

# GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CONCEALED HUMAN SCENT DETECTION

This test will consist of the following phases:

1. Area Search - To show the K9's ability to locate and alert to human scent in an open area.
2. Indoor Search - To show the K9's ability to locate and alert to human scent in a building.
3. Vehicle Search - To show the K9's ability to locate and alert to human scent in a vehicle.

## 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> 2022, your certification will not expire until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023) 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 Board.
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. This certification is offered at a Regional testing venue only.
  - B. A total score of 300 possible points is possible. A score of 70% which is 210 points or better will earn a USPCA Human Scent Detection Certification.
  - 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:**
  - A. Team entries at a regionally sanctioned USPCA trial will be determined by the Chief Judge. Criteria for participating on this team will be established prior to the trial as determined by the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge may follow the team entry portion of the PDI rules if needed.
4. **JUDGES AND JUDGING:**
  - A. All judges must be active regular or associate members of the USPCA and must have handled or trained a PDI dog. The Chief Judge must be a Certified Level I Trainer and a National PDI

Judge. There will be a minimum of three judges on each event. It is recommended that each phase have at least one regionally certified or higher, PDI judge.

- B. The Chief Judge is there to oversee the complete operation, including judging, scoring and Stewards of the trial. It shall be the Chief Judges responsibility to make any and all final decisions Regarding the completion of the trials, such as factors caused by weather, time schedules, Etc. The Chief Judge may be from within the hosting region, or from another region.
- C. The Chief Judge will be responsible for the fair and equal method of testing for all participants. All judges on each event will be responsible to see that their event is run according to the rules and regulations of this Association. The lead judge on the event will set guidelines to promote consistency of rule application and penalties.
- D. Judges are not required to explain their scoring and should not enter into any discussions with any member who appears to be dissatisfied. Any interested person, who thinks there has been a mathematical error or an error in identifying a dog, may report the fact to one of the officers of this Association or the certification committee. Judges should explain point deductions on the score sheets whenever possible.
- E. Scores will be considered unofficial until checked and officially released by the chief scorekeeper and Chief Judge. No judge will require a dog or handler to do anything, nor shall they penalize a dog or handler for failing to do anything not required by these rules.
- F. Judges must carry a mental picture of a theoretically perfect performance in each exercise and score each dog and handler against this visualized standard, which shall combine the utmost willingness, enjoyment and precision on the part of the dog, and the naturalness, gentleness and smoothness of the handler.
- G. Protests: A protest committee may be formed by the Chief Judge. Members of this committee cannot rule on protests of their own department. This committee shall consist of three or more odd numbered members. Handlers will advise the steward at the time of occurrence or Immediately after the test or phase, of their intention to file a protest. All formal protests Must be lodged in writing to the Chief Judge, identifying themselves only by number.
- H. There shall be no penalty of less than one half (1/2) point.
- I. If a dog fails a part of an exercise or a phase, it shall not be re-judged or given a second chance unless so stated in these rules. But if in the opinion of the judges, the dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar circumstances, the judges may opt to re-judge the dog on the entire exercise or that portion of the exercise that was compromised.
- J. Dogs may be judged on obedience and control during all phases of the trial. Lack of control or disobedience by the K9 may result in points being deducted from the score. Judging will not begin until the handler has nodded his head indicating that he is ready to begin. If the handler obviously begins an exercise without nodding his head, the judges will start scoring the team at that point.

## 5. **TEST REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. Total possible score in this test is 300 points. 210 points or more is a passing score. Teams who have obviously already failed this test may be allowed to continue in the process for experience at the direction of the Chief Judge.
- B. Collar requirements as listed in the USPCA PDI testing processed will be followed and checked.
- C. Testing may be performed on or off lead. Handlers will wear their standard work uniform and numbered vests may be provided for ease of identification.

- D. 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. Handlers are responsible for any damage done by their K9.
- E. 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.

6. **MISCELLANEOUS:**

- A. **There shall be no deduction for a dog that relieves itself during the Area search phase of this test.** A one-time deduction of 10 points is possible during the other two phases.
- B. There will be no consuming of alcoholic beverages on or in the area of testing during testing hours by judges, handlers or participating officials.
- C. All scoresheets will be mailed or given to participants after the trial.

## **TEST PHASES**

### **VEHICLE SEARCH PHASE**

- A. Six vehicles will be used. The vehicles may be of any type or model and may include automobiles or trucks. Other types of vehicles may be used at the discretion of the Chief Judge based on availability and the most commonly seen vehicles searched during real searches. The vehicles will be placed by the Chief Judge in an order that allows easy access for the k9 team to search.
- B. There shall be two decoys concealed in the interior of two of the six vehicles. Decoys may hide in the passenger compartments as long as they are not visible to the handler or the k9. The two decoys cannot be hidden in vehicles that are side by side. There must be at least one empty vehicle between the two decoys. Decoys will be put inside the vehicle for a minimum of 10 minutes prior to the first dog. Replacement decoys may be used, and when a new decoy takes over, the wait time will be 10 minutes before the next dog can search. Replacement decoys will hide in the same spot as the previous decoy.
- C. The EXTERIOR only will be searched. The alert must be obvious to the judges. Aggressive alert K9's should not be allowed to cause damage to the vehicles and will be penalized for doing so. If the dog alerts anywhere on the vehicle that contains a decoy, it shall be scored as a find and no false alerts points will be taken. All vehicles must be searched for maximum points.
- D. The team has 8 minutes to locate the two hidden decoys. There will be a 2-minute warning given at the 6-minute mark. After the time is complete or the handler has determined his search is complete, he will call out that he is finished and then will tell the lead judge which two cars have the decoys inside.

## INDOOR SEARCH PHASE

- A. The indoor search phase will consist of a building where at least 6 rooms will be searched. 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. There will be a 2-minute warning given before the expiration of time. After the time is complete or the handler has determined his search is complete, he will call out that he is finished and then will tell the lead judge the location of the decoys.
- B. There shall be two decoys concealed in two of the six rooms. (Two decoys will not be in the same room) The decoys will be concealed in such a way as to be hidden from sight of the dog and the handler. The decoys will be placed at least 10 minutes prior to the first search. Replacement decoys may be used, and when a new decoy takes over, the wait time will be 10 minutes before the next dog can search. Replacement decoys will hide in the same spot as the previous decoy
- C. The rooms will be furnished or contain equipment, furnishings, storage, etc.
- D. The alert must be obvious to the judges. Aggressive alert K9's should not be allowed to cause excessive damage and may be penalized for doing so. If the dog alerts anywhere in the room where the decoy is hidden, and it is clear that the dog has odor, it shall be scored as a find and no false alert points will be taken.

## AREA SEARCH PHASE (OUTDOORS ONLY)

- A. The area search phase will consist of a large area approximately 150 yards by 150 yards. There will be at least 6 objects within this area that are large enough to conceal a decoy. The PDI boxes may be used for this phase or other types of boxes, kennels, portapottys, etc. The decoy should be safe from contact with the dog and not be visible to the dog. This phase is designed to test the dog in an area that is non-cared for, like a grove, timber or open brushy, untended field area. It also may contain small out buildings. If a decoy is concealed in one of the small outbuildings, it should be no bigger than a small garden shed or porta potty sized building. No interior searches will be performed during this phase.
- B. There shall be two decoys concealed in two of the six concealment spots. The decoys will be placed at least 10 minutes prior to the first search. Replacement decoys may be used, and when a new decoy takes over, the wait time will be 10 minutes before the next dog can search. The decoy will not have any protective equipment with them.
- C. This phase may be ran on or off lead, but control of the dog will be scored. The team will have 8 minutes to locate the two decoys. The alert must be obvious to the judges. After the time is complete or the handler has determined his search is complete, he will call out that he is finished and then will tell the senior judge the location of the decoys.
- D. If an apprehension trained dogs are used, the Chief Judge should do a double check to confirm that the decoys are safe.

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

Upload or E-mail completed trial paperwork or program 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.

**Upload at [www.uspcak9.com](http://www.uspcak9.com)**  
E-mail to: [Secretary@uspcak9.com](mailto:Secretary@uspcak9.com)