Canine Team Evaluator

Expanded Course Outline

I  Introduction
   A  Objectives
      1  Registration and Sign In
      2  Go over Class Schedule for the day
      3  Collect student prerequisites documentation
   B  Overview of course
      1  History of the guidelines to current standards
      2  Provide an overview of what the students can expect to learn
   C  Review POST Law Enforcement K-9 Guidelines
      1  Detailed review of the current standards
      2  Step by step discussion for each standard

II  Demonstration
   A  Demonstrate a K-9 team completing scenarios that meet recommended guidelines.
   B  Demonstrate a K-9 team that does not meet standards

III  Scenarios (take into account agency differences)
   A  Equipment
      1  Use actual field equipment deployed by agency being evaluated throughout the testing process.
         i  Dog(s) will be used for the field exercises for hands on evaluation
         ii  Handlers for each dog to properly evaluate the team
         iii  Training philosophies for the agency will be identified (Find and Bite, Find and Bark, etc.)
         iv  Materials needed for evaluation (narcotic aids, sleeve, suit, building, forms, etc.)
   B  Use of agitators/decoys
      1  Agency being tested should provide agitators/decoys to work under direction of the evaluator.
         i  Agency attending for certification may provide a decoy per the standards
Evaluator to provide clear directions

i Understand distances, weights, size of buildings, size of open areas and what would be a reasonable alert.

Consistency among decoys/agitators

i Evaluators will understand the importance of consistency in the decoy for the purpose of evaluation.

ii Demonstrate how the decoy can impact the evaluation through the use of a decoy and a dog.

Site selection

1 Select area conducive to testing

i Vehicles for detection

ii Open area size for detection and patrol search

iii Building size and multiple rooms

2 Tested agency selects site, subject to approval of evaluator

Reasonable test conditions

1 All testing scenarios should be designed to reasonable working conditions

2 Extreme testing situations should be avoided (e.g., inclement weather)

Safety considerations

1 Apply POST Specific Safety Policy for K-9 training.

2 First aid kit available and assigned

3 Emergency Veterinarian Identified

4 Local Emergency Hospital and personnel

Uniform application of standards

Definition of terms

1 Review of the terms used by POST for the Law Enforcement K-9 Guidelines

POST guidelines

1 Review of the POST approved guidelines.

2 The importance of maintaining the integrity of the guidelines.
Local considerations

A Prior to testing

1 The evaluator should become familiar with the agency’s policies, procedures, and standards.
   i Identify agency standards that may affect evaluation process
   ii The importance of training standards identified

2 The evaluator should know, prior to testing, what field equipment is normally used by the agency.
   i What odors they train for detection work
   ii What bite protection equipment is used
   iii What collars are worn on duty and used in training

B During evaluation process

1 The evaluator should make reasonable accommodations to the agencies’ K-9 team being tested without deviating from POST guidelines.
   i Take into consideration obedience and rate what is trained. Not all standards listed in obedience will apply to every team.

2 Test only those topics within the guidelines that are applicable to the agency being evaluated.
   i Identify applicable guidelines and evaluate

VI Testing

A How to use the scenarios

1 Obedience Scenario
   i Understanding of the turns, downs, and recalls required
   ii Evaluate based on control and position, not competition

2 Search Scenario
   i Evaluate the dog on its ability to search independent from the handler
   ii Understand what reasonable time is
   iii Demonstrate reasonable control throughout the exercise
   iv Type of alert and does the handler recognize the alert
   v Handler can identify location of decoy based on the dogs alert
3 Apprehension Scenario (without contact)
   i Off leash starting point, but handler may hold the collar
   ii Decoy 25 to 39 yards flees and fails to stop on command
   iii Handler releases K-9, but may run with the dog
   iv At a distance of 20 to 30 yards the evaluator stops the decoy
   v Half distance to decoy call off command and no contact can be made.

4 Apprehension Scenario (with contact)
   i No specified distance
   ii Command is given to apprehend decoy
   iii K-9 contacts and controls decoy
   iv K-9 must release upon verbal command and remain controlled

5 Handler Protection Scenario
   i Contact made with decoy for 30 seconds then suddenly attacked
   ii Dog must come to the defense of the handler by either conditioned response or upon command. Evaluator should be apprised of the applicable response prior to test
   iii K-9 remains engaged until handler provides a verbal release command upon which the K-9 disengages and remains under control upon release

6 Detection Scenario
   i Evaluator must identify odors dog will be locating based on training
   ii Dog must provide an alert the handler recognizes and can interpret upon location of odor
   iii Reasonable period of time should be identified based on search area and amount of odors
   iv Reasonable control throughout evaluation
   v Environments to be tested, ie; vehicles, open area, buildings, parcel and packages
   vi All odors must remain in place 30 minutes prior to test
   vii One blank for each environment tested

Evaluator’s discretion

1 Minor mistakes (second commands, etc.)
i Recognize handler errors
ii Allow for human error

2 Reasonable time
3 Test termination

i Evaluator should be clear when the test it complete

4 Time given/needed before a retest

C Failure of test

1 Retest only the major topic failed
2 Failure of any required portion of detection evaluation necessitates a retest for that portion of the evaluation.

i Allow time to re-test same day or when agency feels they are ready

VII Evaluation forms

A How to use forms
B Use comments section only if there is a failure
   1 Write brief comments
   2 Avoid training recommendations
C Signed evaluation forms are to be left with the agency being evaluated.
D Indicate on the evaluation form the type of agency equipment used during the testing process.
E Describe environment of evaluation (e.g., vehicle, plane, field, building, etc.).

VIII Reasonable application of POST guidelines

A Do not dictate agency policy
   1 Always evaluate within agency policy