

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

- 2 Evaluator to provide clear directions
 - i Understand distances, weights, size of buildings, size of open areas and what would be a reasonable alert.
- 3 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.

C 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

D 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)

E 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

IV Uniform application of standards

A Definition of terms

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

B POST guidelines

- 1 Review of the POST approved guidelines.
- 2 The importance of maintaining the integrity of the guidelines.

V 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

B 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 is 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