

GOVERNING RULES and REGULATIONS For CERTIFICATION

FIREARMS DETECTION CANINES

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to detect and find firearms and ammunition (both live and expended) concealed in various locations. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (I.E. If you certify on April 1st, 2012, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2013).

***FIREARM SAFETY IS A MUST.** The USPCA mandates that all guns used be unloaded. A safety officer designated by the Chief Judge will confirm that all guns used during this test be checked and confirmed to be unloaded. The USPCA will not sanction a test without a safety officer.

***ALL Judges for the FIREARMS TEST should safely secure ALL personal weapons and ALL live or spent ammunition away from the testing venue to avoid interfering with the canine's detection of the hidden testing aids.**

***ALL canines performing this test SHALL be passive alert canines for safety reasons.**

1. TESTING:

A. The test will consist of three parts, **vehicle search, interior room search and area search**. For certification purposes at least one odor from each group (Firearm, Live Ammunition, and Expended Ammunition "casings") shall be represented in the operational testing. No combination of live ammunition or firearms shall be placed in the same hide location. **Live ammunition and casings must be placed in scent box or left in its original container, magazine or carton.** All firearms used for testing must be secure with a trigger locking device or cable lock.

B. Amounts- A minimum of one firearm **or** six rounds of ammunition (live or expended) for each hide will be used for testing. All firearms used for certification must have been fired within 24-72 hours of certification (verified by Chief Judge). Expended casings will then be collected and also used for operational testing.

C. Soak time- Time placed of the operational testing odors, will be one half hour (30 minutes) before the first search.

GROUP 1: FIREARMS (UNLOADED)

Shotgun, pistol or rifle. (Any caliber, no minimum barrel length, semi-automatic or revolver) Must be secured with a trigger locking device or a cable lock.

GROUP 2: LIVE AMMUNITION

Shotgun, pistol or rifle. (Minimum of six rounds) Must be placed in scent box or left in its original container, magazine or carton.

GROUP 3: EXPENDED AMMUNITION (SHELL CASINGS)

Shotgun, pistol or rifle. Expended ammunition is defined as spent ammunition (shell casing) that has been fired within **24-72** hours of certification. (Minimum of six rounds)

FIREARMS OPERATIONAL VEHICLE TEST:

- 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 order of the vehicles will be approved by the chief judge and will permit team's easy access for searching.
- C. The operational testing odors can be placed inside or on the outside of the vehicles.
- D. There will be two hides used for this phase. No two hides will be placed on the same vehicle.
- E. If only the outside of the vehicles are searched, there will be a ten (10) minute time limit total with a two-minute warning at the eight (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 five vehicle interiors are searched the maximum time limit will be fifteen (15) minutes with a two-minute warning.

FIREARMS OPERATIONAL INDOOR TEST:

- A. The indoor search will consist of three (3) separate 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 the room 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 utilized will contain furnishings compatible with room type. No empty rooms will be searched.
- C. There will be two hides contained within the three (3) rooms, with no more than one hide per room used.
- D. For inside/room searches, no hide may be higher than six (6) feet from the ground or floor.
- E. There will be a two (2) minute warning before time expiring for the exercise. The handler can indicate the location of the hides after time expires.

FIREARMS OPERATIONAL AREA TEST:

- A. Separate search areas will be provided to each team when available. There will be two hides in each search area.
- B. The area will be approximately 30 yards by 30 yards. The search area may have brush, trees and/or foliage covering the area. **It should be thick enough as to hide the visual location of the hidden item.**
- C. This test will have fifteen (15) minute time limit with a two (2) minute warning. The handler can call the location of the testing aids after the time limit has expired.
- D. Care should be taken to use areas that will allow the canine to work off lead safely. The handler may enter the search area to direct the canine. The canine must be able to work with judges accompanying the handler, however if the judges can observe without entering the area this may also be done as not to interfere with the working canine. The judges will stay in back of the handler and work under the direction of the handler if the judges enter the area.

SCORING

A maximum total point score of 300 is possible with certification (passing) at 210 points. To certify the canine team must find 5 of the 6 training aids.

Please note that the **GENERAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS** of Detection tests will be used as a general guideline for Firearms testing.