

# VIRGINIA POLICE WORK DOG 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, courage, and the handler's 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 Master 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 its 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 master trainer, the master 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. A prong collar and/or electronic collar maybe utilized by teams that use this type of equipment while deployed on the street. The remote to the electronic collar must be given to the Master Trainer prior to the start of the test. Revised 2/13/2012**

Guns and ammunition will be a handgun loaded with blanks which at least have the rappoint of a .38 cal. live round and **will be checked by a Master 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 Master Trainer, or in some cases the Master 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. 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 search the suspect for weapons.

The order of the phases is 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 Master Trainer, the suspect will run away from the team in any direction. The Master Trainer will inform the handler when to send their dog. The suspect will stop and surrender terminating the pursuit when instructed by the Master Trainer.

The type of call off used is at the handler's discretion, but the Master 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 or recall the dog to the heel position.
- 3.) The dog will display reasonable force or detaining behavior.

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: Gun Fire Control:**

The dog will be in the heel position. The suspect carrying a handgun loaded with blanks which at least have the rappoint of a .38 cal. live round, 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 Master Trainer. The handler will then return fire with two shots. The dog will remain at the heel position at all times showing no signs of aggression. This phase is now complete.

### **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 dog will pursue, apprehend and hold the suspect. Upon the handler's arrival at the location of the dog and suspect and at the direction of the Master Trainer, the handler will command the dog to release and call off. At the discretion of the Master Trainer, the following pat down searches may take place in either order. 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 Master Trainer, the handler will command the dog to release and call off. 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. This phase is complete when the dog is returned to the heel position with the handler.

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 the 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 complete section reviewed and/or revised 02-13-2012.