

VIRGINIA POLICE WORK DOG 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.

For this 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 Master 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 Master Trainer to recover the track and continue. The Master 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 Master Trainer.

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. There will be at least 3 turns in this trail. **The suspect will remain at the end of the trail until found.** Revised 06-17-05

This test will begin at the direction of the Master 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 Master 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 VPWDA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary.**

This section reviewed and revised 06-24-05.