

VIRGINIA POLICE WORK DOG ASSOCIATION

CERTIFICATION RULES

The following test rules have been adopted by the North American Police Work Dog 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. Master Trainers and handlers should review these rules in their entirety.

During any certification test, unwarranted aggression is grounds for failure.

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.

Master Trainers:

Master Trainers will act as Evaluators for these tests. Master Trainers will designate the area, phase and manner of each phase to be tested. The Master Trainer should make every effort not to interfere with or distract the dog. The Master 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. A Master Trainer may decline to certify any team at his or her discretion and will explain their reason for declining to the handler. **Revised 2-13-2012**

Certification Validity:

Upon successful completion of each test the Master 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 VPWDA 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 VPWDA 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 certification tests will sticks or whips of any type be used. Collars, including pinch or electronic, may be used as long as it is proven to be properly worn and inactive if electronic. The remote will be given to the Master Trainer prior to the beginning of any and all testing. **No electronic collar will be permitted to be worn during Explosive Detection certification or training regardless whether or not it is active or inactive.** Revised 2/13/2013

Fees:

There will be a \$5.00 fee imposed for each phase which is failed. **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.**

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 recorded on a pass/fail basis. Any work dog team that fails a test and feels that they have been tested unfairly, will, at the time of the test notify the Master Trainer of his/her appeals. The handler will then file a complete report of his/her observations and the reasons they feel they were tested unfairly. The Master 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 with the V.P.W.D.A. Executive Board via the Accreditation Chairman. Reports or copies thereof will be forwarded to an Appeals Committee. Findings of the Committee will be returned to the Executive Board and in turn forwarded to the handler and the Master 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 re-tests 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 re-tested 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.) Building Search
 - G.) Explosive Detection
 - H.) Cadaver (The Associate member SAR canine handler **must** provide the testing Master Trainer(s) Proof of Completion of the following courses **prior to testing**:
 1. Crime Scene Preservation Course
 2. HAZMAT Awareness Course
 3. Blood borne Pathogens Course
 4. NIMS and ICS Training Courses, IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS 800 and ICS 809
 - I.) Accelerant (Only if the Associate member is an active firefighter who is a canine handler or trainer with their fire department and is assigned arson investigation duties through the use of the trained Accelerant K9 for that department.) **This test certification will not be valid for any private or non Fire/Law Enforcement Department investigation. The Associate member accelerant canine handler must provide the testing Master Trainer(s) Proof of Completion of the following courses prior to testing:**
 1. Crime Scene Preservation Course
 2. HAZMAT Awareness Course
 3. Blood borne Pathogens Course
 4. NIMS and ICS Training Courses, IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS 800 and ICS 809

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

This complete section reviewed and/or revised 02-13-12.