

RULES FOR CERTIFICATION

WATER BASED CADAVER DETECTION

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to detect and find Human Remains concealed in and around water. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1st, 2026, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2027)

This test can be administered at the same time as the cadaver certification or it can be administered as a stand alone test.

ALL OCCUPANTS OF THE BOAT USED SHALL WEAR COAST GUARD APPROVED PFD AT ALL TIMES DURING TESTING AND PLACEMENT OF SPECIMENS.

1. TESTING:

A. The test will consist of two parts: An open water and shoreline search. Only human remains specimens (bone/tissue) may be used.

B. Amounts: At least 3 pounds of human remains specimen will be used for the open water search and at least .5 (1/2 pound) of human specimen will be used for the shoreline search.

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

D. Target Specimens for the open water search will be no deeper than 20 feet, and no less than 3 feet. For the shoreline search, specimens will be no deeper than 1.5 feet and no less than 6 inches. The shoreline hide must be completely submerged.

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

2. PHASES

Open Water Phase:

- A. Two hides will be in the search area defined in Letter B, C and D of the testing section above.
- B. The open water search area will be no larger than 100 yards total but may be broken down into smaller search areas based on size of the water mass.
- C. This phase will have a 1-hour time limit with a 15-minute warning. The handler can call the locations of the specimens during the search or after time has expired. The handler must notify the lead judge of the canine's alert. The Canines alert must be within a 15-foot radius of the hide placement.
- D. The handler will explain their search plan and the type of alert before the start of the test.

Shoreline Search Phase:

- A. One hide will be in the search area defined in letter B, C and D of the testing section above.
- B. The shoreline search area will be no longer than 100 yards total and a minimum of 50 yards. The hide should be placed within 10 feet of the shoreline. The shoreline should not be obstructed by heavy vegetation that restricts access for the handler and canine.
- C. This phase will have a 30-minute time limit with a 5-minute warning. The handler can call the location of the specimen during the search or after time has expired. The handler must notify the lead judge of the canine's alert. The canines alert must be within a 5 feet radius of the hide placement.
- D. The handler will explain their search plan and the type of alert before the start of the test.

3. SCORING / JUDGING

- A. This test is a pass/fail test. See scoresheets for details.
- B. The Chief Judge for the Water Detection Testing must have previously judged a cadaver test.

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.

Please upload the master scoresheet or send paperwork to: Secretary@uspcak9.com (within 30 days of the trial)

Questions?: Email Secretary Ruopp secretary@uspcak9.com