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SPECIALTY K-9 PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR FIREARMS DETECTION

The K-9 team shall successfully pass agency qualification standards related to the specialty skill of Firearms Detection. While under the direction and control of the handler, the K-9 must find all of the Firearms/components in order to successfully complete the Firearms Detection evaluation.

Firearms Detection Considerations:

The concealment of Firearms/components in the test area will be appropriate to the type of detection being evaluated.

The evaluators and assistants will take the precautions necessary to prevent scent contamination of the Firearms/components or the test area.

If possible, the Firearms/components should not belong to or be handled by the evaluators. The Firearms/components may not be handled by or belong to the handler being evaluated.

Test areas shall simulate the team's typical work environment, including typical distractions, physical challenges, and concealment locations.

The K-9 shall alert, signaling a find to the handler when the Firearms/components is detected. The K-9 team should indicate the approximate location of the item.

K-9 teams that fail the evaluation must wait 2 weeks to retest and show documentation of specific related training.

The evaluation, pass or fail, shall be documented with a copy turned into the K-9 leader and Training Officer.

Any firearms used for a field exercise, whether training or testing, must not contain any ammunition. Prior to placement of any firearms, they should be cleared and made safe!

K-9 TEAM FIREARMS DETECTION TEST

CRITICAL TASKS: LOCATE FIREARMS/COMPONENTS AND DEMONSTRATE REASONABLE CONTROL

The K-9 team must be proficient in locating Firearms and their related components (referred to as Firearms/components). Firearms/components to be used during the evaluation will consist of the firearm (long guns and/or handguns), and major firearm components (barrels, magazines, etc.). When the Firearms/components are detected, the K-9 will alert, signaling the find to the handler.

One to three Firearms/components will be concealed and placed in an outside area approximately 100 feet by 100 feet, uncontaminated by similar scents, with ground cover or other concealment. The number of Firearms/components in the test area will be unknown to the team being evaluated. The Firearms/components must be accessible to the K-9 but do not need to be visible. At least one of the items must be a handgun or long gun. All Firearms/components must be in place 1 hour prior to the test and should not belong to or have been handled by the team being tested. When the Firearms/component is detected, the K-9 will alert, signaling the find to the handler. The K-9 team must indicate the approximate location of the Firearms/components. The K-9 team must locate all items in order to successfully complete the evaluation. The K-9 team will have one hour to complete the test.

Prerequisites: All handler sign-offs and all K-9 Foundation Skills must be complete and current. All Firearms Prerequisite Skills shall be signed off prior to evaluation.

All teams shall re-certify on the above "Detection Test" every year to maintain active status as a Firearms Detection K-9. Re-certification must occur within one month, either before or after, the anniversary month. The anniversary month is the month in which the original certification test was taken. For example, if a team originally took their certification test on March 15, they must re-certify between February 1 and April 30. If a team fails to re-certify during the prescribed period, the team must repeat the Prerequisite Skills prior to evaluation.

Evaluator Requirements: Two evaluators are required for testing. For the initial testing period of six months, any team member qualified as an area search evaluator may conduct testing. After this period, the primary evaluator must have passed the Firearms Detection Test. A second evaluator must be a mission ready handler in any discipline.

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FIREARMS DETECTION PREREQUISITE SKILLS

The K-9 team must demonstrate the ability to find/locate the following Firearms/components at a training session in a search area not to exceed 50 feet by 50 feet. Firearms/components are to be placed 30 minutes before the K-9 team begins. The team will have 30 minutes to complete each sign-off. These sign-offs may or may not be completed on the same day. The Firearms/component's location will not be known to the team being tested.

Handler: _____ **K-9:** _____

1. Handgun (must not contain any live ammunition) The K-9 shall locate and alert on a handgun.

Date: _____ Evaluator: _____

2. Long gun (must not contain any live ammunition) The K-9 shall locate and alert on a long gun.

Date: _____ Evaluator: _____

3. Major gun component (magazine, barrel, etc.) The K-9 shall locate and alert on a major component from a handgun or long gun.

Date: _____ Evaluator: _____

Exposure Firearms/Components (Required)

1. Spent casings (age/handling _____)

K-9 Response: _____

2. Gun oil on sterile gauze

K-9 Response: _____

3. Gun cleaning solvent on sterile gauze

K-9 Response: _____

Training Log Check Complete: _____

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K-9 TEAM EVALUATION FOR FIREARMS DETECTION

Name of Handler: _____

Name of K-9: _____

Name of Primary Evaluator: _____

Name of Co-Evaluator: _____

Date: _____

All Handler sign-offs current and complete? _____

All K-9 Foundation Skills current within 2 years? _____

All K-9 Firearms Prerequisite Skills complete within past 6 months? _____

Firearms/Components Placement Time _____

Test Start Time _____

Test End Time _____

Outside area search for Firearms/components:

Pass _____

Fail _____

Types of Firearms/Components used in evaluation:

- | | | | | |
|----------|---------|-------------|----|-----|
| 1. _____ | Located | Not Located | | |
| 2. _____ | Located | Not Located | or | N/A |
| 3. _____ | Located | Not Located | or | N/A |

Distractions:

Comments:

Evaluators' Signatures:

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