a cable lock.

GROUP 2: LIVE AMMUNITION

Shotgun, pistol or rifle. (Minimum of six rounds) Must be placed in scent box or left in its original container, magazine, or carton.

GROUP 3: EXPENDED AMMUNITION (SHELL CASINGS)

Shotgun, pistol or rifle. Expended ammunition is defined as spent ammunition (shell casing) that has been

fired within **24-72** hours of certification. (Minimum of six rounds)

FIREARMS OPERATIONAL VEHICLE TEST:

- A.** Five vehicles will be used. The vehicles may be of any type or model and may include autos, trucks, buses, airplanes, boats etc.
- B.** The order of the vehicles will be approved by the chief judge and will permit team's easy access for searching.
- C.** The operational testing odors can be placed inside or on the outside of the vehicles.
- D.** There will be two hides used for this phase. No two hides will be placed on the same vehicle.
- E.** If only the outside of the vehicles are searched, there will be a ten (10) minute time limit total with a two-minute warning at the eight (8) minute mark. If the interior of a vehicle is searched there will be an additional one minute per vehicle added to the total time. If all five vehicle interiors are searched the maximum time limit will be fifteen (15) minutes with a two-minute warning.

FIREARMS OPERATIONAL INDOOR TEST:

- A.** The indoor search will consist of three (3) separate rooms. Each room will be a minimum of 200 square feet. There will be a time limit of one and one half (1.5) minutes for every 100 square feet. Large rooms can (optional) be sectioned off with a makeshift or temporary barrier to reduce the room to the 200 square foot minimum. The unused part of this room cannot be used as one of the three required searchable rooms. (I.E. a large classroom can be divided off to create a 200-foot search area, but the rest of the room cannot be used for the trial).
- B.** The rooms utilized will contain furnishings compatible with room type. No empty rooms will be searched.
- C.** There will be two hides contained within the three (3) rooms, with no more than one hide per room used.
- D.** For inside/room searches, no hide may be higher than six (6) feet from the ground or floor.
- E.** There will be a two (2) minute warning before time expiring for the exercise. The handler can indicate the location of the hides after time expires.

FIREARMS OPERATIONAL AREA TEST:

- A.** Separate search areas will be provided to each team when available. There will be two hides in each search area.
- B.** The area will be approximately 30 yards by 30 yards. The search area may have brush, trees and/or foliage covering the area. **It should be thick enough as to hide the visual location of the hidden item.**
- C.** This test will have fifteen (15) minute time limit with a two (2) minute warning. The handler can call the location of the testing aids after the time limit has expired.
- D.** Care should be taken to use areas that will allow the canine to work off lead safely. The handler may enter the search area to direct the canine. The canine must be able to work with judges accompanying the handler, however if the judges can observe without entering the area this may also be done as not to interfere with the working canine. The judges will stay in back of the handler and work under the direction of the handler if the judges enter the area.

SCORING

A maximum total point score of 300 is possible with certification (passing) at 210 points. To certify the canine team must find 5 of the 6 training aids.

Please note that the **GENERAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS** of Detection tests will be used as a general guideline for Firearms testing.

Teams failing to successfully certify will not immediately be given a second chance. Multiple tests of the same team will not be conducted. The team has to undergo a period of retraining, documenting successful performance, before any attempt at re-certification. Only official Certificates of Certification (provided by the national Office) will be issued to participants who successfully pass a USPCA Certification test.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork.

Mail or E-mail completed trial paperwork to include: (within 30 days of the trial)

- Original Master score sheet
- Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged
- The high-low sheets showing the scores of all judges.

Email or upload all trial paperwork at www.uspcak9.com or email secretary@uspcak9.com

GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

GAME DETECTION CANINES

***See General Rules that apply to all detection tests.

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to detect and find wild game concealed in various locations. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1st, 2023, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2024).

1. TESTING:

A. The test will consist of two parts: vehicles and interior rooms of a building. Four concealed packages of wild game (warm or cold blooded) of the types the team is certifying for will be used. Handlers will not be told what type of game they are searching for, but only game the team is trained on will be utilized.

B. **Amounts:** There will be no maximum weight but amounts used will be within reasonable limits common to violations. For example, a full elk would not be permissible. A minimum weight of game and fish will be one pound, a minimum of 10 grams for mussels and 5 grams for terrestrial/aquatic insects. These minimums will apply to all hides.

C. This certification will consist of two hides indoor and two hides outdoors.

D. The soak time for the target substances will be 30 minutes before the first search.

E. The concealed hides will not be frozen.

F. The General Detection Rules and Guidelines govern testing unless specifically stated otherwise herein.

2. SCORING:

Maximum total point score of 200 is possible. Certification (passing) is 140 points. See score sheets for areas of evaluation.

VEHICLE SEARCH PHASE

- A. Five vehicles will be used. The vehicles may be of any type or model and may include autos, trucks, buses, airplanes, boats, etc.
- B. The substances can be placed on the outside of the vehicle or placed inside where scent is available to the canine from the outside.
- C. The order of the vehicles will be approved by the chief judge and will permit teams' easy access for searching.
- D. No two hides will be placed on the same vehicle.
- E. If only the outside of the vehicles are searched, there will be a 10 minute time limit total with a 2 minute warning at the 8 minute mark. If the interior of a vehicle is searched, there will be an additional one minute per vehicle added to the total time. If all 5 vehicle interiors are searched, a maximum time limit of 15 minutes will be allowed with a 2-minute warning.

INDOOR/ INTERIOR SEARCH PHASE

- A. The indoor search will consist of three rooms. Each room will be a minimum of 200 square feet. There will be a time limit of one and one half (1.5) minutes for every 100 square feet. Large rooms can (optional) be sectioned off with a makeshift or temporary barrier to reduce it to the 200 square foot minimum. The unused part of this room cannot be used as one of the three required searchable rooms. (i.e. A large classroom can be divided off to create a 200-foot search area, but the rest of the room cannot be used for the trial)
- B. The rooms must be furnished and can be kitchens, workshops, offices, schoolrooms or other rooms containing furnishings and/or equipment.
- C. There will be two hides contained within the three rooms. Only one hide in a room.
- D. For inside/room searches, no hide may be higher than 6 feet from the ground or floor.
- E. There will be a 2 minute warning given before the expiration of time. At the expiration of time, the handler will call his/her finds. The handler can elect to end the search before time expires and call the location of the hidden game.
- F. The handler can use allotted time to search any of the rooms at their discretion.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork. Upload or email the scoring program or the completed trial paperwork to include: **(within 30 days of the trial)**

- Original Master score sheet
- Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged
- The high-low sheets showing the scores of all judges.

E-mail questions to: secretary@uspcak9.com

Teams failing to successfully certify will not immediately be given a second chance. Multiple tests of the same team will not be conducted. The team has to undergo a period of retraining, documenting successful performance, before any attempt at re-certification. Only official Certificates of Certification (Provided by the National Office) will be issued to participants who successfully pass a USPCA Certification test.

2024

General Rules and Definitions Governing Temporary Patrol Dog Testing

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the basic skills needed by a patrol dog team to work the street effectively and under control and to attest to an acceptable performance level until the next regular scheduled certification is conducted by the Region. This temporary, basic test is recommended to provide testing for new handlers prior to leaving their training course. Testing must be approved by the Regional Board. The Certificate of Certification upon passing should say "Temporary Patrol Certified" and it should have the expiration on it as well. (1 year from date of testing)

This certification test will consist of the following:

1. Obedience - to show the extent of control by the handler at a heel and stay position.
2. Searching – To locate, indicate and/or retrieve articles containing the scent of a stranger (Evidence Recovery) and to locate and indicate a hidden suspect by scent only. (Suspect Search)
3. Criminal Apprehension and recall – to show the control of the dog during an apprehension and recall.

RULES AND DEFINITIONS

These general rules and guidelines will govern testing unless specifically stated otherwise herein. Rules may be discussed for clarification prior to testing, but no changes will be made prior to the test. **This test will be valid until the next available regional certification during the following calendar year (not a mini trial) and can only be offered 1 time to each dog/handler team.** *Approved 9-21-21 (for clarification, this means that this test can be offered only one time in the career of the dog. If the dog fails the test, they can retest to attempt to pass.) The USPCA encourages its regions and trainers to offer a Temporary Patrol Dog test to their new members or newly graduated teams as a "step up" to the USPCA PDI test.

1. Association:

The term "Association" when used in the context of these regulations shall refer to the rules committee, the judges committee or the National USPCA Executive Committee.

2. Individual entries:

A. Each handler must be a member of the USPCA and a full-time paid law enforcement officer of a city, town, county, state or federal agency. The handler must also be a working K-9 officer assigned to a K-9 and duties appropriate to it. Any member who has retired in good standing with a minimum of 10 consecutive years as a member of the USPCA may also certify their trained K-9 if they are working in a part time status for a law enforcement agency and are assigned K-9 duties. This would also apply to any full retired member who is a reserve, special deputy or any status where the member is still recognized as a law enforcement officer. The member must maintain continuous membership to the USPCA upon retirement. If their membership is not continuous, they will not be eligible to certify their K-9.

B. A basic Patrol Dog test DOES NOT qualify a team to participate in a National Field Trial.

C. Basic Patrol Dog tests will not be permitted for the purpose of marketing or selling dogs.

D. Testing order is at the discretion of the Chief Judge, as is scheduling of participants at each location or venue.

3. Judges and Judging:

A. All judges must be regular active or associate members of the USPCA and must have handled or trained a PDI dog.

B. Basic Patrol Dog testing requires a minimum of **three** judges. At least one of these judges must be a regional or nationally certified PDI judge. This judge shall be designated as the "chief judge" for purposes of administering the test and handling all paperwork requirements. (this person does not necessarily have to have qualified for the list maintained by the Judges Committee)

C. Judges shall for the most part, follow the USPCA PDI Guidelines when judging a Basic Patrol dog Test.

D. Judges decisions are final with no protests.

E. Scoring is Pass/Fail as outlined under test phases.

F. Vendors and trainers shall not be a judge for any participant that they trained or sold.

4. Test Requirements:

A. During testing, handlers will not carry any paraphernalia that would indicate an attempt to control or influence the dog unless specifically stated in these rules. No whistles, ultrasonic devices or related aides not specifically state herein will be allowed. All of these devices must be left in the parking area. Spike or pinch collars are permitted. A dummy collar or non-operational electronic collar shall be allowed. Prior to entering the testing field, a judge or steward will check the K9's E-collar to ensure that the devise is a dummy collar or that it is shut off. The handler will hand the remote to the judge or steward prior to the exercise. Leashes may be used as stated in each phase.

B. Duty uniforms are not required and numbered vests are optional.

C. Any extreme or abusive correction or treatment of a dog – loss of temper or display of poor sportsmanship will result in disqualification from the certification trial.

D. General rules as outlined in the PDI certification will apply unless otherwise stated to include the listed definitions.

E. Extra Commands are not scored against the team unless otherwise designated.

TEST PHASES

OBEDIENCE TEST

A. This test will be done at the direction of a Judge or steward. For simplicity, this exercise is set up and directed to mirror the heeling phase of the existing PDI testing with the exception of the length of the legs, which will be a minimum of 50 feet. In this exercise, walking and distance control are part of the heeling pattern.

B. The complete exercise will be done off lead. Leashes may be handed to a judge or steward, or the handler will secure the leash around his torso or waist.

C. Handlers will start and end each phase from a finish position.

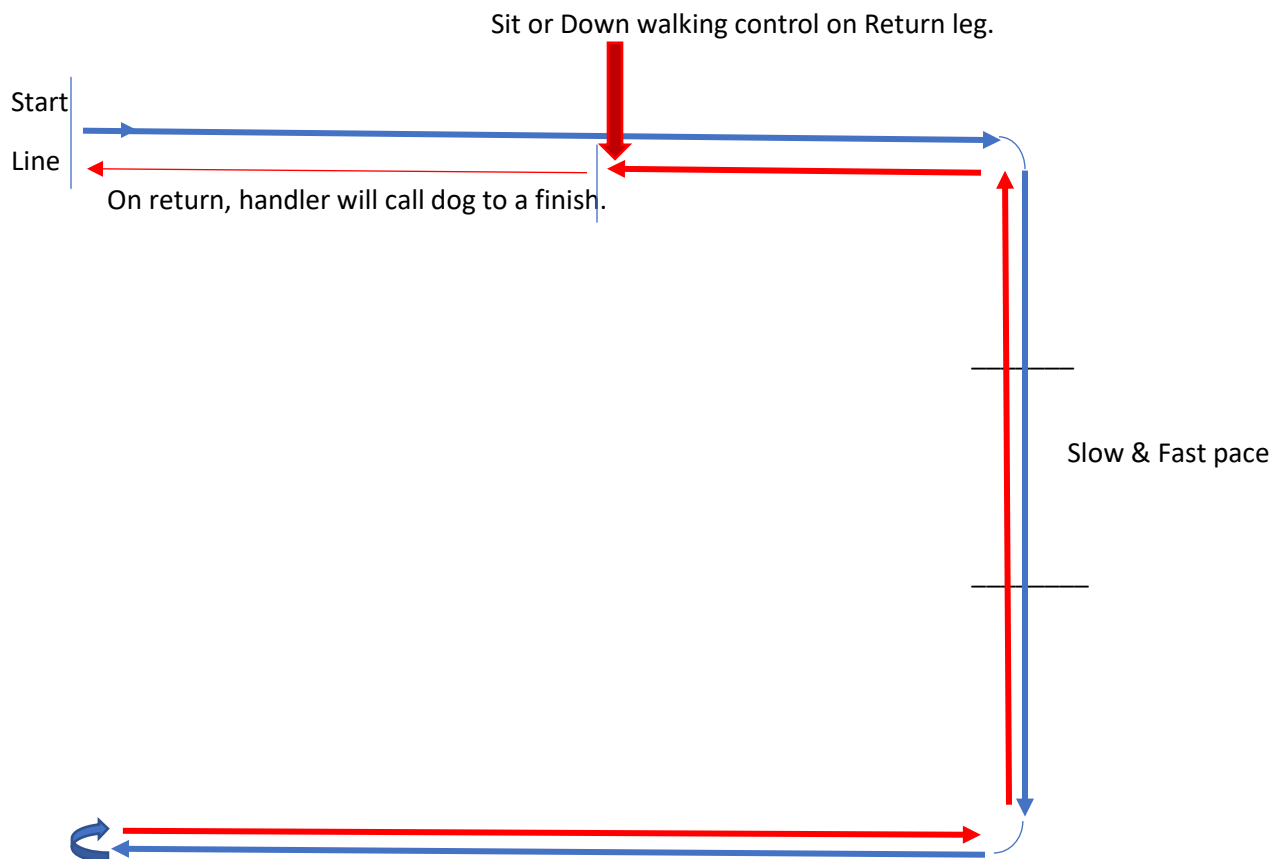
Testing:

This phase will consist of normal, slow and fast paces, left, right turns and about turns just like the PDI heeling pattern. The team will begin from the starting point and will move forward at the direction of the steward or chief judge. Following the existing PDI pattern, the dog will move around the U-shaped heeling pattern as normal until the last leg of the heeling pattern. On this leg, the steward or judge will direct the handler to place the dog into a sit or down when he reaches the half way point of the final leg. The handler will continue on to the end. (which is the original start line) The handler will then turn around and call the dog into the finish position. (verbal, hand or both at the same time)

1. If the dog moves or leaves the down or sit position on this final leg before being called, the handler may reset the dog into the desired position. (handler may touch the dog to reposition) If the dog moves again before being called, it will be considered a test failure. If the dog never returns to the finish position and the handler has to retrieve the dog, it is a failure.

2. The team will pass this phase if the dog is generally obedient during this exercise. An unmanageable k9 will not be allowed to pass. If the dog leaves the handler and does not return to a heel, it will be considered a failure. Multiple commands are not counted against the team. However, the dog should be generally obedient to the commands of the handler. See scoresheet guidelines.

Obedience Pattern:



Pattern resembles the PDI heeling pattern with the walking control at the half way point of the last leg. If the dog moves on stay, the handler is allowed to reposition the dog (by voice or hands on) at the half way point one time. If the dog moves on stay a second time, it will be considered a test fail.

If the dog is generally obedient during this exercise, it can be considered a “pass”. If the dog leaves the handler and does not return to the heel, it is considered a fail. (multiple commands are NOT scored against the team)

ARTICLE/EVIDENCE SEARCH:

A. This test will be the same as the existing PDI Evidence search phase unless otherwise stated. The purpose of this phase is to show that the dog will locate items that are contaminated with human scent. Obedience will not be tested unless the dog leaves the area and does not return when given commands. (no points are taken off for multiple commands of any kind)

Testing:

This phase will mirror the existing Evidence search phase, including time used and articles, with the following exceptions:

1. The test may be conducted on or off lead. The handler will be allowed to secure their leash on their person if they choose to test off lead.
2. Handlers will not have to finish their dogs at the end of the exercise.
3. There is no penalty for a passive dog who disturbs the aid.
4. The dog must find 1 of 2 articles. If he does not find at least 1 article, it will be a test failure. Judges must see an obvious alert to the article. It will not be considered a find just because the handler sees the article.

SEARCH FOR HUMAN SCENT: The team is allowed to pick one of the two options.

OPTION 1 - using USPCA Boxes

A. This option will be conducted to mirror the existing PDI Box search phase unless otherwise stated. The purpose of this phase is to show that the dog will locate human scent. Obedience will not be tested unless the dog leaves the area and does not return when given commands.

Testing:

This phase will mirror the existing PDI box search phase with the following exceptions:

1. Contamination of the box for the first search will be at least 5 minutes. The decoy or hider will remain in this box throughout the testing process for all participants.

2. The test may be conducted off lead or using a long line, on lead. The handler is not penalized if he leaves the "alley" as designated in the PDI rules, but should remain in the general center of the field.
3. Once the dog alerts to the box, the dog will be called to the handler and no finish position is required. The handler will declare the box by pointing or verbal box number. The decoy will not come out of the box.
4. As with the existing PDI rules, the alert must be obvious to the judges.

The handler may touch the dog at any time during this exercise if needed and is not penalized. Simple pass/fail. If the k9 alerts and the handler calls the correct box, it is a pass.

OPTION 2 – using a building

A. This option will be conducted inside a building. The purpose of this phase is to show that the dog will locate human scent. Obedience will not be tested unless the dog leaves the sight of the handler when off lead and does not return when given commands. The building for this testing should consist of a hallway with multiple doors that close and secure. At least 6 doors need to be in the search venue. Search time allowed is the same as PDI box search - 4 minutes.

Testing:

1. Contamination of the room for the first search will be 10 to 20 minutes depending on the size of the room. The decoy or hider will remain in this room throughout the testing process for all participants.
2. The test may be conducted off lead or using a long line, on lead.
3. Once the dog alerts to the door, the dog will be called to the handler and no finish position is required. The handler will declare the door/room by pointing or verbally. The decoy or hider will not come out of the room.
4. The alert must be obvious to the judges.

As with the other option, the handler may touch the dog at any time during this exercise if needed and will not be penalized. Simple pass/fail. If the k9 alerts and the handler calls the correct room, it is a pass.

CRIMINAL APPREHENSION:

A. This test will be conducted in a similar fashion to the existing PDI rules unless otherwise stated. The purpose of this phase is to show that the dog will recall and will obey a verbal release or "out". The decoy will use a hidden sleeve or appropriately covered bite suit. There are only two phases to this test. Apprehension with a release, and a recall. Cones or markings will be placed at the start line. 10-yard line (recall line) and the 30-yard line. (decoy)

Testing:

The following testing process will be used. Order of these two phases will be apprehension first and then recall.

1. Apprehension: Decoy will be at the 30-yard line. The K9 team will be at the start line. The K9 may be on or off lead at the line. The dog should start from a finish position. (this is not judged) When ready, the handler will signal the decoy to run and the dog will be sent off lead to make the apprehension. The dog will be tested on whether or not he remains engaged with the decoy until called out. If the dog fails to engage or does not remain engaged on the apprehension until called off, it will be considered a fail. When signaled by a judge, the handler will verbally call

the dog from the apprehension. The handler may use multiple commands as needed, but this phase will be considered a fail if the dog does not obey the release command within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the Chief or lead judge. After the call off, the handler may take a hold of the dog and put him back on leash. There is no finish required and no suspect search.

2. Recall: This phase is conducted the same as a recall phase in a PDI trial with the following exceptions

- a. The dog must leave the start line and then can be recalled after crossing the 10-yard line.
- b. Standing recalls are an option for this phase.
- c. If the dog makes contact with the decoy during this phase it is a failure.
- d. One attempt only for the recall. No second attempts are permitted.
- e. Multiple commands are not scored.

Retesting is not allowed by the USPCA rules unless a period of training is recorded by the team.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork.

Mail or E-mail completed trial paperwork or program to include: (within 30 days of the trial)

- Original Master score sheet
- Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged

**Mail to: National Secretary Melinda Ruopp
1575 Wallace Avenue
Marshalltown, Iowa 50158**

E-mail to: secretary@uspcak9.com

General Rules and Regulations for Certification

Police Therapy Canines

This certification test will evaluate the Police Service Therapy K9 and their handler. The test is designed to simulate real world encounters and situations the dog and handler may experience while working. The test reflects realistic expectations and requirements for the Therapy Police K9 in performing their job.

This certification will consist of the following:

- 1) Appearance and grooming
- 2) Department Policy Review
- 3) Microchip & Collar/Leash inspection
- 4) Acceptance of all Strangers
- 5) Loose lead/leash walking control
- 6) Relaxed state during contact
- 7) Verbal Recall
- 8) Reaction to loud noises/Startling sounds
- 9) Contact with other dogs
- 10) Handler Basic Knowledge

General Rules and Guidelines

1. Terms:

a. Association: The term "association" when used in the context of these regulations shall refer to the rules committee, the judges committee or the National USPCA Executive Committee.

b. Control dog: This is a dog that is known already to be calm, submissive and neutral to other dogs. This dog should show only gentle interest and have no aggressive behavior toward dogs or people.

c. Command: For the purposes of THIS test, during the recall, a command is considered one word even if given with the dog's name. For example, "HERE" is one command. "SPOT, HERE" is also one command if uttered together.

2. Individual Entries:

a. Each Handler must be a current member of the USPCA before taking this test and they must be a law enforcement officer of a city, town, county, state or federal agency. The handler must also be formally recognized as a handler for the Agency. Any member who has retired in good standing with a minimum of 10 consecutive years as a member of the USPCA may also certify their trained K-9 if they are working in a part time status for a law enforcement agency and are assigned k-9 duties. This would also apply to any full retired member who is a reserve, special deputy or any status where the member is still recognized as a law enforcement officer. The member must maintain continuous membership with the USPCA upon retirement. If their membership is not continuous, they will not be eligible to certify their canine.

b. A special member as defined in the By-Laws may certify a dog in this test/trial if approved as a special member by their region.

- c. Certifications will not be permitted for the purpose of marketing or selling dogs.
- d. Order of testing will be determined by the Chief Judge, as is scheduling of participants at each location or venue.

3. Judging:

Requirements for Judging a Therapy Dog for the USPCA will be different from our standard scored testing. There will be ONE judge for this test. The judge must be a National Judge of Detector or Patrol Dogs and at least a Detector Trainer or Level I Trainer. The Chief Judge for this test must be on the current list of Chief Judges maintained by the Judges Committee. Novice judges may be allowed to participate but the Chief Judges rating is final.

4. Test Requirements:

- a. All handlers will be tested in their standard department duty uniform with the exception of foot apparel. Baseball hats may be worn as long as they are professional in appearance. Plain clothes officers can be tested in civilian clothes if that is the accepted on-duty apparel. Numbered vests may be provided for ease of identification.

- b. During testing, handlers are allowed to carry rewards to include a toy or dog food as long as the items are out of sight during the actual testing process or carried in a toy/food type bag worn on their person.

- c. Equipment worn by the K9 will be approved duty gear to include their leash (6 ft), collar or their harness. Part of the testing process includes checking the duty gear of the dog. Therapy dogs being tested by the USPCA will not be allowed to wear pinch or choke style equipment, nor will they be allowed to wear an e-collar.

- d. All K-9s being tested should remain on lead unless otherwise permitted during testing.

- e. No dog will be left unattended at any time in such a manner as to create a concern for any other dog, person or to itself.

- f. Protests: Follow guidelines as listed for other USPCA testing should a protest arise.

- g. The certification is for the team- handler and dog. If the dog has multiple handlers, each handler has to certify as a team with that dog. A separate test fee for each handler will be administered by that region if applicable.

- h. Loss of temper or any display of poor sportsmanship on the part of the handler will result in disqualification from the certification as determined by the judge. The Executive Board may undertake its own investigation and take any action it deems appropriate based on the totality of the circumstance.

5. Handlers Preparation:

- a. There will be no lengthy explanation of the exercise while the tests are conducted. It is the handler's responsibility to know what he or she has to do on each exercise. A handler who is familiar with these rules should be able to enter the test area without having to inquire as to how the particular judge wishes to have the exercise performed and without being confronted with some unexpected requirement.

6. Miscellaneous:

- a. Any K-9 relieving itself during testing will be considered a Fail.

- b. No consumption of alcoholic beverages is allowed on or in the testing area by judges, handlers or other participating officials to include helpers.

c. This is a test designed for the friendly dog and not for one that has displayed any aggressive behavior toward people or other dogs.

d. Handlers who have already tested will not converse with a team waiting testing in their group. The test, especially the handler testing questions, are confidential until that day's testing is completed.

e. The testing venues will be contaminated by humans and at least one dog immediately prior to testing.

f. All scoresheets will be given to or mailed to participants after the completion of the trial.

g. No children (under age 16) or non-consenting adults will be used in this testing. Exceptions would include minors who are Police Cadets/Explorers or those officially sanctioned by the Police Department, Region or Chief Judge to be participating.

h. Any K9 being tested that displays aggression toward the Chief Judge, other participants, stewards or other parties involved in the testing will be immediately disqualified and failed. *Passed 5-7-23 in Evansville.

Teams failing to successfully certify will not immediately be given a second chance. Multiple tests of the same team will not be conducted. The team has to undergo a period of retraining, documenting successful performance, before any attempt at re-certification. Only official Certificates of Certification (Provided by the National Office) will be issued to participants who successfully pass a USPCA Certification test.

GOVERNING RULES FOR CERTIFICATION OF A THERAPY K-9

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to be a therapy dog for a law enforcement agency. The test is designed to evaluate the flexibility, adaptability and friendliness of a dog working as a LE Therapy K9. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: If you certify on April 1st, 2023, your certification will not expire until December 31st of 2024.)

1. TESTING

A. APPEARANCE AND GROOMING:

The Chief Judge will view the dog from all angles to ensure that the dog is healthy for its breed, displays appropriate weight, fur covering, is clean, healthy, and willing to be in the testing area.

The Chief Judge shall lightly touch the dog, slowly increasing touching intensity. The judge will also lightly brush the dog with a grooming brush or comb to ensure the dog is free of excessive fur and fleas. The dog should accept this grooming with ease and not jump around or avoid contact. The handler should provide this brush or comb.

The Chief Judge should also touch the pads of the feet, tail, ears and cover the eyes with his or her hand for 5 seconds. The dog must be willing and accepting of the judge's touch and should not

attempt to avoid contact. Movement is permissible, but the judge should not have to move after the dog to touch the dog.

This shall be a pass/fail exercise based on the experience of the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge shall use the scoresheet as a guideline and has the option to fail a dog based solely on appearance.

B. DEPARTMENT POLICY REVIEW:

This Association believes it is important for Therapy Dog Handlers to have and be familiar with their Department Policy. Each handler will provide the Chief Judge with a printed copy of their department/agency written policy to determine that the team is:

1. Officially recognized by the department in writing as having a Therapy dog.
2. That there are rules outlining its accepted and prohibited usage.

This is not designed to be an endorsement of the policy scope, legality, or depth.

A handler who does not come prepared to show the Chief Judge a copy of their department Policy will be given a fail. This is a pass/fail exercise.

C. MICROCHIP and COLLAR/LEASH/EQUIPMENT INSPECTION:

All general equipment (leash, collar, toys, harnesses etc.) will be inspected. They must be in clean, good working order and look professional. Department Patches are acceptable. All equipment must be safe and humane. Each handler will provide the Chief Judge with proof of an identification microchip for their working dog AND a proof of rabies vaccination (may be in the form of a tag on the collar). A handler who does not come prepared to show the Chief Judge a copy of proof of microchip and rabies vaccination, will be given a fail. This is a pass/fail exercise.

D. ACCEPTANCE OF ALL STRANGERS- GROUP TESTING: Indoor or Outdoor

1. Greeting test: A simulated greeting test between the handler and a steward (unknown to the dog) will be conducted. The dog must remain friendly or neutral to the handler/stranger interaction. This greeting interaction will include the handler and stranger in close proximity to each other and shall last no less than 2 minutes.

2. Stationary group test: The K-9 and handler will then be exposed to a stationary group of no less than 5 talking and moving people in an enclosed room, no more than 400 square feet. The dog must remain friendly or polite during this phase. The group will remain stationary with the K-9 team for no less than 2 minutes. Once the 2 minutes is complete, the K-9 and handler will then walk around and amongst the group of stationary people for no less than 2 additional minutes. No one in the group will attempt to pet or touch the dog during this test.

a. The dog should display no shyness, should not jump on people, should not strain on his leash, or otherwise display behaviors indicating it is uncomfortable around humans or not wanting interaction.

b. At least one person in the stationary group should have a crutch or wheelchair.

This is a pass/fail exercise. **Any dog that fails this portion shall not be allowed to continue testing.**

E. LOOSE LEAD/LEASH WALKING CONTROL: Indoor or Outdoor

The dog may walk on the side of its handler and must be tolerant of the attached leash. (6 ft) The team will be directed by the Chief Judge to walk and to make at least five (5) left turns and five (5)

right turns as well as five (5) about turns. The K-9 and handler will then be asked to walk amongst the group of no less than 5 people. The dog is not judged on its strict obedience to heel. He will be judged on his willingness to walk with his handler. A loose leash is a MUST and a dog displaying a tendency to roam or otherwise needs the leash to constantly be redirected will fail this test. This is a pass/fail exercise.

F. RELAXED STATE DURING CONTACT TO INCLUDE PETTING/TOUCHING

Since the dog has successfully completed the group testing, it shall be tested on its acceptance of friendly petting from those in the group. The dog must allow petting from one or several of the group participants. The dog should remain relaxed, friendly and may move around on leash and under control to greet the participants and allow petting or touching. This can be conducted indoors or outdoors. This is a pass/fail exercise. If in the opinion of the Chief Judge the dog is uncomfortable, displays any form of aggression or is otherwise unwilling to interact with the petting, the Chief Judge may fail the team.

G. VERBAL RECALL:

The objective of this portion of the test is to ensure that the K-9 can be recalled by command in case of an emergency, so quickness of the dog to respond immediately and enthusiastically will be judged heavily by the judge.

Using a secure indoor area and a secure outdoor area: The K-9 will be allowed to roam freely, off leash, in each area. These areas should be no less than 400 square feet. Once the dog has separation (more than 10 feet) from the handler, the handler, upon direction from the Chief Judge, shall verbally call or summon the dog. (may use hand or voice or both, but no whistles or other devices)

a. The Chief Judge will evaluate the number of commands needed for the dog to return to the handler and for the handler to place the leash back on the dog. (the dog does not need to return to a finish position, like a sit or a down or a heel next to the handler) The team will also be judged on the willingness of the dog to immediately obey the recall command. Excessive commands can be considered as more than 5 commands. A command may include the dog's name and is considered one command. i.e. - "Spot... Come!"

b. This recall will be done 5 times in each venue, inside and out, for a total of 10 recalls.

c. The K-9 must return to the handler every time within a reasonable and safe time frame.

A K-9 that does not recall 10 times will be a fail.

H. REACTION TO LOUD NOISES/STARTLING SOUNDS

This exercise is to evaluate the K-9's reactions to loud or unexpected noises. Sounds or noises used should be consistent for all participants and may be conducted indoors or outdoors.

While the K-9 is on a leash with the handler, a loud noise or distraction of a loud nature will occur. An example of this could be: starting a loud motorcycle, dropping a book on a hard floor, a crutch being dropped on a hard surface, a person yelling a name, slamming a door, etc. These noises should be in close proximity to the dog. (within 20 feet) This is not designed to be a gunfire tolerant test but is meant to test noises that may occur during work activities.

This test will be done twice, using two different distractions. The dog can flinch, show interest or show that he was startled, but should recover almost immediately and should not show any aggression, fear, try to run away, bark or otherwise panic.

This is a pass/fail exercise.

I. CONTACT WITH OTHER DOGS:

A control dog will be used for this exercise. This dog must be already proven as a dog friendly or neutral to other dogs. (no dog that displays any aggressive or antagonizing behavior toward other dogs will be used) The control dog and the K-9 being tested will approach each other from different directions. At all distances as they approach, the Chief Judge will evaluate the willingness of the K-9 to greet the control dog with friendliness or neutrality. The K-9 should display casual interest and show no aggressive or over the top excited behavior toward the control dog. This is a pass/fail exercise.

J. HANDLER BASIC KNOWLEDGE:

The USPCA appreciates that all police canine handlers should have general knowledge of their dog's health, issues that may come up with general obedience, policy, etc. The Chief Judge will prepare 10 general k-9 related questions in which to quiz the handler. All participants will be asked the same questions. This can be administered in writing or verbally and should be done privately between the Chief Judge and the Handler.

The USPCA will provide example questions for use by the Chief Judge upon request, but the questions are not limited to those provided.

This is pass/fail. Handler will answer at least 7 questions correctly to pass. The Judge should be reasonable with the knowledge presented by the handler.

SCORING:

The K-9 Team must pass all of the above exercises in order to achieve certification as a Police Therapy K-9. The Chief Judges score sheet will be the final determination of pass/fail. Other participants may observe, act as advisors or apprentice but will not utilize the score sheet. Scoring is pass/fail only. Any dog relieving itself in the testing area is a fail.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork.

E-mail or upload completed trial paperwork to include: (within 30 days of the trial)

- Original Master score sheet
- Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged

Upload Trial paperwork at: www.uspcak9.com

E-mail to: secretary@uspcak9.com