

The United States Police Canine Association, Inc.

Level I Trainer Requirements

1. The applicant must be a regular member of the USPCA in good standing and must have been a member of the USPCA for at least the last two years. The applicant must have been a full-time police patrol handler or patrol trainer for a minimum of five years and must have graduated from a police patrol canine course. A copy of the certificate is required.
2. The training course attended by the applicant for the training of working police patrol dogs and handlers must consist of a minimum of 10 full-time consecutive weeks or equivalent. This course must conform to the USPCA standards of our PDI testing to include on and off lead obedience, human scent work (building search, article, tracking and area search) and criminal apprehension. Copy of the training course & lesson plan is required.
3. The applicant must be assigned to trainers' duties for their law enforcement agency. The applicant must submit a current letter from the Chief or their designee on department letterhead, confirming this assignment. If more than one trainer is claiming the same teams(s), then there are two options:
 - 1) Training within agency- The applicant will provide a letter from the unit supervisor that confirms that the applicant was involved in the training full-time, of the claimed team(s).
 - 2) The applicant will provide a letter from the head trainer from the agency or K9 training business where they attend training, confirming that the applicant was involved in the training full-time, of the claimed team(s).
4. The applicant must have trained five police patrol teams. (handler and dog) The applicant may not be included as one of these teams. A minimum of two of the five teams must have certified in a regional USPCA PDI trial, verifiable by national records. All teams must submit a notarized and signed k9 survey form. Survey forms must be dated and notarized within the last two years. (from the date of submission)
5. All applications for trainer will be submitted using the online forms at www.uspcak9.com. Applications must be received at least 60 days prior to the next national meeting to be considered, or it will be held until the next meeting. Application requires approval from a member of your regional board. The National Secretary will keep appropriate paperwork after consideration by the National Board.
6. If certification is not approved, the applicant must be notified within 30 days by the Trainers Committee Chairman, with the reason for the denial. If approved, the applicant will receive a certificate of certification.
7. Accreditation can be revoked or removed at any time by the Association for just cause after a full investigation by the Trainers Committee and a hearing of the national Executive Board of the USPCA. The Trainers Committee can review certifications and make any necessary recommendations. Trainers Certifications are valid as long as the recipient remains a member of the USPCA in good standing.
8. Certification cannot be used to promote personal gain or profit. (Bylaws – Article 8.8)