

Narcotics Canine Team Certification Standards

Statement of Purpose: To provide recommended guidelines for certification and documentation pertaining to narcotics detector canines.

1. Canine handler team certification

- 1.1 certification of narcotics detection dogs shall consist of a comprehensive assessment and shall include elements of odor recognition.
- 1.2 A canine team will be certified annually with an expiration date of 30 days following the date of last certification. A team will be considered non-deployable should one year and 30 days pass without a documented annual certification signed by a qualified certifying official.
- 1.3 A canine team which does not pass the certification must wait 30 days before reattempting to certify.

2 Narcotic odors used in certification

The certification shall include the following basic narcotic odors (and their derivatives) that can be tested in.

2.1.1 Marijuana

2.1.2 Cocaine

2.1.3 Methamphetamine

2.1.4 Heroin

2.2 Pseudo Narcotics Will Not be used in certification

3. Use of Distracting / Associative Odors

3.1 Although natural distracters are normally present and vary depending on the area where the certification testing is done.

3.2 A minimum 10% Placement of distracting or associative odors in the certification area is required.

3.3 Care must be taken not to place distracters in a manner that causes Contamination with test substance odor.

4. Narcotics Weights Amounts Used

4.1 A minimum of One (1) gram will be used for testing (see section 7 for details).

4.2 Care will be taken not to cross contaminate when handling the narcotics hides by certifying official. Surface contamination by the dog (saliva, scratches, etc.) will be cleaned at the certifying official option.

5. Number of training aids required for certification

5.1 There will be a total of twenty (20) training aids placed during the Certification.

6. Team certification requirements

6.1 A canine team must locate a minimum of 85% of all hidden narcotics odors in all areas in order to pass the certification. If team misses more than 15% of the hidden narcotics, then the team fail to certify.

6.2 A canine team being evaluated must not respond incorrectly to more than 10% of the total number of training aids placed within the areas.

6.3 A “miss” is defined as a canine displaying no odor recognition to a given training aid or a handler’s error which caused a canine to not respond to the given training aid. An “incorrect response” is defined as a positive indication which the handler believes to be accurate and no certifying odors are present. This will be promptly confirmed by the certifying official.

6.4 During the certification, a testing area may be referred to as a “set, Session, or problem.”

6.5 A certifying official will be given authority to dictate if any given search Time is considered “excessive.” When the certifying team has completed a 100% search of the tested area and apply any misses that would result with terminating the set.

7. Evaluated Areas for Testing

7.1 The testing will consist of three parts, vehicles “exterior & interior,” building, open areas and a blank set within one of the evaluated areas where there is no certifying odor present

7.2 **Vehicles** – Vehicle hides will include exterior as well as interior hides. A minimum of 20 grams will be used with interior hides. A vehicle set will not include more than 25 cars in a single set. Certifying officials will use caution when placing training aids to ensure that overlapping scent cones do not occur. All exterior responses will be followed up with an interior search by the K-9 team unless directed otherwise by the certifying official.

7.3 Buildings – will include warehouses, office space, residential schools, etc. Certifying officials will use caution to ensure there are no overlapping scent cones of certifying odors. Narcotic training aids placement shall be ground level to no higher than 8' above ground level with a depth no greater than 1'. Certifying odors will be placed to ensure the odor is free flowing. Depth problems shall be no less than 5 grams of certifying odor.

7.4 Open Areas/ Perimeters – An open area may include building Exteriors, open fields, wood area or park areas. Training aids shall be placed no higher than eight (8) feet above ground level and no lower than one (1) foot under the surface. Certifying official will use caution to ensure there are no overlapping scent cones of certifying odors.

7.5 Blank Set – The certifying official will conduct one set where there is no certifying odors present. Canine teams will not be advised of the blank set. Canine teams will required to search in any given environment for a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes

8. Ethical Violations

8.1 Deliberate compromise of a certification will not be tolerated. Any communication (in person, by cell phone, text messaging, or by any other means) between handlers and personnel participating in the certification, concerning specifics of an area still being evaluated, placements of narcotic training aids or any other information that could be regarded as compromise prior to the termination (by certifying official) will constitute a compromise of the certification. The handler will not be allowed to continue and may be removed from the certification.