



Certification Rules

All breeds of dogs over the age of 12 months, are welcome to participate in a certification. The dogs participating must be free from disease, free from injury and in good health, current on all vaccinations including, but not limited to, a rabies vaccination. **Each dog can only certify with one (1) handler, but a handler may certify with more than one (1) dog.**

If a dog is exhibiting injury, sickness or appears to be in poor health, the examining K-9 trainer may disqualify the dog from that particular certification.

A female dog in heat is not eligible to participate in a certification.

All handlers must exhibit professional conduct during the entire certification process.. Any handler demonstrating unsportsmanlike and/or argumentative type conduct will be immediately disqualified from the trial.

The handler shall assume all responsibility for making sure the dog is in complete control and presents no danger to himself, examining K-9 trainer and/or bystanders during the entire time of the trial. During the times that the dog is not actively participating in the trial, the handler must keep the dog in a secure area. Failure to comply with this will result in disqualification of the handler from the trial.

Any dog used for SAR purposes or being tested for SAR certification shall not have had any type of protection or aggression training.

The handler shall dress appropriately for the certification with normal casual street dress. No torn or ragged clothing is permitted. Shoes are required; open toe shoes, flip flops, sandals, dress shoes or high heel type shoes are not permitted.

If a handler appears unable to complete the certification trial due to sickness, injury or other issue, the examining K-9 trainer will immediately terminate the certification.

The ESWDA adheres to a strict policy of no alcohol or illegal drug use at any ESWDA function or trial. Anyone caught with such substances, or suspected of being under the influence of said substances, shall be immediately disqualified from the trial by the trial judge and be expelled from the trial or event grounds.

An examining K-9 trainers decision at the time of a trial is final and without arbitration. All handlers participating in a trial or certification shall agree to this prior to participating in the trial.