

GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

GAME DETECTION CANINES

***See General Rules that apply to all detection tests.

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to detect and find wild game concealed in various locations. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1st, 2025, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2026).

1. TESTING:

- A. The test will consist of two parts: vehicles and interior rooms of a building. Four concealed packages of wild game (warm or cold blooded) of the types the team is certifying for will be used. Handlers will not be told what type of game they are searching for, but only game the team is trained on will be utilized.
- B. **Amounts:** There will be no maximum weight but amounts used will be within reasonable limits common to violations. For example, a full elk would not be permissible. A minimum weight of game and fish will be one pound, a minimum of 10 grams for mussels and 5 grams for terrestrial/aquatic insects. These minimums will apply to all hides.
- C. This certification will consist of two hides indoor and two hides outdoors.
- D. The soak time for the target substances will be 30 minutes before the first search.
- E. The concealed hides will not be frozen.
- F. 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.

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 substances 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 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.

INDOOR/ INTERIOR SEARCH PHASE

- A. The indoor search will consist of three rooms. Each room will be a minimum of 200 square feet. There will be a time limit of one and one half (1.5) minutes for every 100 square feet. Large rooms can (optional) be sectioned off with a makeshift or temporary barrier to reduce it to the 200 square foot minimum. The unused part of this room cannot be used as one of the three required searchable rooms. (i.e. A large classroom can be divided off to create a 200-foot search area, but the rest of the room cannot be used for the trial)
- B. The rooms must be furnished and can be kitchens, workshops, offices, schoolrooms or other rooms containing furnishings and/or equipment.
- C. There will be two hides contained within the three rooms. Only one hide in a room.
- D. For inside/room searches, no hide may be higher than 6 feet from the ground or floor.
- E. There will be a 2 minute warning given before the expiration of time. At the expiration of time, the handler will call his/her finds. The handler can elect to end the search before time expires and call the location of the hidden game.
- F. The handler can use allotted time to search any of the rooms at their discretion.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork. Upload or email the scoring program or the completed trial 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 questions to: secretary@uspcak9.com

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.

2026