



"IN DOG WE TRUST"

Patrol Certification Standards

CERTIFYING OFFICIAL

A patrol dog certifying official will be appointed by the Executive Board of the IPCA.

The certifying official will follow all guidelines to certifications established by IPCA and will be fair and honest to all participants.

Patrol certifying official will have attended a POST Evaluator's Course, have a Minimum 5 years as a handler or trainer PLUS a minimum of 1,000 documented hours of training in the discipline you want to evaluate/certify.

PATROL DOG CERTIFICATION

Patrol Certifications will be valid for one year from the date of certification.

The patrol dog certification will consist of four separate required phases and one optional in the Apprehension Phase. The K9 Team must pass all four required phases to receive a patrol dog certification. The four required phases are:

Phase #1 – Obedience (on and off lead)

Tactical Movements and Control

Phase #2 – Search Phase (building and area)

Phase #3 – Apprehension (bite, out, recall, manual out and de-escalation),

Optional event – Guard and Bark

Phase #4 Control and De-escalation

All events are scored as pass or fail.

If a K9 team fails an event, the K9 team may re-test after remediation. However, the certifying official has the right to refuse a re-test if in his/her discretion the remediation could not occur in a single certification session. Should another certification session be needed, the certifying official will identify another date/time, within a reasonable time frame, for the team to re-test.

The certification may be terminated at any time by the certifying official(s) in the event the certifying official(s) deems the canine is not under the control of the handler.

EQUIPMENT

The International Police Canine Association will not provide the equipment necessary to complete the Patrol Dog Certification. The certifying official(s) who will be attending the certification will ensure that the hosting agency will provide the following:

- E collar or other manual out tool, handgun with blanks (22 or 38 caliber)
- Minimum of one (1) decoy and (2) cover officers
- Bite Suit
- Building and Area of sufficient size to conduct the search phase.

The K9 Teams participating in certification will be allowed to utilize all equipment that the team is authorized by their department to use on a regular basis during deployments. Electronic training collars will be allowed to be worn during the certification; however, the E collar shall only be used during alternative out phase of the certification.

The use of toy or food rewards and electronic collar use except where applicable are prohibited during all phases of the certification process. Verbal re-enforcement is acceptable and encouraged.

Any unauthorized use of electronic training collars, toys, or training aids will be grounds for certification disqualification.

The K9 Teams participating in the certification will also be required to have a copy of their agency's canine utilization policy readily available for the certifying official to review should there be any question as to deployment techniques.

DEFINITIONS

Control

The ability of the handler to control his/her canine's actions, follow commands and read/work his/her canine on and off leash. Improper/inappropriate corrections deemed by the Certifying Official to be excessive during any phase of the certification may be grounds for failure. Failure to have control of K9 may be grounds for failure. Any aggression by K9 towards handler or cover officers during the certification process may be grounds for failure disqualification.

Heel

The canine is in a position alongside the handler with the canine's front shoulders approximate to the leg of the handler.

Down or Sit in Motion

The canine is commanded to a down or sit while the handler continues in a forward motion, leaving the canine.

Gunfire

The canine must stay, either in a sit or down on-leash or at a heel, while two rounds from a handgun are discharged (no larger than .38 caliber). K9 must show no signs of aggression to gun fire. K9 should not show fear to gunfire or break position.

Recall

The canine is commanded by the handler to return.

Deployment

The apprehension, pursuit, or search by a canine either on or off leash.

Bite

Any contact with the mouth intentional or not.

Verbal Out/Release

On Handler's command K9 must release the bite within a reasonable time. Multiple verbal commands are allowed if K9 releases the bite within a reasonable amount of time.

Tactical/Physical Out/Release

This will be accomplished in 2 separate scenarios. The Tactical/Physical Out/Release will be performed with decoy in a prone position and the handler physically grabbing the canine's collar and getting the K9 to release the bite. The Supplemental methods include but not limited to breaker bar, e-collar, pinch collar or other devices or other techniques. This is done with the decoy in a standing position.

Re-bite

Any bite that occurs after the canine has been commanded to release, and the canine has disengaged the bite and bites again without handler command or being provoked.

Warning Announcement A standard set of announcements a handler may give to a suspect prior to deploying the canine into search or an apprehension.

Inaccessible Find

The alert to the presence of an inaccessible agitator/decoy with no equipment present. After the handler identifies the alert to the evaluator, the K-9 will then be recalled back to the handler's position. This scenario shall be demonstrated off-leash as part of the building search or area search, as determined by the evaluator.

K-9 TEAM COMPETENCIES

The following four K-9 team competencies outline minimum "patrol" performance standards that a K-9 team should be able to demonstrate. Testing for the following four competencies should be conducted in an environment closely simulating realistic job conditions and distractions.

Obedience

The handler will demonstrate the ability to control the K-9 during an obedience performance test. a. The K-9 team will perform basic tactical movements and control off leash.

Search

Under the direction and control of the handler, the K-9 will independently locate a hidden agitator/ decoy in a structure or building and in an outdoor area within a reasonable amount of time, off leash. a. The K-9 will "alert" the handler after finding the agitator/decoy. Prior to the release of the K-9 , an announcement of intended use will be given. At least one search will be a civil find using no equipment on the agitator/decoy. b. The K-9 will locate a hidden agitator/decoy in a structure or building with multiple rooms and hiding locations places and "alert" the handler. c. The K-9 will locate a hidden agitator/decoy in a large outdoor area with multiple hiding locations and "alert" the handler.

Apprehension

Under the direction of the handler and while off-leash, the K-9 will pursue and apprehend an agitator/decoy. a. The K-9 team will demonstrate a “pursuit and call off” prior to apprehension. b. On command from the handler, the K-9 will pursue and apprehend the agitator/decoy. c. From a reasonable distance and within a reasonable amount of time, on verbal command only, the K-9 will cease the apprehension. d. Handlers must demonstrate a tactical release from a prone agitator/decoy. e. Handlers will identify methods or equipment to aid with the release of the K-9 and demonstrate proficiency.

Control and De-escalation

The K-9 will remain under control while the handler attempts to gain compliance from the agitator/ decoy.

The following are scenarios for a K-9 team evaluation in each of the competency areas. These scenarios contain minimum elements for an evaluation.

PATROL SCENARIOS FOR K-9 TEAM EVALUATIONS

1. These exercises should be demonstrated in an environment closely simulating realistic job conditions and distractions without the use of a muzzle.
2. The evaluating instructor will be fully apprised of the pertinent agency policies and regulations prior to the commencement of all exercises conducted. The “correct” response or reaction of the handler, the K-9, or the two acting together, may differ from agency to agency, based on prevailing agency policy.

Obedience

Handlers will report to the evaluator with the K-9. At the direction of the evaluator, the team will complete the following exercises as called for by the evaluator off leash. During the exercise, the K-9 will be under the handler’s control.

1. Off-leash tactical obedience

This exercise will be performed using four stations or points of cover. The K-9 team starts from a position of cover near station number one. The K-9 is placed in a stationary position as the handler moves to the second station, leaving the K-9 behind. Once the handler is at the second station in a position of cover, the K-9 is called to a heel. From the second station, the handler has the K-9 heel to the third station. At the third station, the handler again assumes a position of cover, keeping the K-9 beside the handler in a controlled position. The handler leaves the K-9 and moves to the fourth station and assumes a position of cover. The handler recalls the K-9 to a heeling position, concluding the exercise. The K-9 must not break from stationary positions until called upon by the handler.

2. Search/Apprehension

During all the below exercises, a minimum of two people, which may include the evaluator, shall be present to simulate the presence of a search team. The K-9 should maintain neutrality to all persons present other than the agitator/decoy.

Based on the following criteria listed in this section, the evaluator will develop the certification scenarios which encompass the skills listed below.

The K-9 will demonstrate the following:

1. **Building Search** A structure or building with multiple rooms and hiding locations in which the K-9 will locate a hiding agitator/decoy. This scenario shall be demonstrated off-leash.
2. **Area Search** A large outdoor area with multiple hiding locations in which the K-9 will locate a hiding agitator/ decoy. This scenario shall be demonstrated off-leash.
3. **Verbal Out** The K-9 will apprehend the agitator/decoy from a distance no less than ten yards from the handler. The handler, using verbal commands only, will have the K-9 release and recall back to the handler. This scenario shall be demonstrated off-leash and without the use of any correction device.
4. **Tactical Release** The handler will demonstrate the ability to physically remove the K-9 from the apprehension of an agitator/decoy, in a reasonable amount of time, in two separate scenarios. For the first, the handler will demonstrate the ability to physically remove the K-9 from an agitator/decoy in a prone position. For the second, handlers will identify a supplemental method they will use in aiding with the release and demonstrate its use in removing the K-9 from an agitator/decoy.
5. **Inaccessible Find** The alert to the presence of an inaccessible agitator/decoy with no equipment present. After the handler identifies the alert to the evaluator, the K-9 will then be recalled back to the handler's position. This scenario shall be demonstrated off-leash as part of the building search or area search, as determined by the evaluator.

Call-off

This function is critical and separates the K-9 from all other less-than-lethal force options in that the handler has the ability to call off the K-9 prior to making contact with the agitator/decoy, within reason, to avoid a use of force.

1. This exercise will simulate a directed apprehension and will be conducted off-leash and without the use of any correction device.
2. The K-9 will be sent on a directed apprehension, from approximately 30 yards, on a visible and accessible agitator/decoy.
3. Once the K-9 is in the pursuit and committed to the agitator/decoy (approximately halfway), the handler will call off the apprehension using only voice commands.
4. The K-9 is not allowed to make contact with the agitator/decoy.
5. The K-9 may or may not be recalled to the handler at the discretion of the evaluator.

The scenario will conclude when the K-9 is under physical control of the handler.

Control and De-escalation

The K9 handler will approach the agitator/decoy. The K-9 will remain under control while the handler attempts to gain compliance from the agitator/decoy for a minimum of 20 seconds. The circumstances of the scenario are at the discretion of the evaluator.