

## **GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION**

### **CADAVER DETECTION CANINES**

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to detect and find cadaver substances concealed in various locations. All certifications are good through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, your certification will not expire until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025)

#### **1. TESTING:**

A. The test will consist of two parts: Vehicles and an outside area search. The following substances may be used:

- \* Aged blood
- \* Body Fluids
- \* Other aged bone and tissue

B. **Amounts:** At least 15 grams of the above substances will be used. One testing substance will be LESS than thirty days (30) old and the other testing substance will be over thirty (30) days old. Two of the same aged substances can be used.

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

D. Target substances will be no higher than six (6) feet and no deeper than one foot. If the substance is on a surface, it must be concealed.

E. 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.

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## HANDLER AND CANINE EVALUATION

A. The handler will be evaluated in two areas: Search plan and Handler Interpretation of K9.

1. Search plan - Did the handler establish a good, effective, thorough search plan and clearly describe it to the judges? The handler must explain their plan prior to the start of the test.

2. Interpretation of K9- Did the handler demonstrate an ability to read the canine and interpret the alert predicted? Did the handler demonstrate the ability to distinguish between an animal versus substance alert?

B. The canine will be evaluated in two areas: Alert and search

1. Alert - Did the canine demonstrate an alert that was obvious, confident and consistent with the alert predicted by the handler? Were any substance alerts distinguishable from other non-substance indications?

2. Search - Did the canine demonstrate a positive search posture by being thorough, intense and effective?

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## 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 the 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. The handler can call the location of the substance after time has expired.

## AREA SEARCH PHASE:

- A. Separate search areas will be provided to each team when available.
- B. Two hides will be in the search area defined in letter C.
- C. The search area will be approximately fifty (50) yards by fifty (50) yards which is about half the size of a football field. This area must have brush, trees and foliage covering the area. Items like suitcases, boxes and containers may be used to hide one of the two testing substances as long as a minimum of five containers are within the area. The area should be carefully selected to allow the canine to work off lead safely. Judges must be allowed to accompany the handler but will stay in back of the handler and work at the handler's direction.
- D. Buried substances will be no deeper than one foot and three other holes will be dug and covered for discrimination. Care should be taken to camouflage digs with leaves or ground cover to prevent an obvious location.
- E. This phase will have a twenty (20) minute time limit with a two minute warning. The handler can call the location of the substance after time has expired.
- F. The handler will explain his/her search plan and the type of alert before the start of the test.
- G. No deductions will be taken for any K9 who relieves himself in the AREA SEARCH phase during testing. (Approved 4-2-17 in Raleigh, NC)

*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 the completed trial program on the web page. (within 30 days of the trial)

If you choose to hand score, upload the judges list, master scoresheet and high/low sheets for all phases on the web page.

Questions?: Email Secretary Ruopp [secretary@uspcak9.com](mailto:secretary@uspcak9.com)