

Eastern States Working Dog Association

Bed Bug Certification Test

Objective:

This test will determine the proficiency and reliability of the K-9 team in the detection of bed bugs and their related odors.

Recognition/Scent Association:

In order to ascertain the dog's response to the actual odor of a live bed bug and/or eggs, a point to point search exercise will be completed prior to beginning the actual test.

Twelve (12) large one gallon clean cans or cement blocks will be placed in a straight line against a wall, with each can or block being four (4) feet apart from the other. Five (5) live bed bugs will be placed in one of the containers, five (5) dead bed bugs in another container. The cans or blocks where both the live and dead bed bugs are hidden must be separated by at least two (2) blocks or cans.

All of the blocks shall be checked. The team must demonstrate how the dog reacts and indicates. The indication must be obvious to the examining K-9 trainer.

If the dog indicates on the dead bed bugs, or false indicates where there is no hide, or if the dog fails to indicate on the live bed bugs and/or eggs, the dog will be ineligible to complete the rest of the bed bug certification test for a period of no less than forty eight (48) hours to allow for remedial training.

Test Location:

The testing shall be carried out in a building which allows the use of multiple rooms. The rooms shall be equipped such as a residential home, hotel/motel, dormitory, office building. There must be five (5) rooms used for testing.

The areas used for testing shall be a virgin area with no residual bed bug odors.

There will also be three (3) motor vehicles available for testing

Handler:

The handler will advise the examining K-9 trainer how the dog will indicate. The indication must be obvious to the examining K-9 trainer.

The test may be done either on or off lead at the discretion of the handler. The dog will be approachable and friendly with no sign of aggression. Any form of aggression from the dog will result in the immediate discontinuation and failure of the test.

If the handler feels that the K-9 is not working properly, the examining K-9 trainer will allow the handler and K-9 to leave the testing area and wait for a period of no longer than thirty (30) minutes to allow the team to rest. After the rest period if there is failure to locate hides, it will be determined to be a failure for the testing.

Test Setup:

Only live bed bugs and eggs are acceptable for hides. A minimum of five (5) and maximum of twenty (20) bed bugs per hide are to be used for testing. The amount used for each hide is up to the examining K-9 trainer. Distracting scents are allowed and are up to the discretion of the examining K-9 trainer.

Pseudo scents are **NOT** allowed to be used for testing.

There must be two (2) rooms with live bed bugs in each room, with one (1) hide per each of these rooms.

There must be two (2) rooms with dead bed bugs (distraction) placed as hides. No live bed bugs are to be placed in the rooms where dead bed bugs are located.

There must be one (1) empty room which is free from both dead and live bed bugs with no residual bed bug odors.

There must be three (3) motor vehicles with one (1) hide in one (1) vehicle and the other two (2) vehicles are empty of hides and free from any residual bed bug odors.

The hides will be hidden by the examining K-9 trainer thirty (30) minutes prior to testing.

Test Procedure:

The examining K-9 trainer will observe the K9 and handler during the testing for enthusiasm while searching, his interest in pinpointing the odor, and readable response to locating the live bed bugs. The examining K-9 trainer must be in a position to observe the test and accompany the team throughout the test.

In order to successfully obtain a bed bug detection certification, the K-9 team will be required to demonstrate a 100% success rate at closely examining, detecting, and responding to the odor of the live bed bugs. Equally important, the detector dog and handler must complete the examination without exhibiting any false indication. The appearance of a false indication during testing will result in a failure of this certification examination.

If the K-9 team fails the certification test, they are ineligible to re-test for the bed bug certification test for a period of no less than thirty (30) days to allow for remedial training.

If the K-9 team indicates on the dead bed bugs, this will be considered a false indication and the test considered failed.

This certification will be scored on a Pass/ Fail basis.

The bed bug certification is valid for one (1) year from the date of the issuance.