

## GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

### OPERATIONAL NARCOTICS TESTING

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to detect and find narcotics concealed in various locations. 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) This test is designed to test the narcotic detection K9 and handler on their operational skills **and** odor recognition. **Marijuana and Fentanyl will not be used at the National Detector Dog Certification. The USPCA National Office requests that k9's trained to detect marijuana and/or fentanyl be allowed to test on these odors on the regional level in the indoor phase only.**

### OPERATIONAL TESTING – NARCOTICS

#### 1. TESTING:

A. The test will consist of three parts: Vehicles and interior rooms of a building. Certifications will use four (4) separate narcotics for testing.

The following substances may be used:

- **Cocaine**
- **Heroin**
- **Methamphetamine**
- **Any certified derivative of the above**
- **MDMA or Mushrooms\***

\* The use of MDMA or Mushrooms should be determined by the Chief Judge subject to availability.

B. **Amounts:** A minimum of five (5) grams for each hide will be used for testing.

C. Care will be taken not to cross contaminate when handling the narcotics hides by the judges. Surface contamination (scratches, etc.) will be cleaned at the judges' discretion.

- D. All testing aids will be placed so the dog cannot retrieve or come in physical contact with the narcotic.
- E. The soak time for the target substances will be 30 minutes before the first search.

## **2. SCORING:**

Maximum total point score of 200 is possible. Certification (passing) is 140 points. See score sheets for areas of evaluation.

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### 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 substance 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 ft 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 within the three rooms, but only one hide can be placed in a room.

D. There will be a two (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 narcotics. The handler can use the allotted time to search any of the rooms at their discretion.

### **ADDITIONAL/OPTIONAL ODORS**

A. After the indoor search phase, the following additional odors will be offered at a regional test:

- **Fentanyl - \*see below guidelines**
- **Marijuana – Minimum of 5 grams**

B. One room for each of the above substances will be provided. Stewards will direct the handlers to the optional odors after completion of the regular three rooms. One room will contain the fentanyl hide and one room will contain the marijuana hide. Upon completion of the three regular rooms, the handler will be given the option of searching an additional room for fentanyl, an additional room for marijuana or doing both. For each room that the handler opts to search, 3 minutes will be given for the search of that room with a 30 second warning.

C. The optional odor rooms must be similar in nature to the rooms used for the regular testing.

D. Fentanyl and marijuana rooms are pass/fail. The judges will have the discretion as to whether the dog found the odor or not and will simply mark the appropriate box on the top of the scoresheet. There will be no scores associated

with the optional odors. If three judges are used, at least two of the three judges must mark “pass” for a successful test. If 5 judges are used, at least three of the five judges must mark “pass”. If the dog successfully locates the additional odor, there will be a check mark placed on the score program. These additional odors do not affect the certification score. (ie a k9 team who certifies on the four odors can fail the additional odors with no consequence to the certification)

E. K9’s tested on fentanyl and/or marijuana will be noted on the score program by the scorekeeper and will be visible on the master scoresheet. Certificates issued will still indicate certification in narcotic detection. Individual odors will not be listed on certificates.

F. All testing aids will be placed so the dog cannot retrieve or come into physical contact with the narcotic. Care will be taken by the Chief Judge or lead judge to avoid cross contamination or excessive surface contamination. See C. above in Indoor search Rules.

G. If you fail the operational test (rooms and vehicles), you may search for fentanyl and/or marijuana at the discretion of the Chief Judge for practice only. No certificates are given for the fentanyl or marijuana rooms.

FENTANYL Soaks - For the safety of our judges, handlers and K9’s, the USPCA recommends using Precision Explosive or Scent Logix fentanyl odor soaks/prints. No REAL fentanyl will be utilized during USPCA testing. Getxent tubes (soaked with Fentanyl) may also be used.

\*Approved October 2024 in Baton Rouge

**Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork.**  
**Upload the Scoring program at [www.uspcak9.com](http://www.uspcak9.com) under the certification tab.**

Or E-mail 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.

**Any issues, Contact Secretary Ruopp at [secretary@uspcak9.com](mailto:secretary@uspcak9.com)**

## Narcotic Odor Recognition Test

The USPCA will eventually need to be requiring an ORT test. Standards are turning toward all certified dogs to be able to successfully complete an Odor Recognition test. This testing process aims to identify whether a dog is able to reliably identify a target odor and can also discriminate against untrained odors.

There will be an **optional** ORT testing conducted for narcotics prior to the start of the regular trial. This is optional and at this time, does not determine pass/fail of the team and has no bearing on the existing operational testing.

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The ORT phase for narcotics testing will consist of 10 containers, either cans as used in the explosives testing, (follow those guidelines), wooden boxes or concrete bricks. As with the explosives ORT testing, the containers will have the odor or distractor safely placed inside in a metal box, metal quart can or other container to keep the narcotics & distractors physically unavailable to the K9, but still allow odor to be present. **The selection of the ORT container types should consider aggressive alert dogs.** All containers will be marked with a number on the floor in front of the can, box or on the container. (for purposes of easy identification during testing)

**Within the quart sized or smaller containers, there will be four narcotic odors, 5 distractors and 1 empty can in any order.** The four narcotic odors that will be used will be Methamphetamine, cocaine, crack and heroin. 3 different odors are required. For the 4<sup>th</sup> odor, use crack or you may use one odor twice.

5 of the quart or smaller containers must contain distractor items and those items must come from the list below:

Latex/Rubber glove pieces	Plastic Bag pieces	Aluminum foil pieces
1-2 tablespoons coffee grounds	2-3 Cotton Balls or Q-tips	Tennis Ball (clean) pieces
5 pieces of hard dog food/kibble	5 pieces of soft dog treat	Hamburger or Hotdog piece
Small pieces of Cheese	1 tablespoon soft dog food	Clean, never used duck cloth bag
Small glass jar (never used for narc)	Small piece of a Kong ball	Small sized used dog collar

The ORT phase will have a 30-minute set time.

The 10 containers will be placed in a line or circle with approximately 3 feet between containers. Care should be used to determine wind flow if testing is done outside. If there are a large number of participants, more than one ORT phase set up may be used.

The team may move in any direction at their discretion. The ORT phase can also be conducted on or off lead. The K9 must be controlled if allowed off lead and a judge may direct the handler at any time to leash the dog. During the search, the K9 must correctly identify the 4 odors as called by the handler. When a K9 indicates, the handler will tell the judge the container number before the dog is rewarded. Any time a handler tells the judge a number, they are stating

that they believe their K9 has indicated a narcotic odor. If the K9 is correct, the judge will say "you are correct" or "correct". If the k9 has made a non-productive response (NPR), the judge will say "no", or "not correct". The handler may choose to reward if the dog is correct, or he may continue on with the testing. If rewarding the dog, care should be taken to not disturb the testing area.

If the team is taking the test and misses an odor on the first pass, the judge shall have the team run only the sections of containers or cans which contains the missed odor. In other words, the handler does not need to recheck all 10 containers. Only the area where they missed.

During the ORT testing, the K9 must correctly identify the 4 narcotic odors with no more than 2 NPR's. Three NPRs as called by the handler will result in a fail. (this does not at this time affect the certification as the ORT phase is only voluntary at this time)

If after 4 attempts at an odor, there is still no alert( 4 passes) the K9 will fail the ORT phase.

This ORT testing must be conducted within 24 hours of the operational testing.

One judge is required for the ORT phase testing.

\*\*\* this testing is optional at this time and there is NO FAIL.

NOTES: An ORT phase scoresheet will be used.

JAN 2026