

## GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING CERTIFICATION

### EVIDENCE DETECTION DOGS

## **GENERAL RULES and DEFINITIONS GOVERNING CERTIFICATION**

### **EVIDENCE DETECTION DOG (EDD)**

This certification test will consist of the following:

1. **Obedience** – To show the extent of control by the handler at heel and at a distance.
2. **Searching** – To locate, indicate and/or retrieve articles containing the scent of a stranger.

This regional certification may be held separately or in conjunction with a PDI certification. If the Evidence Detector Dog (EDD) certification test is ran in conjunction with a PDI certification, the handler must declare which certification the team is trying to attain before the start of the certification. EDD Certification will not be a part of a National Field Trial. Regional Trials only.

### **GENERAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS**

These general rules and guidelines will govern testing unless specifically stated otherwise herein. Rules may be discussed for clarification prior to certification, but no changes will be made prior to the test. All certifications are good through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, your certification will not expire until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024) If there is a discrepancy between the printed version of the rules and the on-line rules, the on-line rules are to be considered the correct and accurate version. The USPCA, Inc. encourages its regions to offer an annual certification for their members and encourages each member to certify on an annual basis. The regional executive board shall approve all certifications held within their regions.

**1. ASSOCIATION:** The term “**association**” when used in the context of these regulations shall refer to the rules committee, the judges committee or the National USPCA Executive Committee.

#### **2. INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES:**

A. **Each handler must be a member of the USPCA** and a full-time paid law enforcement officer of a city, town, county, state or federal agency. The handler must also be a working K-9 officer assigned to a K-9 and duties appropriate to it. Any member who has retired in good standing with a

minimum of 10 consecutive years as a member of the USPCA may also certify their trained K-9 if they are working in a part time status for a law enforcement agency and are assigned K-9 duties. This would also apply to any full retired member who is a reserve, special deputy or any status where the member is still recognized as a law enforcement officer. The member must maintain continuous membership with the USPCA upon retirement. If their membership is not continuous, they will not be eligible to certify their K-9.

B. A special member as defined in the By-laws may certify a dog in a regional EDD trial if approved as a special member by their region.

C. Certifications will not be permitted for the purpose of marketing or selling dogs.

D. Testing order will be drawn prior to the test and is at the Chief Judges' discretion, as is scheduling of participants at each location or venue.

### **3. TEAM ENTRIES:**

See team entry information from the General Rules and Definitions under the Patrol Dog I certification. EDD certification will not be a part of the National Field Trials. Regional Certification only.

### **4. JUDGES AND JUDGING:**

See General Rules and Guidelines under Patrol Dog I Certification.

### **5. STEWARDS – OPTIONAL:**

See General Rules and Guidelines under Patrol Dog I Certification.

### **6. TEST REQUIREMENTS:**

**A. A qualifying score of 70% is required in obedience and in article/evidence search for certification as an EDD.** A team scoring less than 70% in either phase will be allowed to continue in the certification for experience only at the direction of the Chief Judge. 70% in obedience is 84 points. 70% in article/evidence search is 49 points.

B. During testing, handlers will not carry any leashes or paraphernalia that would indicate an attempt to control or influence the dog. No whistles, ultrasonic devices or related aides not specifically stated herein will be allowed. All these devices must be left in the parking area. Spike or pinch collars are permitted. A dummy collar or non-operational electronic collar shall be allowed. Prior to entering the testing field, a field steward will check the K9's E-Collar to ensure that the devise is a dummy collar or that it is shut off. The competitor will also hand the remote to the steward prior to the exercise.

C. All handlers will be tested in their standard department duty uniform, with the exception of foot apparel or any equipment that will conflict with Rule 5B. Baseball hats may be worn as long as they are professional in appearance. Numbered vests may be provided for ease of identification and are required when provided.

D. The collar(s) used on the K-9 during the obedience phase will be used for all other phases. No additions, deletions or modification of collars. A team, upon entering the obedience phase, will have both themselves and their K-9's equipment checked and listed. The equipment will then be checked before each subsequent phase and must be the same for each event.

E. All phases of the test will be conducted off leash and all handlers will do all exercises with both hands at a normal side position.

F. **Protests:** The committee ruling on protests shall consist of three or more odd number members as selected by the Chief Judge. Members of the rules and judges' committees cannot rule on protests of their own department. Handlers will advise the steward at the time of occurrence or immediately after the test or phase (before leaving the field) that a protest may be entered or lodged. The steward will note the protest and scoresheets will be marked that a possible protest may be filed. All formal protests will be lodged in writing to the Association (Chief Judge), identified by the team's number only, (no name) before they are considered. Any potential disqualification (DQ) from testing will be considered (as a DQ or not a DQ) by the protest committee. Protests and disqualifications must consider the rules of this Association and be ruled on accordingly. Written protests should be kept and submitted to the National Secretary by email and should indicate the protest committee's names and the outcome of the protest. In the case of a question concerning rules, the Chief Judge should contact the Judges Committee Chairman.

G. No dog will be left unattended at any time in such a manner as to create a danger or hazard to any other dog, person or itself.

H. Each handler will be responsible for any damage done by his or her K-9.

I. There will be no aggressive training or practice in areas of testing where it may disturb the normal tranquility of fellow handlers or persons not involved with or participating in the certification.

J. *Any extreme or abusive correction or treatment of a dog—loss of temper or display of poor sportsmanship will result in disqualification from the certification trial.* The Executive Board may undertake its own investigation and take any action it deems appropriate based on the totality of the circumstances.

## **7. HANDLERS PREPARATION:**

A. There will be no lengthy explanation of the exercise while on the field. It is the handler's responsibility to know what he or she has to do on each exercise.

B. A handler, who is familiar with these rules, should be able to enter the test area under any judge without having to inquire as to how the particular judge wishes to have the exercise performed and without being confronted with some unexpected requirement.

C. All teams will start and end each test from a finish position.

*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.*

## 8. DEFINITIONS:

- **Command**—One word or signal to achieve or halt a maneuver. The dog's name when used in conjunction with a command will also be considered a command (i.e., "Fritz come"—will be scored as two commands).
- **Signal**—A single gesture of any part of any limb, which will be returned to the normal position immediately. One signal to achieve or halt a maneuver. (Extra body movements will be penalized).
- **Voice Command**—One word to achieve or halt a maneuver. *NOTE: Definition- Double Command - a combination of a voice command and a signal command is a double command and will be penalized.*
- **Heel Position**—Heeling on the right or left side shall be handler's choice. However, they must heel their dogs throughout the entire tests on the same side in which they started their obedience phase. For explanation purposes, the left side heel will be described. Whether the dog is heeling, sitting, standing or moving, at heel means—the dog shall be straight in line with the direction in which the handler is facing at the handler's left side and as close to the left leg as is practical without crowding and permitting freedom of movement at all times. The area from the dog's head to shoulders shall be in line with the handler's left hip. When the handler and K-9 come to a halt position, or when the dog is called to a heel while the handler is stationary, the dog should come to a finish position as described—without further command.
- **Finish Position**—The dog shall assume the finish, which could be either a sit or down position, with the dog's head to shoulders in line with the handler's left hip. The dog will be facing parallel with the handler. The dog will come to this position upon a single command to recall or whenever the handler comes to a halt while the dog is heeling. Whenever executing a command from the finish position—a command may be given (i.e., "stay" or "heel").
- **Normal Pace**—A brisk even gait.
- **Fast Pace**—Handler and dog moving forward together at a noticeably accelerated speed.
- **Slow Pace**—Handler and dog moving forward together at a noticeably decreased gait from that of normal.

## 9. MISCELLANEOUS:

A. Any K-9 relieving itself in the working areas during testing will be penalized once for 10 points in that phase. Multiple incidents will be penalized 1/2 to 2 points as minor deductions off of work points.

B. There will be no consuming of alcoholic beverages on or in the area of the testing sites during testing hours by judges, handlers or participating officials.

C. All score sheets will be mailed or given to participants after the trials.

## 10. PROFESSIONALISM—CERTIFICATION:

A. This is a certification test, not a competition, scored under artificial conditions with equal difficulty for each team. The purpose is for certification and training. Points are awarded and reflect a scale of performance on the exercises. Lower scores encourage improvement of training methods and ideas. It is the sharing of those methods and ideas that create continual improvement of the canine team's performance.

# TEST PHASES

## OBEDIENCE TEST

- A. The complete obedience phase will be done at the direction of a steward who will direct the maneuvers in a military manner. This obedience exercise will not necessarily be done in the below order. The Association prior to the commencement of the exercise will select the order. Order of heeling phase will not be drawn but determined by the Chief Judge.
- B. Handlers will start and end each phase from a finish position.
- C. The complete exercise will be done off leash. Leashes (see event rules) and other restricted paraphernalia will be left with the steward or a judge.

Handlers and dogs will be tested in the following maneuvers:

**1. Heeling phase** will consist of normal, slow and fast paces, left, right and about turns. The heeling phase will be no less than seventy-five feet or more than 100 feet for each leg, With the exception of heeling fast and heeling slow, all phases will be done at a normal pace.

**2. Distance control** will be done with the handler fifty feet (marked) in front of his or her dog and will include one "sit" and one "down" by hand command and one "sit" and one "down" by voice command. The Association prior to the start of testing shall select the order of commands. Handlers will be allowed one command for each of the above. If the dog fails the command, he will lose those points, but will not be assessed points for extra commands to achieve the desired position. The handler may return to the dog to position it, if necessary to complete the phase, and will not be penalized for doing so. In distance control the judging starts when the handler leaves the dog.

*NOTE: The steward(s) shall position themselves so as not to be behind the dog at any time.*

**3. Obedience Recall:** This will consist of calling the dog from a distance of fifty feet (marked) and stopping the dog at a distance of twenty-five feet (marked) with a sit, down or stand command. The Association prior to the start of testing shall select the command and maneuver. The dog shall then be called to a finish position with a voice command.

**4. Walking Control:** Handlers will walk their dogs at a heel position. They will down, sit and stand their dogs at a position determined by the steward. At another point determined by the steward, the handler will return to and heel the dog without breaking stride or pass their dog making an about turn at the direction of the steward and pick their dog up without breaking stride. One of the three will be a pass by determined by the Association. All commands for this exercise will be by voice command only.

- D. If the steward or the Association does not specify a command, it becomes the handler's choice.
- E. Handlers may not praise or intentionally touch their dogs during the tests. The steward will advise the handler when to praise their K-9 (i.e., "Exercise finished")
- F. This entire exercise will be done without interruptions.
- G. Each handler will have the same identical exercises.
- H. Check sample score sheets for areas of penalties.
- I. The three Obedience phases will not be intermixed.

## ARTICLE/EVIDENCE TEST:

- A. Articles will be supplied by the host city or region/district.
- B. The Chief Judge or designee for the test will select two of the following articles.

- 1. Expended shotgun shell (dark in color)**
- 2. Key on a ring with tab**
- 3. Book of paper matches (dark in color)**
- 4. Metal gun (if available)**
- 5. Plastic credit card or card of equal size and material (dark in color)**
- 6. Screwdriver—four to six inches long**
- 7. Piece of leather—one-eighth to one-fourth inch thick, three inches by three inches (dark in color)**

C. Articles will be tossed into the search area after being scented for a minimum of thirty seconds in a clenched fist by only one judge or steward.

D. Two new or unused articles of the same type will be used for each participant.

E. The dog will be required to search, find and retrieve or indicate the two selected articles within a defined area. See below for the two listed options. *(Teams will have a choice of two options in the indication of articles. The same option must be used for both articles. The handler will inform the steward / judge as to which option they will use prior to the start of this phase)*

F. The search area will be thirty feet by thirty feet of raised grass approximately twelve inches high.

G. The number of search areas will be as many as possible and practical—to be determined by the host city.

H. There will be a three-minute time limit for the total exercise with a thirty-second warning at the two-and-one-half (2.5) minute mark for each participant. Time will begin when the handler sends their dog.

I. Handler will start his dog from a finish position and will secure their lead on their person before commencing the exercise. They will not reattach the lead to the dog until completion of the search.

J. The handler may start from anywhere around the perimeter. The time will start when the handler sends their dog. If the handler chooses to walk the perimeter prior to starting the exercise, time will begin as the team crosses the point at which they started. The handler will not enter the search area except as defined for Option Two, the passive indication.

K. The dog will be judged on the indication and alert on the article. This must be obvious to the judge.

L. The evidence search must be done in a lighted area with article made safe for the protection of the dog and the handler.

## **OPTIONS:**

### **Option One – RETRIEVE**

Upon finding the article, the dog will retrieve the article and return it to the handler, holding the article until commanded to release it in hand. The handler must remain in a stationary, upright position. The dog will be sent to find the second article. Finding the second article, the dog will return it to the handler, and again, hold it until commanded to release it in hand. After releasing the second article, the dog will be commanded to a finish position. Unnecessary movement on the part of the handler will be penalized. The handler may not enter the search area. If the K-9 indicates on an article but does not retrieve it, a judge or handler may retrieve the article. (This is for points on the find for the benefit of the handler)

### Option Two - PASSIVE

Upon finding the article, the dog will give a passive indication of the article, remaining stationary in a sit, down or stand close to the article but without touching or disturbing the article. The handler will tell the judges that his dog has indicated and walk directly to the dog, picking up the article and showing it to the judges. During this time the dog must remain in the original indication position. The handler will then return to the perimeter of the area by the shortest route. The handler may command his dog to heel, or leave the dog in the area. Once the handler is out of the area, he will command the dog to search for the second article. When the dog indicates the second article, the handler will tell the judges that his dog has indicated, enter the area, pick up the article and show it to the judges. During this time the dog must remain in his indication position. The handler will return to the perimeter and bring his dog to a finish position. The handler may not enter the search area until his dog has indicated and the handler notifies the judges that his dog has indicated.

### **Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork.**

Mail or E-mail completed trial program or paperwork to include: (within 30 days of the trial)

- Original Master score sheet
- Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged
- The high-low sheets showing the scores of all judges.

E-mail to: [secretary@uspcak9.com](mailto:secretary@uspcak9.com) or upload to the USPCA web page.