

## **GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION**

### **SEARCH AND RESCUE TRACKING CERTIFICATION**

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to track the scent of a particular person within the scope of search and rescue type operations. This test is open to all members. All certifications are good through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2026, your certification will not expire until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027) General Rules for tracking will Govern testing unless specifically stated otherwise herein.

#### **1. TESTING:**

- A. The search and rescue tracking certification test will be a track consisting of a five-legged track, with four turns laid at the direction of the lead judge. The length of the track will be a minimum of 1760 yards. (One mile) This test is for NON-APPREHENSION TRAINED CANINES ONLY.
- B. The track will have one cross track.
- C. The age of the track will be a minimum of one hour and not to exceed two hours.
- D. A minimum of three types of surfaces will be used and may consist of roads, woods, grass, streams and hard surface crossings.
- E. The judges will remain back at a distance to observe the canine team to avoid distracting or interfering with the canine.
- F. The Track layer (Decoy) must be a current USPCA member.

#### **2. START:**

- A. The start of the track will be marked with two markers placed by the track layer. Surface area at the start of the trail will be vegetation and the track will run at least 300-500 feet on hard surface. The markers may be cones, flats, etc. They will be placed ten feet apart and the track may start anywhere between the two markers.

B. The K9 team will be brought to the general area of the markers and told that the track starts somewhere between the markers. The team may present the canine with a scent article left behind by the track layer. This scent article must be scented by the track layer for a minimum of 30 minutes and may be an article of clothing, a cloth, hat, glove scent pad or any article suitable for retaining human scent. The team will be evaluated on locating the track and determining the track direction.

C. In the event that the canine loses the trail and the handler is made aware, the handler will be given an opportunity by the lead judge to recover the trail within five minutes and continue.

3. TRACK FINISH:

A. The Track Layer may reward the canine for a successful track 20 yards away by revealing him/herself to the canine.

4. CONTAMINATION:

A. the test track will be contaminated on one of the five legs by having another person cross over the laid track. The cross track will be laid 30 minutes after the initial track was laid.

5. TIME:

A. There will be no time limit on the test. A judge will conclude the test if the team has stopped working or it is obviously unsuccessful.

6. PROFICIENCY:

A. Total possible points in a Search and Rescue Tracking certification is 245. Certification (passing) is at 172 or more points. A second call back will result in a failed certification. **\*Callback defined:** When the lead judge concludes that the canine is unable to successfully lead the handler in the direction of the trail/track without assistance. Environmental distractions that may impact the team's ability to reacquire the track/trail shall be considered and should not be used when scoring a callback. A second callback refers to performing a secondary search of an area that has already been searched.

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

\*Mail or email completed trial paperwork within 30 days of the trial to include:

\*Original Master score sheet

\*Judges and scorekeepers list with events judged  
\*The high-low sheets showing the scores of all judges  
OR Just the excel program if used for scoring.  
Email to the National Secretary: [secretary@uspcak9.com](mailto:secretary@uspcak9.com)