Carolina Canine Academy LLC

Handler’s Certification Form

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Agency Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dog’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dog’s Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What certification are you doing? (Circle One)

Single Purpose Narcotic Dual Purpose Narcotic

Have you certified before? (Circle One)

Yes No

Carolina Canine Academy

Single-Purpose and Dual-Purpose Standards and Certification Test

**Prerequisites**

All K-9s Certifying through Carolina Canine Academy LLC must posses a Class 1 or Class 2 Certification through the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and be currently employed by a Law Enforcement Agency within the State of South Carolina. Part time and reserve officers are acceptable.

**Your certification will be for 1 year from today’s date.**

Prior to certifying, a handler must have completed the following,

* 4 Week or a 12 week (Single Purpose K-9 Handlers Class or Dual-Purpose Handlers Class).
* Pass the written exam provided by Carolina Canine Academy LLC (CCAK9).

-OR-

* Have completed a handler’s course with a different company/agency for either single or dual-purpose K-9s.

Regardless of your intentions of certifying either Single Purpose Narcotics or Dual-Purpose Patrol K-9. Your K-9 will be subjected to a temperament test.

Temperament Test

The temperament test is utilized to ensure that the K-9 has some level of sociability. This test is critical in today’s world of K-9 and is used to not only waive the liability from CCAK9, but also the department and team itself.

The canine must be able to be approached by the certifying official. Although the certifying official will not touch the K-9, the K-9 must not do the following to pass.

Attempt to bite, lunge, or bark uncontrollably at the certification official.

We will also monitor your K-9 throughout your testing. Your K-9 must not become aggressive towards the handler and certifying official throughout the testing process.

For example, your K-9 cannot bite you during searching exercises.

Narcotic Certification Standards

Our narcotic test incorporates three primary areas of searching. Vehicles, large open areas, and interior room searches. This search has been designed to improve on the basic 4 room narcotic search for a certification. This certification is designed to allow the handler to certify on a host of scenarios as well as incorporate blanks in their searching.

Prior to any handler running through the narcotic certification. The certifying official must allow/do the following,

* Obtain the required narcotic odors from the certifying handler’s department.
* A proper verification of the odor obtained from the handler’s department to include proper weight.
* Allow the odor to sit or “cook” for a period of no more than 20 minutes.
* Answer any questions given by the handler prior to starting to ensure a successful understanding of the task at hand.
* Ensure safety of the overall testing procedures.
* Ensure the weights of the narcotic odor is not small enough where the K-9 may not have a change of behavior towards the odor.
* Provide clean search areas that have not been recently utilized training narcotic K-9s.

**Narcotic types**

K-9 teams will only be required to alert to three narcotic odors to pass. These odors are heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine. LSD and other hallucinogens stimulants (ecstasy) are optional. Marijuana is also optional due to the ever-changing laws within the various states within the United States. The certifying official will ask the handler if they want marijuana and or hallucinogens utilized within the searches.

**Grounds for Failure**

K-9 teams will not certify if the following holds true,

* The K-9 becomes aggressive towards the handler and or certifier.
* The K-9 does not alert to one of the required narcotic odors. The only way that this would hold true is if the K-9 simply walks past the odor with no change of behavior to the odor of narcotics or has no change of behavior during the search to the odor of narcotics.
* The K-9 Handler team does NOT complete the three required search venues with successful finds of all required narcotic odors placed.

**If you Fail**

Any detection team that fails to locate a narcotic odor and does not give the K-9 the ability to effectively search the given area in order to find the narcotic odor will be given a chance to re-attempt to search the area or venue that was missed at the certifier’s discretion.

Teams will not get this chance if the K-9 simply walks by the odor or has no change of behavior to the odor of narcotics in the given area. This indicates a training issue not a handler issue.

Teams that do not pass the required testing phases will also be given an option to retest on the same day or another certification day will be rescheduled.

**Testing Phase**

Testing will include searching vehicles, buildings, and open areas. Handler teams must pass the previous search to continue and advance onto the next search area.

**Handler Requirements**

All K-9 handlers during the test must tell the certifying official when the K-9 has alerted. For instance, the K-9 handler must say, “alert” or “found it”. This ensures that the certifying official knows that the handler knows that his dog has alerted to the odor of narcotics and will be recorded.

**K-9 Team Requirements**

The K-9 must be able to alert to all the narcotic odors at “source”. The term “source” means the greatest concentration of narcotic odor at a given time. The K-9 Team only needs to alert to Heroin, Methamphetamine, and Cocaine to pass with the option of utilizing LSD, or Marijuana, but is not required.

The K-9 handler must not call any false alerts as this may be grounds for failing the certification.

All K-9 teams must not go over their time limit as described for each search venue.

**Buildings**

**Goal –** This test is utilized to ensure that the K-9 being tested knows the three odors that are required to certify.

The certification official will designate five rooms to be searched. One room will be a blank room with no narcotic odor present, while the other four rooms will have a narcotic odor placed in them.

Time limit of 5 minutes per room.

-MUST PASS “BUILDINGS” TO CONTINUE-

Vehicles

**Goal –** This test is utilized to ensure that the K-9 certifying can properly search one vehicle without alerting to the vehicle when no odor is present, and properly alert to the vehicle that has the narcotic odor present. Vehicles are the primary duty of most canine LEO teams thus only one odor is placed, and the other three vehicles are blanks.

The certification official will provide 4 vehicles to be utilized in searching. There will only be 1 odor placed during this performance test. This odor will be placed within the interior of one of the designated vehicles. The handler must only call his “alert”. There is no need to search the interior of the vehicle once the alert has been called.

Time limit of 5 minutes per vehicle.

-MUST PASS “VEHICLES” TO CONTINUE-

Open Area

**Goal –** The goal of this test is to see whether the handler and K-9 can quickly and effectively search a large open area for narcotics.

The certification official will designate a large field to be utilized in searching. This field will only have one odor placed within the designated boundaries of the search area.

There is no time limit for the search.

Once all tasks are successfully completed. The K-9 team will be given a certification of successful completion that lasts for 1 year.