

# **MISSOURI POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION**

## **CERTIFICATION RULES**

**Adopted and Approved September 11, 2005  
Revised December 20, 2006**

# MISSOURI POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION

## CERTIFICATION RULES

Certification Rules will only be reviewed and changed if needed every odd year, e.g., 1995, 1997, 1999, etc. **Any proposed change(s) will be submitted in writing to the MPCA Secretary at least ninety (90) days prior to the fall Executive Board meeting held at the MPCA Workshop.** The MPCA Secretary will forward a copy of the proposed change(s) to the MPCA Accreditation Chairperson. **If the proposed change(s) are not received in writing and at least ninety (90) days prior to the executive board meeting, it (they) will not be considered.**

The following test rules have been adopted by the Missouri Police Canine Association. Each of the following tests is designed to determine the proficiency of the work dog team for certification in each phase of police work for canines. Whenever practical, a police work dog team graduating from an accredited training school should be tested and accredited. The successful passing and accreditation of these courses is usually acceptable testimony in court. Each test is based on a pass/fail basis. **There will be no fee charged for MPCA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary.**

### Trainers:

Trainers will act as Judges for these tests. Trainers will designate the area, phase and manner of each phase to be tested. The Trainer should make every effort not to interfere with or distract the dog. The Trainer will observe the work dog during each test for willingness, enjoyment, interest and accuracy. Handlers will be observed for ability and overall control of his/her dog.

### Certification Validity:

Upon successful completion of each test the Trainer will issue permanent credentials and they will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue. The team being tested must pass each phase of each test no matter in what order or combination they are tested in. A MPCA certification of a Regular member K9 team in any and all phases will **ONLY BE VALID when the K9 team is being utilized by:**

- (1.) The law enforcement agency they are employed by.
- (2.) A law enforcement agency they are on official assignment to by authority of their own law enforcement agency employer, (e.g. county, state, federal task force).
- (3.) A law enforcement agency which requested and received official mutual aid from the K9 team's law enforcement agency employer.

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*** Under **NO** circumstances will a MPCA K9 team certification be valid when the team is being utilized for **ANY** and **ALL NON** law enforcement agency uses.

### Certain Equipment Prohibited:

At no time during any of the offered certification tests will sticks or whips of any type, pinch collars, electronic or ultrasonic devices be used.

### Fees:

**There will be no fee charged for MPCA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary.**

**Appeal:**

A work dog team that fails any of the following tests may reapply for testing at the next and most convenient date.

**Scoring:**

All of the following tests are scored on a pass/fail basis. Any work dog team that fails a test and feels that they have been judged unfairly, will, at the time of the test notify the Trainer of his/her appeals. The testee will then file a complete report of his/her observations and the reasons they feel they were judged unfairly. The Trainer having been notified of the appeal will file a report of his/her observations, all testing sheets and basis for failing the team. All reports will be filed within thirty (30) days of the test at MPCA Headquarters. Reports or copies thereof will be forwarded to an Appeals Committee. Findings of the Committee will be returned to MPCA Headquarters and in turn forwarded to the testee and the Trainer. **The decision of the Appeals Committee must be by a majority vote and will be final.** *If during the time period that a certification certificate is issued for any or all phases, the K-9 team retests in any or all of the same phases **AND FAILS**, then the initial certificate which was issued in the failed phase or phases **will become NULL AND VOID**. Further, a letter to this effect will be sent to the K-9 team and their department, including the recommendation that they be retested with thirty (30) days of this notification.*

**MEMBERSHIP:**

(1.) Police work dog teams wishing to be tested and certified under these rules and by this Association must be regular members of this organization.

(2.) Associate members can be tested and certified under these rules in the following phases:

- A.) Obedience
- B.) Tracking or Trailing
- C.) Area Search
- D.) Search and Rescue Area Search
- E.) Article Search
- F.) Agility

Associate members will receive an Associate Member Certification Certificate from the MPCA Secretary which is designed specifically for Associate Member's who successfully test in any of the above phases.

**MISSOURI POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION**

**"POLICE UTILITY DOG" CERTIFICATION TITLE**

To obtain a "Police Utility Dog" certification title, the police work dog team must pass **all** phases of the utility dog testing areas excluding the agility phase.

**Prior to testing for this title, the handler must notify the Trainer of his/her intent to obtain this title.**

The testing will be conducted during a one day test, unless it is conducted during a MPCA workshop. The team **must pass each phase on the first attempt** and will be tested in the following areas:

- 1.) Obedience (**MUST** be passed to go on to the other areas.)
- 2.) Article Search
- 3.) Area Search

- 4.) Tracking or Trailing - Expert or Distinguished Expert only, **not Novice**.
- 5.) Building Search
- 6.) Aggression Control

**NOTE: There will be a break between tests.**

All tests given the K9 team will be on a pass/fail basis. The Trainer will determine if the team will be certified upon the completion of the test. **The handler and dog will be considered as a team and it is the team who will be certified. If the dog changes handlers, a new team exists and the team will need to be certified.**

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue as defined in Certification Validity paragraph. **There will be no fee charged for MPCA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary.**

## **MISSOURI POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION**

### **OBEDIENCE CONTROL TEST**

This test is to determine if the police work dog is capable of performing off lead obedience exercises. The test is designed to test the dogs ability and proficiency and the handlers total control over his/her dog.

**This test must be passed before proceeding on to any other Utility phases which may include aggression and where the dog will be utilized off lead. Revised 06-22-97**

The police work dog team will be tested in the following three (3) phases:

- 1.) Heeling phase
- 2.) Walking phase
- 3.) Distance phase

Each phase may be tested in any order and will be judged on a pass/fail basis. All phases will be done under direction of the Trainer. **No cruel or abusive corrections will be displayed at any time. If such is observed the Trainer will note same and forward to MPCA Headquarters for file information.**

### **HEELING PHASE:**

The heeling phase of this test will consist of the following exercises:

- 1.) Normal pace
- 2.) Fast pace or double time
- 3.) Slow pace or half step
- 4.) A minimum of two (2) right turns; two (2) left turns; two (2) about

turns.

Each leg of the above must be a minimum of thirty (30) feet long. The different phases may be conducted on any leg. On one leg of the course, the team must heel through a group of stationary people, group minimum of three (3).

### **WALKING PHASE:**

The handler and dog will begin from the "heel" position and walk forward together. At a point designated by the Trainer, the handler will place their dog in a stay position, (sit or down), and continue walking. This is to be done without breaking stride. At a point designated by the Trainer, the handler, while continuing to walk away from his/her dog, will command his/her dog to heel. The Trainer will instruct the team to "About Turn" and then to walk forward. At a point designated by the Trainer, the handler will stay his/her dog, (sit or down), and without breaking

stride, will continue walking. At a point designated by the Trainer, the handler will turn and retrieve his/her dog and return to place of origin.

### **DISTANCE PHASE:**

At a point designated by the Trainer, the handler will leave his/her dog in a "Stay". At a distance of no less than ten (10) feet, nor more than thirty (30) feet the handler will be directed to turn and face his/her dog. At the direction of the Trainer the handler will complete the following commands (Choice and order of command or signals will be at the direction of the Trainer.):

"Sit and Down" (by VOICE)

or

"Sit and Down" (by HAND)

The dog will then remain in a down or sit position (the position will be the handlers discretion) for three (3) minutes. During this three (3) minute period the handler may reinforce the command by voice or hand signal while no less than ten (10) feet nor more than thirty (30) feet away.

The Trainer will then instruct the handler to recall his/her dog by hand or by voice. At a point prior to reaching the handler, the Trainer **WILL** direct the handler to stop his/her dog by voice or by signal. (Note: Stopping the dog may be either by a down or sit command). Upon completion of the "Stop", the Trainer will direct the handler to recall his/her dog to the "Finish" (heel) position by voice or signal command.

All tests given the K9 team will be on a pass/fail basis. The Trainer will determine if the team will be certified upon the completion of the test. **The handler and dog will be considered as a team and it is the team who will be certified. If the dog changes handlers, a new team exists and the team will need to be certified.**

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue as defined in Certification Validity paragraph. **There will be no fee charged for MPCA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary.**

## **MISSOURI POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION**

### **AGILITY TEST**

This test is to determine the ability of the police work dog to surmount obstacles. This test will be done off lead. The Trainer will decide the order of obstacles for each dog. There will be no set routine. The work dog must surmount all obstacles successfully. The work dog will be allowed two (2) attempts to complete each obstacle. Handlers will be allowed to verbally encourage their dog, but will not physically help the dog unless physical harm to the dog is imminent.

### **HURDLES:**

- 1.) 42" - 48" high and a minimum of 36" wide.
- 2.) Consisting of five (5) jumps. The dog must go over four (4) of the five (5) jumps.
  - a.) Chain Link Fence
  - b.) Window Jump - opening of 30" by 30"
  - c.) Solid Wall - brick, cinder block or wood
  - d.) Vehicle Door Window-will have a platform or vehicle seat up against the inside of the door, the dog will jump onto the seat or platform and then go through the window. This has been changed to aid in the prevention of injury to the dog due to the change in designs of vehicle doors over the years.

e.) Picket Fence Jump

- 3.) The handler may run along with his/her dog during the exercise commanding his/her dog over each hurdle.
- 4.) All fence jumps may have a clear backing to aid in the prevention of injuries to the K-9.

**TRESTLE WALK:**

- 1.) It shall be three (3) feet off the ground: 12 to 18 feet long with 2" by 4" cross boards 4" apart. The width will be at least 36".
- 2.) The dog will surmount the trestle by jumping onto the trestle and walking from one end to the other.
- 3.) The handler may walk alongside the dog, but will not touch the dog except to prevent injury.
- 4.) **The trestle walk may have a clear Plexiglas backing (under the boards) to aid in the prevention of injuries to the K-9.**

**TUNNEL WALK:**

- 1.) It shall be 18" to 32" in diameter and 8 to 12 feet in length.
- 2.) The tunnel can be made of plastic, metal, wood or concrete.
- 3.) If the dog backs out it is a miss. The dog will be given two (2) attempts at completion.

**PLATFORM CLIMB:**

- 1.) 4 foot by 4 foot platform at least 6 feet off the ground with three (3) types of ladders or stairs attached to it.
- 2.) Ladders/stairs will be at a 35 to 45 degree angle.
- 3.) Material of ladders is optional: wood, metal, etc.
- 4.) The dog will climb whichever ladder required by the Trainer and dismount whichever ladder required by the Trainer.

All tests given the K9 team will be on a pass/fail basis. The Trainer will determine if the team will be certified upon the completion of the test. **The handler and dog will be considered as a team and it is the team who will be certified. If the dog changes handlers, a new team exists and the team will need to be certified.**

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue as defined in Certification Validity paragraph. **There will be no fee charged for MPCA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary.**

## MISSOURI POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION

### ARTICLE SEARCH TEST

This test is designed to test the police work dogs ability and proficiency in searching a designated area for articles having human scent on them. This would represent a search for discarded evidence or lost items. Trainers and handlers should review these rules in their entirety. Trainers will observe the test from outside the search area. The Trainer will designate the search area.

#### **SEARCH AREA:**

The area to be searched will be no less than 60 feet by 60 feet. It will be covered by heavy vegetation no less than ten (10) inches high. The search area will be contaminated prior to the test by one or more subjects crossing through the area at least twice with a dog.

#### **SEARCH ARTICLES:**

Three (3) articles of different composition (metal, wood, paper, etc.) will be thrown at random into the search area. The team to be tested will not view this being done. One (1) article will be of metal composition. The articles to be used will be selected from, but not limited to, the following list:

- |                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a.) Plastic credit card | e.) Wood handle screwdriver (4"-6") |
| b.) Paper match book    | f.) Crumpled cigarette package      |
| c.) Shotgun Shell       | g.) Empty metal hand gun            |
| d.) Leather Wallet      | h.) Empty pop gun                   |

Articles are to be selected by the Trainer according to availability.

#### **TIME:**

There will be a five (5) minute time limit for this test. A warning will be given when thirty (30) seconds remain for the test. Time will start when the handler sends his/her dog out to search from any point around the perimeter of the search area.

#### **HANDLER:**

The dog, on clearly indicating or finding a search article may be encouraged to retrieve it. Preferably, the handler will elect to recover it themselves. The handler may enter the search area and direct the search as he/she would in an actual situation. After each indication and article recovery the handler will command the dog to continue to search. The dog will be judged on the alert and indication to the search article. **This must be obvious to the Trainer.** The dog must make two (2) finds out of three (3) with a strong indication on both in order to pass this test.

**Failure of this test may be based on lack of handler control, disinterest on the part of the dog, biting of the Trainer or other non aggressive personnel assisting in this test.**

All tests given the K9 team will be on a pass/fail basis. The Trainer will determine if the team will be certified upon the completion of the test. **The handler and dog will be considered as a team and it is the team who will be certified. If the dog changes handlers, a new team exists and the team will need to be certified.**

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue as defined in Certification Validity paragraph. **There will be no fee charged for MPCA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary.**

**MISSOURI POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION**  
**AREA SEARCH TEST**

This test is designed to test the police work dogs ability and proficiency in search for a hidden suspect within a large area when no known track is available. The team being tested should use the wind and air currents to their best advantage.

**TRAINER:**

The Trainer will accompany the team during the entire test. The Trainer will make every effort not to distract or interfere with the dog while he/she is working. The Trainer will designate the general area to be search.

**HANDLERS:**

Handlers may select the starting point outside the search area that he/she wishes. This test may be done off leash. The leash may not be any shorter than six (6) feet nor longer than thirty (30) feet. Standard leashes, collars, correction collars or harnesses may be used. The handler will indicate to the Trainer the area in which the suspect is hidden within ten (10) feet of the suspect and call for the suspect to show themselves.

**SUSPECTS:**

The suspect will hide in the area at least ten (10) minutes prior to the beginning of the test. The suspect should be an unknown person not normally used in training with the dog. The suspect will hide themselves from view of the team using available concealment.

**TIME AND AREA:**

The area size the search takes place in and the time allowed for the search will be at the discretion of the Trainer.

All tests given the K9 team will be on a pass/fail basis. The Trainer will determine if the team will be certified upon the completion of the test. **The handler and dog will be considered as a team and it is the team who will be certified. If the dog changes handlers, a new team exists and the team will need to be certified.**

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue as defined in Certification Validity paragraph. **There will be no fee charged for MPCA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary.**

**MISSOURI POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION**  
**TRACKING TEST**

This test is designed to determine if the police work dog is capable of tracking an unknown subject in an unfamiliar area. This test is intended to be closely simulative of working situations. This is a test of the dog's ability and proficiency and the handler's control of the dog.

**HANDLERS:**

Handlers may use leads, tracking ropes, harnesses, correction collars or leather collars while tracking.

**SUSPECTS:**

The suspect will be unknown to the dog when possible. The suspect will receive instruction from the Trainer for the method and direction that the track is to be laid. **Before the track is laid, the Trainer will inform the Handler whether a suspect or a scent article from the suspect will be at the end of the track.**

**TRACK:**

The handler and dog will be secluded from view of the track while it is being laid. When the test begins the Trainer will inform the handler of the approximate area to begin. The handler will not be told in which direction the track leads. There will be one (1) fresh cross track laid at least fifteen (15) minutes after the original track is laid. The cross track will be laid by a second person to test the dogs scent discrimination. The track must be at least one quarter mile long and have at least two (2) types of surfaces which are covered (dirt, grass, concrete, asphalt, woods, etc.). The track will be at least one (1) hour old prior to beginning the test, and have at least three (3) turns in it. **Due to climatic conditions the age of the track will be at the discretion of the Trainer.**

All tests given the K9 team will be on a pass/fail basis. The Trainer will determine if the team will be certified upon the completion of the test. **The handler and dog will be considered as a team and it is the team who will be certified. If the dog changes handlers, a new team exists and the team will need to be certified.**

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue as defined in Certification Validity paragraph. **There will be no fee charged for MPCA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary.**

## MISSOURI POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION

### K-9 TRAILING TEST

This test is to determine if the police canine is capable of performing a trailing exercise in a simulation of conditions which are encountered during working situations by the police work dog team. This test is designed to test the dogs ability and proficiency and the handlers control of the dog.

Three (3) classifications will be available: Novice, Expert and Distinguished Expert. Upon the first application the handler may designate the level of classification for which he/she wish testing. Failure of the first test will require a team to be tested at the Novice level before being allowed to apply for the Expert level testing. Upon successful passing of each test the handler may then be tested at the Distinguished Expert level.

In each test the handler and canine will be hidden from view prior to the test start. Whenever possible, the suspect will be an unknown person, not regularly worked with the canine. The Trainer will follow the handler and in no way interfere with or distract the canine. In the event the team loses the trail and the handler is made aware of the same, he/she will be given five (5) minutes by the Trainer to recover the track and continue. The Trainer will advise the handler when the five (5) minutes have elapsed and will notify the team that they have failed this test. Due to climatic conditions, the age of the trail will be at the discretion of the Trainer.

#### **NOVICE:**

The canine will start the trail ten (10) minutes old and trail for one half mile. Surface cover will be vegetation and no other human trails will be present. **The suspect making the trail will remain at the end of the trail until found.**

#### **EXPERT:**

The canine will start the trail one (1) hour old and trail for one (1) mile. Starting surface cover will be vegetation, but should run about 500 feet on pavement during the course of the trail. There will be old human trails in the trailing area. **The suspect will remain at the end of the trail.**

#### **DISTINGUISHED EXPERT:**

The canine will start the trail one (1) hour old and trail at least one and one half miles. Surface cover at the start of the trail will be vegetation but will run at least 500 feet on pavement, cross a stream if available and cross two (2) fresh human trails. **The suspect will remain at the end of the trail until found.**

This test will begin at the direction of the Trainer in the designated area. The handler will not be instructed in which direction the trail has been laid. The handler may encourage his/her dog as needed with commands and praise.

All tests given the K9 team will be on a pass/fail basis. The Trainer will determine if the team will be certified upon the completion of the test. **The handler and dog will be considered as a team and it is the team who will be certified. If the dog changes handlers, a new team exists and the team will need to be certified.**

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue as defined in Certification Validity paragraph. **There will be no fee charged for MPCA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary.**

**MISSOURI POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION**  
**BUILDING SEARCH TEST**

This test is designed to be simulative of a working situation. Three (3) basic types of buildings are selected and described for use on this test. The Trainer will accompany the team to observe the entire test, as could happen when a backup officer or superior officer would accompany the work dog team during an actual search. Officer survival tactics should be considered.

**BUILDING TYPES:**

- 1.) Residential dwellings
- 2.) Warehouse, armory, barn, open areas within the building
- 3.) School, hotel, office building, multiroom interior

**SUSPECTS:**

- 1.) Will be hidden ten (10) minutes prior to the test start.
- 2.) Will be hidden in a place of concealment which is not visible to the work dog and handler.
- 3.) Will wear protective sleeve if necessary for protection.
- 4.) Whenever possible, will be a person unknown to the dog, and not normally used in training with the dog.
- 5.) Should be changed after each team completes their search.
- 6.) Should be brought into the building by way of a different route than that to be used by the dog and handler.
- 7.) Will be placed in concealment at any reasonable height.

**TRAINERS:**

- 1.) Will designate the area of the building to be used for the test.
- 2.) Will designate the area in which the team is to begin their search.
- 3.) Will accompany the team into the building and must be able to observe the test. The Trainer should make every effort not to interfere with the test, and should confer with the handler to reach an agreement as how not to disturb the dogs work, follow behind and observe from doorways, ladder, etc.
- 4.) When it is obvious to the Trainer that the dog is not searching for the suspect, the Master Trainer will inform the handler of the failure for this test.

**HANDLER:**

- 1.) This test may be done off leash. Equipment normally used, collars, harness, etc., may be used.
- 2.) Confer with the Trainer prior to the test and agree on how the Trainer will observe the test (see Trainer section of this test, Rule #3).
- 3.) The handler will accompany the dog throughout the test, and may encourage his/her dog with commands and praise as needed.
- 4.) **In NO case will the handler open any doors that are closed within his/her search area.** Rooms with open doors should be searched thoroughly.
- 5.) The dog's indication of the find of the suspect must be obvious to the Trainer. If the dog indicates that the suspect is behind a closed door, the handler will inform the Trainer of their observation.

All tests given the K9 team will be on a pass/fail basis. The Trainer will determine if the team will be certified upon the completion of the test. **The handler and dog will be considered**

**as a team and it is the team who will be certified. If the dog changes handlers, a new team exists and the team will need to be certified.**

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue as defined in Certification Validity paragraph. ***There will be no fee charged for MPCA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary.***

**MISSOURI POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION**  
**AGGRESSION CONTROL TEST**

This test is to determine if the police work dog is capable of performing exercises encountered by the police handler and his/her dog under simulated situations encountered while working. The test is designed to test the dog's ability, proficiency and courage, and the handlers total control of his/her dog.

There are three (3) phases of this test. The dog and handler will be tested in all phases **in the order listed**. Each phase is tested on a pass/fail basis **and must be passed before proceeding to the next phase**.

There are options for equipment utilized during the test. Prior to the test the Trainer must approve of the option utilized, inspect and approve all equipment used.

Hidden, concealed protective gear will be worn by the suspect. This equipment is to be completely concealed by clothing so as to provide no visual cue to the dog as to it's existence or location **or** a visible colored (other than jute color) full protective aggression suit may be used. **In the event of any safety issue raised by the suspect, handler or Trainer, the Trainer has the discretion to mandate the use of a protective aggression suit described above.**

The type of lead used by the handler will be at his/her discretion, but will not be over six (6) feet long. **Each phase shall be completed off lead unless specified otherwise.**

Guns and ammunition will be .38 caliber and **will be checked by a Trainer or their appointed steward prior to the phase.**

Whenever possible, the suspect will be unknown to the dog. The suspects may be other handlers being tested or volunteers with the approval of the Trainer, or in some cases the Trainer themselves.

In the phases requiring the dog to physically apprehend the suspect, the dog must fully engage and hold/fight the suspect. Failure to engage or excessive, unnecessary mouthing and readjusting of the apprehension is grounds for failure.

In the phases requiring the dog to stop his pursuit and apprehension of the suspect, the handler may use any command or series of commands to control the dog. The handler will inform the Trainer prior to testing as to the command sequence used. Failure of the dog to release and/or to respond to obedience commands in a timely manner is grounds for failure.

The handler must demonstrate sound tactics during all phases of the test. When a search of the suspect is called for the handler must demonstrate a safe approach, simulate handcuffing and thoroughly search the suspect for weapons.

Only the phases and exercises listed/described are required for successful completion of this test. The order of the phases and the exercises performed in each phase are as follows:

**PHASE 1: Termination of Chase**

The dog will begin this phase from the heel position. The suspect will begin at a distance of approximately 40 yards away from the team. At the direction of the Trainer, the suspect will run away from the team in any direction. The Trainer will inform the handler when to send their dog. The suspect will stop and surrender terminating the pursuit when instructed by the Trainer.

The type of call off used is at the handler's discretion, but the Trainer must be informed of the type to be used prior to the test. It may be one of the following:

- 1.) Dog is recalled to the heel position.
- 2.) Dog is commanded to the down, sit or stand position and the handler will join their dog.
- 3.) Dog is commanded to the down, sit or stand position and then recalled by the handler to the heel position.

The importance of this test is that the suspect is not mouthed, nipped or bitten by the dog regardless of the type of call off used. Non aggressive incidental contact made by the dog while

attempting to respond to the call off is not faulty. This phase will be complete when the dog is in the heel position with the handler.

### **PHASE 2: Short Chase with Gun Fire**

The dog will begin this phase from the heel position. The suspect carrying a .38 caliber weapon loaded with blanks will start approximately 30 yards away from the team and run away. The suspect will fire a **minimum** of two shots as directed by the Trainer. The handler sends his dog when the second shot is fired. The suspect must fire the last shot before the dog gets within five (5) yards of him/her. The dog will apprehend and hold the suspect. Upon the handlers arrival at the location of the dog and suspect and at the direction of the Trainer, the handler will order the suspect to drop the weapon and then command the dog to release and call off as described in phase one (1). This phase is complete when the dog is returned to the heel position with the handler.

### **PHASE 3: Chase From or Next to a Vehicle**

The dog and handler in or next to a stationary vehicle will order the suspect approach to them. When the suspect refuses and after the handler issues the appropriate verbal warnings, the handler will command their dog to apprehend the suspect. The suspect then will challenge the K9 by charging the K9 and administering a stick hit to the K9's side. The dog will pursue, apprehend and hold the suspect. Upon the handlers arrival at the location of the dog and suspect and at the direction of the Trainer, the handler will command the dog to release and call off as described in phase one (1). The handler then orders the suspect to an appropriate position approaches the suspect and then simulates handcuffing the suspect. The suspect then simulates assaulting the handler. The dog will apprehend and hold the suspect. At the direction of the Trainer, the handler will command the dog to release and call off as described in phase one (1). The handler then orders the suspect to an appropriate position approaches the suspect and then simulates handcuffing the suspect. The handler then searches the suspect for weapons. No assault of the handler is to take place this time. The handler will return to the K9 and assume on lead control ending the complete Aggression Control Test.

All tests given the K9 team will be on a pass/fail basis. The Trainer will determine if the team will be certified upon the completion of the test. **The handler and dog will be considered as a team and it is the team who will be certified. If the dog changes handlers, a new team exists and the team will need to be certified.** This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue as defined in the Certification Validity paragraph. **There will be no fee charged for MPCA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary.**

## MISSOURI POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION

### NARCOTIC DETECTION TEST

This test is designed to determine the proficiency and reliability of dogs in the detection of narcotics. As defined by the MPCA narcotic detection rules for testing, the minimum acceptable level required to pass is 91.6%. The basic narcotic odors (and their derivatives) that can be tested in are marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine and are not to exceed five (5) **different** narcotic odors.

The general rules for testing narcotic detection dogs will be as follows:

- 1.) The "Reward toy or object" used during a narcotic detection certification test, to reward the dog upon finding a narcotic hide, **WILL NOT** contain any narcotics or narcotic odor/residue.
- 2.) **All odors attempting to be certified in WILL be hidden in ALL areas tested in.**
- 3.) All searches will include a minimum of one (1) blank uncontaminated area to be searched, e.g. vehicle, room, etc.
- 4.) **Testing will be conducted in two (2) areas.**  
**Areas of concealment are:**
  - a.) Vehicles (inside and outside count as one (1) area.)
  - b.) Buildings
- 5.) A "team miss" is defined as any incorrect response by the K9 team.
- 6.) **Only one (1) miss total overall of all odors attempted to be certified in**, will be permitted for a successful "pass" certification.
- 7.) Narcotics successfully certified in will be listed by their "Laboratory" names on the certification certificate.
- 8.) **Pseudo narcotics WILL NOT** be used for certification tests.
- 9.) The Trainer will place the aids in locations unknown to the team. Hides may be high or low.
- 10.) The amount of narcotic substance used for testing will not be less than one (1) gram.
- 11.) **When testing in three or more odors of narcotics, a minimum of one (1) hide of EACH ODOR ATTEMPTED TO BE CERTIFIED IN, WILL be hidden in "Building" searches. There WILL be four (4) total finds.**
- 12.) **When testing in three or more odors of narcotics, there will be a minimum of one (1) hide of each odor attempted to be certified in, hidden INSIDE the vehicle and a minimum of one (1) hide of the SAME ODOR, hidden on the OUTSIDE of the vehicle, thus making a TOTAL of a minimum of TWO (2) HIDES of EACH ODOR attempted to be certified in for the vehicle portion of the narcotic detection certification test. There WILL be eight (8) total finds. There will be at least one (1) blank uncontaminated vehicle searched/used during this test.**

13.) **If only one (1) odor is attempted to be certified in, there WILL be twelve (12) total finds, consisting of a four (4) hides in building search, and eight (8) hides - four (4) inside and four (4) outside a vehicle. There will be at least one (1) blank uncontaminated vehicle searched/used during this test.**

14.) **If two (2) odors are attempted to be certified in, there WILL be twelve (12) total finds, consisting of two (2) hides of each odor in the building search, and four (4) hides of each odor - two (2) of each odor inside and two (2) of each odor outside a vehicle. There will be at least one (1) blank uncontaminated vehicle searched/used during this test.**

15.) Time limits on searches will be at the discretion of the Trainer and so long as the Trainer determines that the team is still working.

**\*\* NOTE: There will be a break between the narcotic building searches and the narcotic vehicle searches.\*\***

**\*\*\*The safety of the detection dog will be the sole responsibility of the handler, (such as overdose).\*\*\***

All tests given the Narcotic Detection Team will be on a pass/fail basis. The Trainer will determine if the team will be certified upon the completion of the test. **The handler and dog will be considered as a team and it is the team who will be certified. If the dog changes handlers, a new team exists and the team will need to be certified.**

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue as defined in Certification Validity paragraph. ***There will be no fee charged for MPCA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary.***

## MISSOURI POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION

### EXPLOSIVE DETECTION TEST

Canine explosive certification reflects the basic skills to meet acceptable professional standards in the usage of explosive dogs. Certification criteria for performance is fundamental for canines used in general law enforcement and reflects the types of usage that the canine may be called upon to perform daily. The explosive detection team will be certified on an annual basis. The certification determines that the canine team recognizes explosive odors and the team productivity. All certification exercises are scored pass/fail. A minimum 91.6% find rate and no more than one false response per area are acceptable. A missed explosive aid due to handler error will be counted as a missed aid in the overall percentages. It is up to the handler to interpret the dog's final response. In the event the dog fails to give a final response on an explosive training aid, and the handler is confident that there is a training aid in the area, the handler may identify the area to the trainer. The handler must be as specific as possible where they believe the training aid is located. If there is an aid within a reasonable distance, the team will be credited with a find. If there is no training aid within the area, a false response will be given. The trainer will prevent the handler from rewarding the detector dog on a false response only.

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

The explosive training aides used in the certification process will consist of commercial powders, gels, plastics, and liquid. At least six different substances shall be used for the certification. The odors shall be from the following list:

1. Binary Explosives (Kine-Pack or Kine-Stick)
2. Chemicals (Potassium or Sodium Chlorate, Potassium Nitrate)
3. Detonation Cord (commercial or military)
4. Dynamite (commercial or military)
5. Plastics (C-3, C-4, Data Sheet, Flex-X or Semtex)
6. Powders (Black Powder, Pyrodex or Smokeless)
7. R.D.X.
8. T.N.T.
9. Tovex or Water Gel

The search shall consist of eight (8) indoor rooms and eight (8) vehicles with a total of twelve (12) finds.

All finds shall be concealed from view in a manner that the canine cannot retrieve said finds.

K-9 team must locate at least eleven (11) out of the twelve (12) finds to certify.  
The search area must be contaminated by a canine prior to the search if available.

**No electrical collars** and/or equipment resembling the same are **allowed**.

There are no time limits on any exercise, however, if the trainer feels the canine is not properly working, they may terminate the exercise.

Finds shall be concealed in search area at least thirty (30) minutes prior to search.

The trainer shall conceal finds or another person directed by the trainer.

If the trainer has some doubt about an aid (i.e., no odor appears to be present) another aid of the same substance will be used and the teams will be re-tested on that aid.

### **Conduct of Search**

The canine team using the same procedures that would be used if the trainer were not present will conduct the search. The trainer will attempt to set up the search scenarios to resemble actual search conditions as closely as possible.

Spotters may only be used if they regularly participate in the teams operation and training. The use of spotters will be permitted so long as a different spotter is used for each team, and during the evaluation, the spotter will be considered part of the team. The spotter may not be a canine handler participating in the certification process.

**Please note: All communication between the trainer and the detections team (spotter, handler and dog) will be made through the Nadler during the evaluation.**

**All grievances will be made in writing within seven days of the certification to the board.**

The trainer will not attempt to change the search pattern of the team during the search.

### **Terminating the Search**

The handler may terminate the search if the handler feels he/she has completed the search of all productive areas; or

The trainer states, "That is the end of your searchable area." At this time, the handler must:  
Make the determination to call an area  
Search a specific area again, or  
Terminate the search

The trainer may terminate the search if it is felt that the search is no longer productive.

Upon termination of the search, the team will be debriefed if they choose. Critiques and recommendations will be made at that time.

### **General Terms**

False Response – an area where the dog responds and no explosive odor is present. In the event this occurs, the evaluator will instruct the tem to move from that specific area and continue their normal search pattern.

Fringe Response – if it is determined that the dog has responded off source, the trainer will tell the handler, "Not at source". If the tem has an excessive number of fringe responses, the trainer will instruct the handler to take the dog to source.

Aggressive Response – when the dog bites, scratches or excessively nudges the location of the training aid and retrieves or attempts to retrieve an aid. A dog that shows an aggressive trend during the certification will not certify. During the evaluation, the trainer will not allow the trainer to reward the canine after an aggressive response. The trainer will instruct the handler to

escape the canine away from the area and work the canine back to the area of the aid. If the canine gives the proper final response, the handler will then reward the canine.

Area retest or “Re-Fire” – only one area will be re-tested. This will be done at the end of the evaluation and at the discretion of the trainer. This will only be warranted if the trainer believes the team's overall performance has been acceptable.

### **Indoor Search**

Search shall consist of eight (8) indoor rooms and six (6) finds.

No more than one (1) find will be concealed in a room. (Therefore, no find will be concealed in two of the eight rooms.)

Each room shall be at least 380 square feet., but no more than 600 sq. ft. in an area. The trainer may make exceptions.

No finds shall be concealed higher than eight (8) feet from floor level.

### **Vehicle Search**

Search shall consist of eight (8) vehicles and six (6) finds.

Due to the numerous makes and models of vehicles, the decision upon what types of vehicles to be used is the trainer's.

Explosive finds may be concealed on the exterior of the vehicles or in the engine compartment. No more than one (1) find may be concealed on a vehicle. (No find will be concealed in two of the eight vehicles.)

The K-9 team is not required to search the interior on the vehicle search.