

General Rules and Definitions Governing Temporary Patrol Dog Testing

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the basic skills needed by a patrol dog team to work the street effectively and under control and to attest to an acceptable performance level until the next regular scheduled certification is conducted by the Region. This temporary, basic test is recommended to provide testing for new handlers prior to leaving their training course. Testing must be approved by the Regional Board. The Certificate of Certification upon passing should say "Temporary Patrol Certified".

This certification test will consist of the following:

1. Obedience - to show the extent of control by the handler at a heel and stay position.
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 during an apprehension and recall.

RULES AND DEFINITIONS

These general rules and guidelines will govern testing unless specifically stated otherwise herein. Rules may be discussed for clarification prior to testing, but no changes will be made prior to the test. **This testing will be valid until the next available regional certification (not a mini trial) and can only be offered 1 time to each dog/handler team.** (for clarification, this means that this test can be offered only one time in the career of the dog. If the dog fails the test, they can retest to attempt to pass.) The USPCA encourages its regions and trainers to offer a Temporary Patrol Dog test to their new members or newly graduated teams as a "step up" to the USPCA PDI test.

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 to the USPCA upon retirement. If their membership is not continuous, they will not be eligible to certify their K-9.

B. A basic Patrol Dog test DOES NOT qualify a team to participate in a National Field Trial.

C. Basic Patrol Dog tests will not be permitted for the purpose of marketing or selling dogs.

D. Testing order is at the discretion of the Chief Judge, as is scheduling of participants at each location or venue.

3. Judges and Judging:

A. All judges must be regular active or associate members of the USPCA and must have handled or trained a PDI dog.

B. Basic Patrol Dog testing requires a minimum of **three** judges. At least one of these judges must be a regional or nationally certified PDI judge. This judge shall be designated as the "chief judge" for purposes of administering the test and handling all paperwork requirements. (this person does not necessarily have to have qualified for the list maintained by the Judges Committee)

C. Judges shall for the most part, follow the USPCA PDI Guidelines when judging a Basic Patrol dog Test.

D. Judges decisions are final with no protests.

E. Scoring is Pass/Fail as outlined under test phases.

F. Vendors and trainers shall not be a judge for any participant that they trained or sold.

4. Test Requirements:

A. During testing, handlers will not carry any paraphernalia that would indicate an attempt to control or influence the dog unless specifically stated in these rules. No whistles, ultrasonic devices or related aides not specifically state herein will be allowed. All of 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 judge or steward will check the K9's E-collar to ensure that the devise is a dummy collar or that it is shut off. The handler will hand the remote to the judge or steward prior to the exercise. Leashes may be used as stated in each phase.

B. Duty uniforms are not required and numbered vests are optional.

C. 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.

D. General rules as outlined in the PDI certification will apply unless otherwise stated to include the listed definitions.

E. Extra Commands are not scored against the team unless otherwise designated.

TEST PHASES

OBEDIENCE TEST

A. This test will be done at the direction of a Judge or steward. For simplicity, this exercise is set up and directed to mirror the heeling phase of the existing PDI testing with the exception of the length of the legs, which will be a minimum of 50 feet. In this exercise, walking and distance control are part of the heeling pattern.

B. The complete exercise will be done off lead. Leashes may be handed to a judge or steward, or the handler will secure the leash around his torso or waist.

C. Handlers will start and end each phase from a finish position.

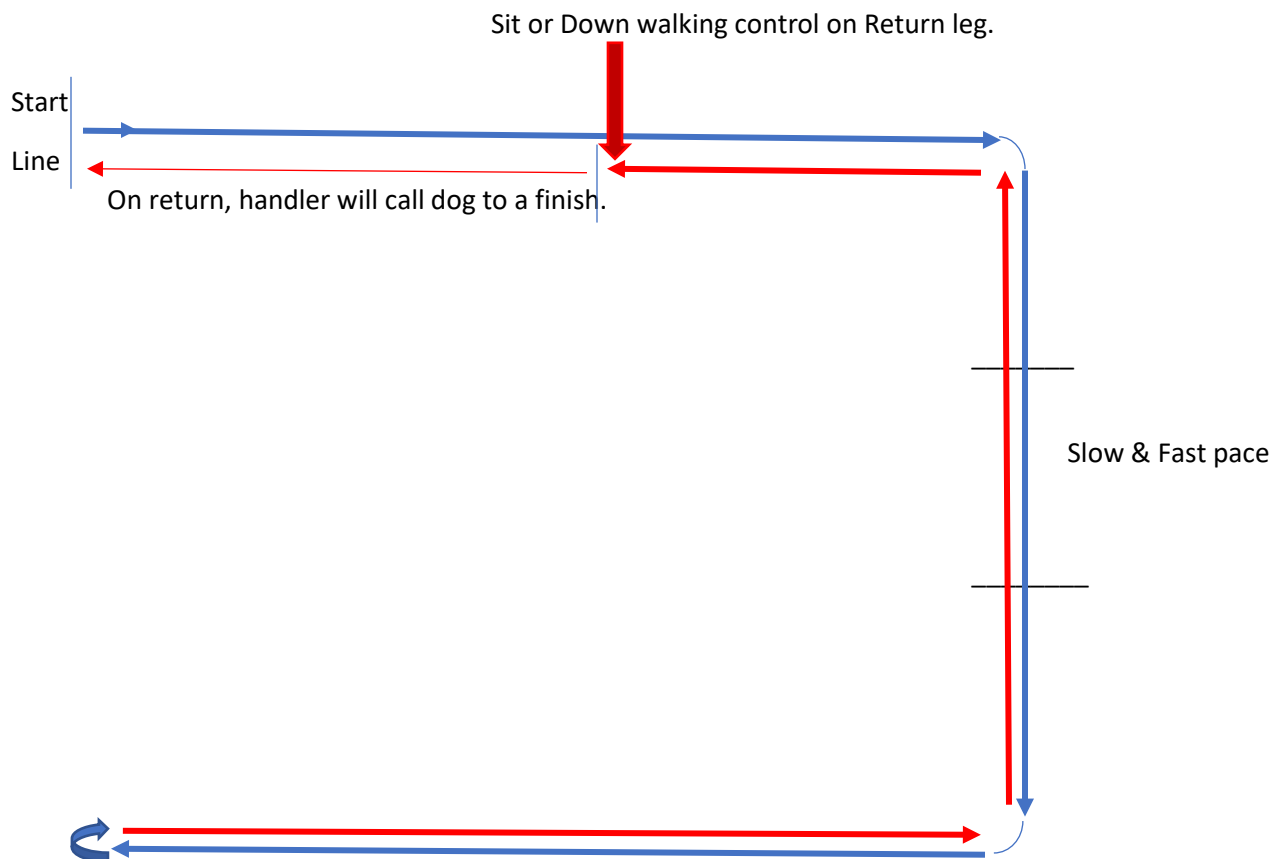
Testing:

This phase will consist of normal, slow and fast paces, left, right turns and about turns just like the PDI heeling pattern. The team will begin from the starting point and will move forward at the direction of the steward or chief judge. Following the existing PDI pattern, the dog will move around the U-shaped heeling pattern as normal until the last leg of the heeling pattern. On this leg, the steward or judge will direct the handler to place the dog into a sit or down when he reaches the half way point of the final leg. The handler will continue on to the end. (which is the original start line) The handler will then turn around and call the dog into the finish position. (verbal, hand or both at the same time)

1. If the dog moves or leaves the down or sit position on this final leg before being called, the handler may reset the dog into the desired position. (handler may touch the dog to reposition) If the dog moves again before being called, it will be considered a test failure. If the dog never returns to the finish position and the handler has to retrieve the dog, it is a failure.

2. The team will pass this phase if the dog is generally obedient during this exercise. **But only one failure is allowed during the entire obedience exercise.** If the dog leaves the handler and does not return to a heel, it will be considered a failure. Multiple commands are not counted against the team. However, the dog should be generally obedient to the commands of the handler. See scoresheet guidelines.

Obedience Pattern:



Pattern resembles the PDI heeling pattern with the walking control at the half way point of the last leg. If the dog moves on stay, the handler is allowed to reposition the dog (by voice or hands on) at the half way point one time. If the dog moves on stay a second time, it will be considered a test fail.

If the dog is generally obedient during this exercise, it can be considered a “pass”. If the dog leaves the handler and does not return to the heel, it is considered a fail. (multiple commands are NOT scored against the team)

ARTICLE/EVIDENCE SEARCH:

A. This test will be the same as the existing PDI Evidence search phase unless otherwise stated. The purpose of this phase is to show that the dog will locate items that are contaminated with human scent. Obedience will not be tested unless the dog leaves the area and does not return when given commands. (no points are taken off for multiple commands of any kind)

Testing:

This phase will mirror the existing Evidence search phase, including time used and articles, with the following exceptions:

1. The test may be conducted on or off lead. The handler will be allowed to secure their leash on their person if they choose to test off lead.
2. Handlers will not have to finish their dogs at the end of the exercise.
3. There is no penalty for a passive dog who disturbs the aid.
4. The dog must find 1 of 2 articles. If he does not find at least 1 article, it will be a test failure. Judges must see an obvious alert to the article. It will not be considered a find just because the handler sees the article.

SEARCH FOR HUMAN SCENT: The team is allowed to pick one of the two options.

OPTION 1 - using USPCA Boxes

A. This option will be conducted to mirror the existing PDI Box search phase unless otherwise stated. The purpose of this phase is to show that the dog will locate human scent. Obedience will not be tested unless the dog leaves the area and does not return when given commands.

Testing:

This phase will mirror the existing PDI box search phase with the following exceptions:

1. Contamination of the box for the first search will be at least 5 minutes. The decoy or hider will remain in this box throughout the testing process for all participants.

2. The test may be conducted off lead or using a long line, on lead. The handler is not penalized if he leaves the "alley" as designated in the PDI rules, but should remain in the general center of the field.
3. Once the dog alerts to the box, the dog will be called to the handler and no finish position is required. The handler will declare the box by pointing or verbal box number. The decoy will not come out of the box.
4. As with the existing PDI rules, the alert must be obvious to the judges.

The handler may touch the dog at any time during this exercise if needed and is not penalized. Simple pass/fail. If the k9 alerts and the handler calls the correct box, it is a pass.

OPTION 2 – using a building

A. This option will be conducted inside a building. The purpose of this phase is to show that the dog will locate human scent. Obedience will not be tested unless the dog leaves the sight of the handler when off lead and does not return when given commands. The building for this testing should consist of a hallway with multiple doors that close and secure. At least 6 doors need to be in the search venue.

Testing:

1. Contamination of the room for the first search will be at least 5 minutes. The decoy or hider will remain in this room throughout the testing process for all participants.
2. The test may be conducted off lead or using a long line, on lead.
3. Once the dog alerts to the door, the dog will be called to the handler and no finish position is required. The handler will declare the door/room by pointing or verbally. The decoy or hider will not come out of the room.
4. The alert must be obvious to the judges.

As with the other option, the handler may touch the dog at any time during this exercise if needed and will not be penalized. Simple pass/fail. If the k9 alerts and the handler calls the correct room, it is a pass.

CRIMINAL APPREHENSION:

A. This test will be conducted in a similar fashion to the existing PDI rules unless otherwise stated. The purpose of this phase is to show that the dog will recall and will obey a verbal release or "out". The decoy will use a hidden sleeve or appropriately covered bite suit. There are only two phases to this test. Apprehension with a release, and a recall. Cones or markings will be placed at the start line. 10-yard line (recall line) and the 30-yard line. (decoy)

Testing:

The following testing process will be used. Order of these two phases will be apprehension first and then recall.

1. Apprehension: Decoy will be at the 30-yard line. The K9 team will be at the start line. The K9 may be on or off lead at the line. The dog should start from a finish position. (this is not judged) When ready, the handler will signal the decoy to run and the dog will be sent off lead to make the apprehension. The dog will be tested on whether or not he remains engaged with the decoy until called out. If the dog fails to engage or does not remain engaged on the apprehension until called off, it will be considered a fail. When signaled by a judge, the handler will verbally call

the dog from the apprehension. The handler may use multiple commands as needed, but this phase will be considered a fail if the dog does not obey the release command within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the Chief or senior judge. After the call off, the handler may take ahold of the dog and put him back on leash. There is no finish required and no suspect search.

2. Recall: This phase is conducted the same as a recall phase in a PDI trial with the following exceptions

- a. The dog must leave the start line and then can be recalled after crossing the 10-yard line.
- b. Standing recalls are an option for this phase.
- c. If the dog makes contact with the decoy during this phase it is a failure.
- d. One attempt only for the recall. No second attempts are permitted.
- e. Multiple commands are not scored.

Retesting is not allowed by the USPCA rules unless a period of training is recorded by the team.

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

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