

## GENERAL RULES AND DEFINITIONS GOVERNING CERTIFICATION

### PATROL DOG I

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 (Evidence Recovery) and to locate and indicate a hidden suspect by scent only (Suspect Search).
3. **Criminal Apprehension and Recall**—To show the control of the dog under various circumstances, including apprehension under gunfire.

### 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. Regular members wishing to certify in a National PDI trial must qualify annually in a sanctioned Regional/District Certification with a score of **512** or above, before being eligible to enter the National Field Trials. “Annually” shall mean from the end of one National Field Trial to the beginning of the next National Field Trial. National Field Trial registration forms will ask the handler to declare the date and location of the last PDI trial that the K-9 team attended.

1. Medallions for **512** points and above will be issued and supplied by the nationals for the National Field Trials only.

2. A score of **448** points, or better, in any sanctioned regional/district certification will earn a PDI rating and a USPCA Certification. **Fail to recall is a failure of the certification regardless of points earned.**

- 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 Judge's discretion, as is scheduling of participants at each location or venue. For clarification - The order of testing will be drawn by the Chief Judge or Region prior to the start of the testing. The order of testing will not be released to any participant earlier than 24 hours before the start of testing.
- E. For National Certifications, each handler is allowed to enter only one dog, and it must be the dog used in the performance of their K-9 officer responsibilities.

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

- A. The entry of dogs from each department is unlimited. However, each department may enter only one team, consisting of four dogs, into each trial.
- B. Each region/district may enter as many teams as they like consisting of four teams who are primary members with that region or district, forming a region/district team for National Certifications. See E below concerning regional/district certifications.
- C. Participants comprising a team must be announced to the officials at the handlers meeting and each handler may only participate on one team, either a region/district team, or a department team.
- D. Teams wishing to designate an alternate team member must do so at the handler meeting. If during the certification, a designated member of the team cannot continue, the alternate member's scores will be considered for the overall team score.
- E. Regions/districts may establish entry criteria for participating teams (optional) if teams are established.

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

- A. All judges for Regional, District and National Certifications must be active regular or associate members of the USPCA and must have handled or trained a PDI dog. The Chief Judge for a **National** PDI Certification must be a Nationally Certified PDI Judge AND a National Trainer. The Chief Judge for a **Regional** or District PDI Certification must be a Nationally Certified PDI Judge and meet all requirements set by the Judges Committee unless they are a National Trainer. \* *See Chief Judges requirements found online.* (Approved 4-2-17 in Raleigh, NC) Those who were already certified as a regional or national judge are grandfathered effective September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1989. The National PDI trial will have five nationally certified PDI judges on each event (high and low score discarded). A regional trial will have a minimum of three judges with all scores counted or a maximum of five judges (high and low score discarded) on each event.

Minimum qualifications for a PDI judge at a Regional trial are:

1. A PDI dog Trainer
2. Or a person who has certified a PDI dog with the USPCA.
3. Has served as a non-scoring judge in at least one PDI certification if possible.

**NOTE:** *Region and District Certification should have at least one certified judge for each event.*

- B. The Chief Judge at the National Field Trials shall not judge. The Chief Judge is there to oversee the complete operation, including judging, scoring, stewards and all other events of the certifications. Once the testing has started, it shall be the Chief Judge's responsibility to make any and all final decisions regarding the completion of the trials, such as factors caused by weather, time schedules, etc.

C. The Chief Judge at Region and District Certifications shall have the same responsibilities but may be a scoring judge if needed. The Chief Judge for a regional or district trial may be from within that same region or district. The Chief Judge for a national trial must be from outside the host region or district. The National will pay travel expenses for the Chief Judge twice per year for a Region or District PD 1 Certification.

D. 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.

E. The lead event judge on national events will also be a USPCA certified trainer.

F. The National Executive Board will work with the host to select the Chief Judge for a National Certification from outside the hosts region. The National Executive Board will select the remaining required judges. (September 20, 2020)

G. 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 the Association or the certification committee. Judges should explain point deductions on the score sheets whenever possible.

H. Scores will be considered unofficial until checked and officially released by the chief scorekeeper and Chief Judge. Scorekeepers will not change a judge's score sheet unless it is an obvious mathematical error and then only after the error has been confirmed by the judge and chief judge. On completion of an event the Chief Judge or chief scorekeeper will release the judges.

I. No judge shall 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.

J. 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. Lack of willingness or enjoyment on the part of the dog must be penalized, as should a lack of precision in the dog's performance or roughness in handling.

K. Members of the rules and judges' committees cannot rule on protests of their own department. The committee ruling on protests shall consist of three or more odd number members as selected by the Chief Judge. **See Letter F. in test requirements.**

L. There shall be no penalty of less than one-half (1/2) point.

M. If a dog fails in a particular part of an exercise, it shall not ordinarily be rejudged 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, at their own discretion, re-judge the dog on the entire exercise, or that portion of the exercise, that the dog failed.

N. Dogs will be judged on obedience control during all phases of the trials. Lack of control or disobedience by the K-9 will result in points deducted from the score achieved in that specific phase.

O. **In the Criminal Apprehension Phase**, one non-scoring judge or test steward will be positioned at the eighteen-yard line **and a second steward may be assigned the 10-yard line. (at the discretion of the Chief Judge)** A marker (white line, cones, etc.) must be provided to identify the 18-yard line **and the 10-yard line.** When the dog crosses the eighteen-yard marker, the non-scoring judge or test steward will signal the handler by activating a light or by a hand signal. The 18-yard line steward/judge will inform the judges if the handler leaves the start line before signaled, or if the dog is recalled early. **If the handler is recalling from the 10-yard line the steward at the 10-yrd line or the**

steward/judge behind the handler will signal the judges if the handler calls the dog prior to the 10-yard line. *Passed 10-6-24 in Baton Rouge, LA*

P. A National Judge is not allowed to Chief Judge a region/district trial during the week before or the week after a national trial.

Q. No National Scoring Judge shall compete or participate in the National Trials other than in a judging capacity—i.e., this person cannot be a judge and a decoy, etc.

R. Unless otherwise stated in these rules, 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. *If a handler loses control of his canine at any time during the USPCA sponsored event, (before, during or after) and the k9 contacts a decoy, judge, another k9 or other bystanders, the Chief Judge has the authority to utilize the protest committee to determine if disqualification is appropriate. Passed 6-2-24 in Wichita Falls, Tx*

## 5. STEWARDS- OPTIONAL:

A. There can be two types of stewards for each event: "Field" and "Test."

1. **Field Stewards** shall hold any leashes or other gear and check and list equipment of handler and dog.
2. **Test Stewards** will conduct or direct the particular exercise. During the National Field Trials, test stewards will be certified NON-SCORING judges if available.

B. Stewards will ask each contestant if they are ready. If the handler is ready, he will verbally respond in the affirmative, or nod his head. Stewards will commence the exercise when the handler is ready. *NOTE: There will be no lengthy or unnecessary delays by either stewards or certifying teams.*

C. In some circumstances a judge may act as a steward and also judge.

D. Stewards must immediately conceal leads without disturbing the dog.

## 6. TEST REQUIREMENTS:

A. A qualifying score of 70% must be obtained in Obedience (84 points) and Criminal Apprehension (238 points) and a total score of **448** points in order to certify as PDI at region/district trial. A team scoring less than 70% in Obedience will be permitted to continue in the certification for experience only at the direction of the Chief Judge. *Failure to recall is an automatic failure regardless of the points earned.*

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, except for foot apparel or any equipment that will conflict with Rule 6B. 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. \*Approved 5-7-23 in Evansville.

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 aggression 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. HANDLER'S 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 must 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 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 commands.
- **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.

**Measurement Specifics**—In those events that call for the dog to be placed within ten or fifteen feet, the tail shall not be included.

## 9. MISCELLANEOUS:

- 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.
- 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.
- All score sheets will be mailed or given to participants after the trials.
- If there is a tie for any position in a National Trial, duplicate awards shall be awarded.

## 10. PROFESSIONALISM—CERTIFICATION:

- 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**

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. The order of testing will not be released to any participant earlier than 24 hours before the start of testing.

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** which 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. Except for 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 fifty feet (marked) and stopping the dog at 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 exercise.
- H. Check sample score sheets for areas of penalties.
- I. The three Obedience phases will not be intermixed.

## **SEARCH TESTS**

### **1. Evidence Search:**

- 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 (OPTIONAL)**
  - 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.



### **Option One - RETREIVE**

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.

## **2. Suspect Search:**

- A. The Suspect Search shall consist of six boxes, each being four feet by four feet with tops but without bottoms. Boxes shall be placed on (as near) flat and level ground as possible.
- B. There will be two rows of three boxes, forty feet apart and each row forty feet from the centerline, with the door facing away from the centerline. All sides of the boxes shall be left exposed for the dogs to work.
- C. All boxes shall be closed during each test.
- D. There will be no deductions for boxes not checked.
- E. There shall be two lines down the center of the search area, ten feet apart in which the handler must remain during the search exercise. The handler may start at any point in the work area and may move along the line while working the dog at their direction. The team may finish at any point along the handler work area.
- F. The team will start from a finish position. The handler will secure their lead on their person before commencing the exercise. They will not reattach the lead to the dog until completion of the entire search. Time limit for this exercise is 4 minutes, with a 30 second warning.

G. The handler is permitted to walk the length of the work area prior to sending their dog. The handler may issue a K-9 warning before starting the search. Time will start if the handler turns and walks back through the area at any point. Otherwise, time will start when the handler sends their dog.

H. Upon the dog making the find, the dog must return to the handler to a finish position for maximum points. The exercise shall be completed after the handler informs the judges what box their dog has indicated, before time runs out.

I. The type of indication shall be determined by the lead judge—such as, pointing out or calling the number of the box selected.

J. Teams shall be judged on the way they work. The indication may be physical, or verbal, but must be obvious to the Judges. There shall be penalties for dogs relieving themselves in the area, lack of interest, leaving the area, etc.

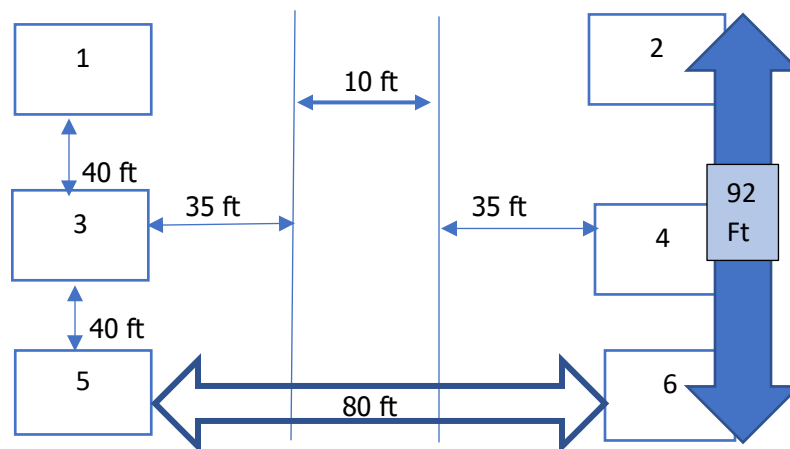
K. Suspects:

1. There can be a maximum of four suspects used in this entire event. The Chief Judge shall determine their order of use, but each suspect must hide for at least six dogs before being relieved by the second suspect.

2. All boxes must be contaminated prior to the first handler/dog team and at any time that the suspect is changed or there is a break in the phase.

3. A suspect (hider) must be at least 18 years old.

Diagram  
of  
Box Field



L. Contamination of each box shall be one minute each. When all boxes are initially contaminated, they must be left open for a minimum of one minute.

M. Working areas and facilities shall determine the time between each handler/dog team for working the boxes, however, the time allowed for each handler/dog team shall be the same.

E. **Purge Time**—there will be a minimum of one minute air out time for the box to purge. The purge time will be with the box empty and the door open.

## **CRIMINAL APPREHENSION**

There will be five parts to this certification test:

**1. Recall**

**2. False Start**

### **3. Apprehension without Gunfire**

### **4. Apprehension with Gunfire**

### **5. Handler Protection**

The order of occurrence will not necessarily be the same as above but will be drawn by the handler as they enter the testing field. Apprehension with gunfire and handler protection will always be last. The criminal apprehension field must be marked off with traffic cones or other means easily distinguishable by the handler. Markings will be placed at the starting line; 10, 18, 30, 40 and 60 yard lines. The 10 and 18-yd lines should be very clear to the handler.

#### **1. Decoys:**

- A. Decoys must be members of the USPCA, at least 18 years old, and will be furnished by the handlers.
- B. Handlers will use the same decoy through all phases. The decoy must also wear the same type/style of clothing, same type/style of jacket, or the same type/style sleeve, on the same arm, and must face (at the start of each phase) the same direction, throughout all phases.
- C. Handler and decoy will have the choice of using a hidden sleeve, or a protection suit (just the top, or top and bottom.) All sleeves or suits worn and used for the apprehension phase will be covered or concealed by a garment, which shall cover the upper torso of the decoy.
- D. Maximum diameter of the arm (sleeve or suit) shall be six inches to elbow. With both arms of the decoy extended towards the front, the protected sleeve arm shall not be over six inches longer than the unprotected arm. Recommended checking of width of sleeves/arms: A 6-inch diameter hole cut in wooden board will be set in the vicinity of the starting point of apprehension phases. The decoys arm must be in the sleeve or protective suit jacket/top when measured and be able to pass through the ring to the elbow.
- E. Decoys will run at a sprint speed and in the same style throughout all phases, and in a straight line directly away from the handler and dog.
- F. Decoys will be judged against the handler's score.
- G. All decoys will take the dog in a natural stride so that it does not appear that the arm is drawing in the dog. Presenting the arm to protect themselves will not penalize decoys.
- H. Decoys will stand erect with arms at their sides, facing the dog, after the dog has been called from the decoy. The decoy must remain in this position during the search.
- I. Decoys cannot be penalized for lifting the dog or bending down to fight the dog before the call off. During the apprehension, the decoy will work the dog in a side-to-side motion backing away slowly from the dog and shall continue this action until the handler gives the release command.

#### **2. Handlers:**

- A. Teams will start each phase from the elected finish position at the starting line.
- B. Handlers will remain at the starting line for all phases until the dog has crossed the ~~ten-or\*~~ eighteen-yard line (with the exception of apprehension with gunfire, the handler may go as soon as the dog has started the pursuit.)
- C. After each phase the dog will be returned to a finish position.
- D. The handler will secure their lead on their person before commencing the exercise. They will not reattach the lead to the dog until completion of the entire criminal apprehension phases. The exception shall be after the apprehension (no gun), upon completion of the pat down; the handler may attach the lead to the dog when returning to the starting line. \* "Ten or" removed 6-26-25 after approval by email of the Exec. Board. mjr

### 3. Recall:

- A. The dog will be at a finish position at the starting line and the decoy will be at the thirty-yard line. A judge or steward will be at the 18-yard line and the 10-yard line will have another steward or be clearly marked (light, double cones, lines) at the choice of the Chief Judge. After the handler has nodded his head that he is ready, the steward or judge will signal the decoy to run and the decoy will continue to run until the recall has been completed and/or a judge signals the decoy to stop running. A standing recall is an option as listed below. The handler must wait until the dog has crossed the 10 or the 18-yard line to call the dog.
- B. When the decoy starts running, the handler will command his dog to apprehend. The handler may use one command to send the dog, one command to stop the dog and one command to the finish position. Extra commands are penalized. If the dog contacts the decoy (or any other participant) any time after the nod of the head during the recall phase, it is an automatic failure of the PDI certification.
- C. The following options shall be permitted for the recall phase:
- a) **10 Yard recall:** The handler may choose to recall the dog anywhere between the 10-yard line and the 18-yard line for up to 25 points. If the handler calls the dog early (before the 10-yard line), or the K9 contacts the decoy, it is a failure of the PDI test. A steward at the start line will determine if the dog was called before the 10-yard line if no steward is manning the 10-yard line.
  - b) **18 Yard recall:** The handler may choose to recall the dog anywhere between the 18-yard line and the 60-yard line for up to 50 points. If the handler calls the dog between the 18-yard and 10 yard line, it will be scored just like a 10-yard recall, with only 25 points possible.
  - c) **Standing Recall:** The handler may choose to do a standing recall. When the dog passes the 10- or 18-yard line (handlers' discretion) the handler will call their dog and when the decoy hears the command to recall, the decoy will stop running and place their arms at their sides until the exercise is complete. The standing recall has a maximum score of 25 points. Extra commands will be penalized.
- D. When the decoy starts, the handler will command his dog to apprehend. Only under gunfire and handler protection may the dog apprehend without command.
- E. An amber light or a steward will be used to signal the handler to call the dog after the dog has passed the 18-yard line. An amber light, clearly marked lines or a steward (or the start line steward) may be used to signal the handler to call the dog after the dog has passed the 10-yard line.
- F. The judges will score the dog according to the response.

### 4. False Start:

- A. The dog will be at a finish position at the starting line and the decoy will be at the thirty yard line. After the handler has nodded his head that he is ready, the steward or judge will signal the decoy to run ten yards to the forty-yard line.
- B. After the nod of the head, handlers will be allowed only one command to keep their dog in the finish position.
- C. The dog will be judged on the control and movements or if it breaks from the line.

## 5. Criminal Apprehension phases:

Criminal Apprehension without gunfire and Criminal Apprehension with gunfire are judged the same with the only exceptions being listed below.

1. **Criminal Apprehension without gunfire** includes the apprehension and the above listed recall and false start. The order- recall, false start, and apprehension, will be drawn by the handler from a steward upon entering the venue. The decoy will start from the 30-yard line. When the handler is ready and at the direction of the steward or judge, the decoy will run straight away from the dog. With one command, the handler will command the dog to apprehend. The handler will not leave the start position until the dog passes the 18-yard line.

A. Judging the apprehension will be guided by the evaluation/score sheets.

B. After the dog makes the catch, the decoy will fight the dog for a reasonable time to allow the judges to observe the apprehension. The handler may call their dog from the apprehension at any time after the judge calls their number or signals the handler.

Call off options:

### Option One

With one command, the handler will call their dog from the apprehension and with one command call their dog to a finish position, approximately fifteen feet from the decoy. The handler may stay their dog in the finish position, for clarification the dog does not have to sit before downing. The handler will then approach the decoy to perform the search. On completing the search after apprehension without gunfire, the handler will return to their dog and the judge will advise exercise is finished. On apprehension with gunfire the handler will do a complete search before the handler protection phase. After handler protection, the judge will signal the handler, the handler will call their dog to the finish position and judge will signal the exercise is complete.

### Option Two

With one command the handler will call their dog from the apprehension and with one command, place the dog either in a sit or down at the decoy. The handler will instruct the decoy to back away from their dog.

The decoy will back away approximately fifteen feet from the dog. The handler will then approach their dog, at the finish position, or if not in a finish position, with one command place their dog in the elected finish position. The handler will then approach the decoy, one command may be used to stay their dog on leaving, to perform the search. On completing the search after apprehension without gunfire, the handler will return to their dog and the judge will advise exercise is finished. On apprehension with gunfire, the handler will do a complete search before the handler protection phase. After the handler protection, the judge will signal the handler, who will call their dog from the apprehension. The handler will move to the dog's position or with one command place in the finish position. For clarification, the dog does not have to sit before downing. The judge or steward will signal when the exercise is complete.

- C. The handler, after the search, will return to their dog and if dog is not in a finish position, command the dog to a finish. It is not necessary, during the apprehension phases, that the K-9 start and finish in the same position. The finish position can be a down or a sit.
- D. The handler will be penalized (once) 25 points for physically removing his dog from the apprehension. *NOTE: the team can only be penalized 25. Prior additional deduction points for extra commands, slow release, finish, etc. cannot be added to physical removal points.*
- E. The handler will do a complete search of the decoy. There will be no simulated searches. The search will consist of both arms, both legs and the torso of the decoy.
- F. The judge will signal when the exercise is complete.

**2. Criminal Apprehension with gunfire** includes the apprehension under gunfire and a handler protection phase. The decoy will start at the 30-yard line. When the handler is ready and at the direction of the steward or judge, the decoy will fire one shot, turn, and run, firing the second shot as he runs straight away from the dog. No shots will be fired once the dog is within fifteen feet of the decoy. The decoy may drop the gun after all the shots have been fired. The dog will start from a finish position at the starting line and will not be penalized for leaving the line after the first shot. If he is commanded, then only one command will be used.

- A. After the dog makes the catch, the decoy will fight the dog for a reasonable time to allow the judges to observe the apprehension. Calls off options are listed above.
- B. Judging the apprehension will be guided by the evaluation/scoresheets.
- C. All guns used in this phase must be capable of firing 38-caliber blanks. In lieu of 38-caliber, (if 38 caliber weapons or blanks are unavailable) a starter gun or another caliber handgun capable of firing blanks may be used with the prior approval of the Chief Judge of the certification. Guns will be loaded with two live blanks and will be checked by a judge or steward before and after this phase. *\*Approved May 2018.*
- D. The handler protection test will begin when the handler leaves the dog in a finished position for the search after the gun apprehension. (As described in one of the two above options)
- E. The handler will do a complete search of the decoy as listed under letter 5E.
- F. After the search, the decoy will assault the handler. The assault shall be no less than an aggressive move or motion towards the handler, by the decoy, with his arm and no more than one contact of the decoy's arm to the handler's body. Either must be obvious to the judges.
- G. A judge will signal when the exercise is complete.
- H. The handler will be penalized (once) 25 points for physically removing his dog from the apprehension. The exception is the handler protection phase with a physical removal limited to a 10-point deduction. The handler will remove the dog; bring the dog to the finish position and continuing the exercise. *NOTE: The team can only be penalized 25. (10 handler protection) Prior additional deduction points for extra commands, slow release, finish, etc. cannot be added to physical removal points.*

**Physical removal of a K-9 during criminal apprehension phases:**

A K-9 team may not certify if the physical removal of the K-9 was necessary during the three scheduled apprehension exercises. Physical removal of the K-9 during the false start, recall and search phases will not be included.

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

Mail 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.
- Trial paperwork including the scoring program should be uploaded on the web site, [www.uspcak9.com](http://www.uspcak9.com) and look under the CERTIFICATION tab.

**Or email to: National Secretary Melinda Ruopp**  
[secretary@uspcak9.com](mailto:secretary@uspcak9.com)

2024