

ESWDA

Police Service Test

To obtain a Police Service Dog Certification the handler and dog (hereafter referred to as the K-9 team) will be tested in all phases of this test.

The following areas to be tested are:

1. Obedience (Must be passed to go on to the other areas.)
2. Area Search
3. Article Search
4. Tracking
5. Building Search
6. Controlled Aggression and Criminal Apprehension

All the tests will be graded on a Pass or Fail basis. The examining K-9 trainer will determine if the K-9 is certified upon the completion of these tests.

If a K-9 team fails any particular area of the Police Service Dog Certification, he may still receive a certificate, but only for the areas that they had passed. In this case the K-9 team should only be deployed for situation that it has been certified for. If the K-9 team fails the obedience phase, they will not be issued a certificate.

If a K-9 team fails any phase of this test, the handler should contact an ESWDA accredited K-9 trainer to arrange for remedial training and/or re-testing.

This certificate will be valid for one (1) year.

CONTROL/OBEDIENCE TEST:

This test is to determine if the police service dog is capable of performing on and off lead obedience exercises. The test is designed to test the dog's ability and proficiency, and the handler's control of the dog. The K-9 team will perform the test in the presence of the agitator to give needed distractions.

The K-9 team will be tested in the following areas:

1. Basic obedience commands (heel, sit, stay, down)
2. Heeling Control (on and off lead)
3. Distance phase

4. Walking control

5. Socialization phase

6. Obedience under gunfire

Basic Obedience Phase: This will consist of the dog performing the following commands: Sit, Down, Stay, Heel, and Come.

Heeling Control: This phase of the test will consist of the following exercises:

1. Normal pace

2. Fast pace

3. Slow pace

A minimum of two (2) right turns, two (2) left turns and two (2) about turns will be completed. This test will be done both on and off lead.

The handler will also when performing the heeling phase command the dog to sit in motion. The dog upon command will either sit or down (handlers discretion) and remain stable at that position. The handler will continue walking away from the dog without breaking stride for a distance of no less than 50 feet, but no more than 75 feet. Upon the handler reaching this distance, he will command his dog to come or heel. The dog will come and return to the heel position. This test will also be performed with the dog being given the command to down in motion. This test will be performed off lead at both normal and fast paces.

Distance Phase: The handler will leave his dog in a stay position and travel for a distance of no less than 50 feet and no more than 75 feet. The handler will then turn and face his dog. The handler will then command his dog to come using voice control.

Socialization Phase:

The K-9 team will also approach an agitator who will shake hands and greet the handler and engage in normal conversation. The dog will not be allowed to show aggression at this time.

Obedience Under Gunfire: During the test a minimum of three (3) gunshots fired from a .38 caliber handgun will be fired. The dog will not show aggression and will continue to perform his obedience.

ARTICLE SEARCH TEST (Optional -not required for certification)

This test is designed to test the police service dog's ability and proficiency in searching a designated area for an article bearing fresh human scent.

SEARCH AREA:

The area will be at least 80 feet by 80 feet. It will be covered by vegetation. Before using the dog to search the area, the area will be contaminated by at least two people, with one of the subjects walking through with a dog.

SEARCH ARTICLES:

Three (3) articles of different materials will be thrown at random into the search area. The K-9 team that is being tested will not view where the articles are placed.

TIME LIMIT:

There will be a seven (7) minute time limit for this test.

HANDLING OF DOG:

The dog upon command will search the area that contains the articles. The dog upon finding the article must alert to the article. The alert must be obvious to the examining K-9 trainer. All three of the articles must be found to pass this test.

AREA SEARCH TEST

This test is designed to test the police service dog's ability and proficiency in searching for a hidden suspect within a large outside area.

AGITATOR:

The agitator will be hidden from view of the K-9 team ten (10) minutes before the start of the test. The agitator should be hidden from view as much as possible. The agitator being found may or may not attack the K-9 team. This decision is up to the examining K-9 trainer.

AREA TO BE SEARCHED:

The area that the test takes place in should be fenced. The area should be a large area at least 300 feet by 300 feet.

TIME:

There will be a ten (10) minute time limit.

TRACKING TEST

This test is designed to measure the police service dog's ability to track an unknown subject in an unfamiliar area. This test is to be closely simulative of working situations.

EQUIPMENT:

Handlers may use leads not less than 10 feet in length and no more than 30 feet in length. Tracking collars or harnesses are also permissible.

TRACK:

The track will be at least 1000 yards and no more than 1500 yards in length. The track will continue on a hard surface (i.e., asphalt, concrete, gravel) for a distance of no more than 250 feet. The start of the track may be either a scent article, foot print, or motor vehicle. The starting point of the track is up to the discretion of the examining K-9 trainer. The area used for the tracking examination will be up to the

discretion of the examining K-9 trainer. The track will have four (4) turns in it and will be one (1) hour old. Two cross tracks made by people will also be present in the track. The handler will not be told which direction the track leads.

TIME:

The time limit for this test will be fifty (50) minutes.

BUILDING SEARCH TEST

This test is designed to emulate a working situation involving the use of the K-9 team in a building search. The object of this test is to determine the ability of the K-9 team to detect, indicate, and apprehend if necessary a suspect or suspect(s) hidden in a building.

AGITATOR:

Will be hidden in the building ten (10) minutes before the start of the test. The agitator should hide in a place that is not visible to the K-9 team. If an apprehension of the agitator is necessary, the agitator(s) will react as a suspect being placed under arrest. He may or may not be cooperative of the K-9 team.

HANDLER:

This test will be performed off lead. The K-9 team after finding, indicating and arresting the agitator will perform a pat down search of the agitator. After the pat down search is completed, the K-9 team will escort the suspect until commanded to stop by the examining K-9 trainer. The K-9 dog will not be allowed to bite the agitator during the escort unless the agitator tries to escape or attack the handler.

NOTE: The handler will observe all prudent methods of officer survival techniques during the building search. Failure of the handler to exhibit prudent officer survival techniques will cause the K-9 team to fail this test.

EQUIPMENT:

The examining K-9 trainer may specify the use of an agitation muzzle rather than a protective hidden sleeve or body bite suit. The agitator may also be armed with a club, whip, or similar type object at the discretion of the examining K-9 trainer. It is encouraged that during the apprehension phase of this test, the agitator throw objects (i.e., chairs, boxes) at the police service dog to simulate a combative suspect.

CONTROLLED AGGRESSION AND CRIMINAL APPREHENSION TEST

This test is designed to test the police service dog's ability to perform criminal apprehension and controlled aggressiveness.

Each phase of this particular test is graded on a pass or fail basis. It is necessary to pass all phases of this test to be awarded a certificate in criminal apprehension.

EQUIPMENT:

Full body bite suit, agitation muzzle or hidden sleeve will be used. The equipment to be used is up to the discretion of the examining K-9 trainer. Each phase of this

test will be completed off lead.

The type of ammunition used for this test will be Thirty-eight .38 caliber blanks.

AGITATOR:

The agitator will act like a suspect who is resisting arrest. He is encouraged to fight the dog and when the circumstances dictate, act as if the dog injured him.

HANDLER:

It is up to the discretion of the handler whether his dog will return to the heel position after a release command is given or the dog may perform a hold and bark/guard upon the agitator. The dog may then be commanded to return to the handler.

PHASE 1:

The agitator will stand approximately 75 feet from the K-9 team. Upon command the K-9 dog will apprehend and hold the agitator until the handler gives the release command.

PHASE 2:

The K-9 dog will be in the heel position in either a sit or down position, this is left up to the discretion the handler. The dog will be commanded to stay. One or more agitator(s) will then runaway from the K-9 team starting from a distance of no less than fifteen (15) feet . The agitator(s) will run for approximately fifteen (15) feet and then remain stationary. The dog will remain stable in his commanded position.

The K-9 shall then be sent upon the agitator who is standing passive at the time. Upon apprehending the agitator and releasing the agitator upon command from the handler, the K-9 dog must return to the handler. The handler then commands the dog to stay either in a sit or down position (handler discretion) and the handler will walk past the agitator for a distance of no less than twenty five (25) feet and no more than forty five (45) feet. The dog will than be called from a stay position and will be required to return to the handler, bypassing the agitator. The dog shall then be left in this position and the handler will again walk past the agitator to his original starting position. The dog , upon command from the handler will be required to return to the handler, bypassing the agitator. The dog is not allowed to touch or have contact with the agitator during the "call though" portion of this exercise.

PHASE 3:

The agitator will stand approximately 100 feet from the K-9 team. The agitator will then begin to run away from the K-9 team. The K-9 dog will be commanded to apprehend the agitator. During the dog's chase of the agitator, the handler will command the K-9 dog to return to heel or stop. This command will not be given until the dog has passed the halfway point between the agitator and the K-9 team. The dog upon receiving the command must not touch or have contact with the agitator.

PHASE 4:

The agitator will stand approximately 100 feet from the K-9 team. The agitator will fire one (1) shot from an approved blank gun. The K-9 dog shall be sent to apprehend the agitator. Two (2) shots will then be fired when the K-9 dog has apprehended and is holding the agitator. The dog will not break from the apprehension or show any signs of fear.

PHASE 5:

The K-9 team will be riding in a moving patrol vehicle. The team will approach the agitator who will be acting suspiciously next to a building. The agitator will then begin to runaway from the K-9 teams patrol vehicle. The handler will exit the vehicle, and command the dog who is in the rear of the patrol vehicle to apprehend the agitator. The agitator will threaten the K-9 dog with a whip, club or schlagstock (padded stick), or bamboo type clatter stick. The dog will apprehend and hold the agitator until commanded to release by the handler. The handler will then perform a pat down search of the agitator. After the search is completed, the K-9 team will escort the agitator for a distance of 25 yards. The dog is not allowed to attempt to bite the agitator during the escort.

Note: To receive a handler protection certification only. The K-9 team will be tested in only phase #1 through #3.