

Police Canine Training Standards

Course Curriculum and Administrative Procedures

January 2003



**Municipal Police
Training Council**

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
80 South Swan Street, Albany, New York 12210

www.criminaljustice.ny.gov



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Definitions

When used herein, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated:

- A) **Police Canine Basic Training Course** means the original fundamental course of Police Canine Training, as approved by the commissioner.
- B) **Police Patrol Canine** means the police canine team has satisfactorily completed all phases of Police Patrol Canine certification.
- C) **Police Tracking Canine** means the police canine team has satisfactorily completed all phases of Police Tracking Canine certification.
- D) **Article Search/Scent Detection Canine** means the police canine team has satisfactorily completed all phases of Article Search/Scent Detection Canine certification.
- E) **Police Narcotics Detection Canine** means the police canine team has satisfactorily completed all phases of Police Narcotics Detection Canine certification.
- F) **Police Explosives Detection Canine** means the police canine team has satisfactorily completed all phases of Police Explosives Detection Canine certification.
- G) The term **commissioner** means the Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services or designee.
- H) The term **council**, or MPTC means the Municipal Police Training Council.
- I) The term **director** means the director or other head of a police training school.
- J) The term **Police Canine In-service Training Program** means a series or sequence of periodic "in-service" training courses, as approved by the commissioner.
- K) The term **municipality** means any county, city, town, park commissioner, village, police authority or police district in the State.
- L) The term **police officer** means a person as defined in Section 1.20(34) of the Criminal Procedure Law of New York.
- M) The term **peace officer** shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 2.10 of the Criminal Procedure Law.
- N) The term **school** means any training school held exclusively for police officers as approved by the commissioner.

- O) The term **Dual - Purpose Canine Team** means the canine team is certified in Police Patrol and Narcotics or Explosives Detection.

- P) The term **Police Explosives Detection Canine** means a canine trained and certified as capable of locating substances listed as explosives described on a list maintained by the Division of Criminal Justice Services. Said list may be changed at any time, subject to review by the Council at its next regularly scheduled meeting. (See Appendix I)

Section I

Scope and Purpose of Standards

These regulations are intended to promote continued instruction and study in the attitudes, knowledge and skills involved in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of police canine work. The minimum standards herein described, are designed as the minimum acceptable level of training and performance. **Police departments and trainers are encouraged to exceed the minimum standard wherever possible.**

Pursuant to the provisions of the New York State Executive Law, the Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services is empowered to issue certificates to police/peace officers, attesting to their satisfactory completion of police canine training programs. Certificates shall be issued at the discretion of the commissioner.

Nothing in this standard shall limit, or be construed as limiting, the power of any police department or any other agency or department of any municipality, to enact rules and regulations which establish a higher standard of training than the minimum required herein.

Section II

General Requirements for Certification

I Curriculum approval requirements –

- A. A director seeking certification for a proposed Basic Police Canine Training Course, In-service Police Canine Training Program, or Police Canine Examiner Course shall file with the commissioner, at least 45 days in advance of the first training session, a copy of the proposed curriculum. The curriculum shall be in a form prescribed by the commissioner and shall include:
1. Course location and sponsor
 2. A chronological listing of topics; including the date, time and number of hours allotted to each topic; and
 3. The names of trainers and the type of certification held by each trainer for each topic or area of instruction; and
 4. The commissioner may require any additional information deemed necessary for the purpose of approving and certifying a curriculum.
- B. The director shall make written notification to the commissioner, of any changes in the approved curriculum and shall be responsible for assuring that such changes do not materially alter course content.
- C. Only trainers qualified/certified in accordance with the provisions of the regulations may conduct training which is certified pursuant to MPTC requirements. All apprentice trainers must be qualified by background, training and experience, and must seek prior approval from the commissioner before assisting in any canine training program.
- D. **Class Size** For a Police Canine Training Course for pre-trained canine to be eligible for approval, one MPTC-Certified Police Canine Trainer must be assigned for every seven canine/handler teams. For untrained canine, one certified police canine trainer must be assigned for every four canine/handler teams.
- E. No Police Canine Basic or In-service Training Program will be approved by the commissioner, unless the content of that course meets or exceeds the minimum criteria for police canine training, as established by the

MPTC, and the trainer(s) for that course is certified by the commissioner as a police canine trainer.

II Record Keeping Requirements - The director or sponsoring agency shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records for each training course, including but not limited to: records of attendance, ongoing performance and final performance evaluation records. These records shall be retained for a period as specified by the State Education Department, pursuant to Section 65-b of the Public Officers Law, or in any event, for a period of not less than ten years. During this time they shall be available for the inspection of the members of the council, the commissioner or designee.

- A. Attendance shall be required of each police officer, at all sessions of training, except for a valid reason. The director of a police canine training course is authorized to determine the validity of, and excuse absences of, not more than ten percent of the hours of instruction. An absentee from any scheduled class session shall make up the absence, as required by the director.
- B. The director shall maintain accurate records pertaining to the ongoing performance of each police canine team, during each phase of training. Additionally, final performance evaluation records, in a form approved by the commissioner, must be generated and retained for each team. These records shall be retained for a period as specified by the State Education Department, pursuant to Section 65 b of the Public Officer Law, or in any event for a period of not less than ten years, during which time they shall be available for the inspection of the members of the council, the commissioner, or designee.
- C. Within ten days of the conclusion of a training course, the director shall forward the course roster to the commissioner, on a form prescribed by the commissioner, listing the names of the handlers and dogs and other information contained in the form, as required by the council for all enrollees.

III Performance Evaluations – No police canine team will receive a certification attesting to their satisfactory completion of an approved course in police canine training, or successful achievement of the minimum acceptable performance standard, unless such team has successfully achieved the minimum acceptable level of performance, established by the MPTC and hereafter described. If at any time, the examiner determines the handler does not have control of the canine, the examination will be terminated.

- A. In order to successfully achieve the minimum acceptable level of performance, each team must receive a rating of "acceptable" during every phase of evaluation.

Note - The canine shall be exempted from the agility phase of re-training and re certification, upon written verification by a licensed veterinarian that such training would be detrimental to the health and well being of the canine. Such written verification shall be maintained by the director with the performance records of the canine team.

- B. The written examination described in the Related Topics Phase, is required during the evaluation following the Basic Canine Training Program only. Course content included in the Related Topics Phase, must be covered during both the Basic Training Course and the In-service Training Programs.
- C. All evaluations must be conducted by State certified examiners. Examiners for each training course must be approved, in writing, by the commissioner or designee. There must be at least one examiner assigned to conduct performance evaluations at each training course. Under no circumstances will an examiner evaluate a canine team under his or her training.
- D. The following pages contain performance evaluation criteria specific to each phase of training. Certain phases contain more than one evaluated exercise.
- E. Examiners are authorized to make final decisions with regard to adverse weather conditions, as they impact upon possible cancellation of evaluation exercises.
- F. It shall be the responsibility of the school directors to make available adequate: materials, equipment, manpower and facilities, to conduct the evaluations hereafter described.
- G. Examiners are authorized to make final decisions with regard to the adequacy of: the evaluation site, facilities, necessary materials, equipment, manpower, etc., as they impact upon any possible cancellations of evaluation exercises.
- H. The examiner may allow a canine team to withdraw, during the early phases of an examination, if it is perceived that the team's performance is being adversely affected by illness, fatigue or other environmental factors. The examiner will note the withdrawal on an evaluation form and return it to the handler, with a recommendation for a new evaluation date.
- I. In the event a handler feels that he or she received an unfair evaluation, that individual may appeal that decision, in writing, to the commissioner. The appeal must be forwarded to the commissioner's designee within 30

days of the evaluation. The commissioner will determine the validity of the appeal, and notify in writing, those persons impacted by the decision.

- IV **Videotaping Performance Evaluations** – Although not mandated, the utilization of videotaping equipment, during the patrol and narcotics detection phases of the examination, is recommended. The videotape will serve not only as a record of the team's level of achievement, but also as the best evidence available, should an appeal become necessary.

The videotape will be turned over to the examiner at the completion of the examination. The videotape will be retained for a minimum period of 45 days, after which it will be destroyed, unless other arrangements have been made for its return to the person who originally provided the same.

- V **Re-evaluation and In-service Training** - Certificates awarded by the commissioner attesting to the satisfactory completion of an approved course in police canine training, or successful achievement of the minimum acceptable performance standard, shall be valid for a period of three (3) years. A certificate may be re validated only if its holder demonstrates a minimum acceptable level of competency, as established by the MPTC for periodic re-evaluation. In the instance of explosive detection canine teams, certification of the successful achievement of the minimum acceptable performance standard shall be valid for a period of one (1) year.

- A. In order to demonstrate a minimum acceptable level of competency during re-evaluation, a canine team must satisfactorily complete an MPTC approved program of In-service Training. Additionally, a canine team must successfully achieve the minimum acceptable level of performance by receiving an "acceptable" rating during each phase of the evaluation. The evaluation must be applicable to their type of certification and administered by a state certified examiner.
- B. No program of In-service Training will be approved by the commissioner unless the content of that program meets or exceeds the minimum criteria for In-service Training, as established by the MPTC, and the trainer for that course is certified by the commissioner as a police canine trainer or maintenance trainer.

Note - The scope of canine training offered shall be limited to the type of certification held. For example, the certified trainer of Article Search/Scout Detecting Canine (as indicated by his certificate), shall not be allowed to provide training outside that area of expertise.

- C. The minimum amount of training for which approval will be granted, shall consist of not less than 24 hours of instruction, every three months, in subjects as prescribed in Sections VII, IX and XI of this standard, as

applicable to specific types of certification and time allotments established by the trainer. Dual-Purpose canine teams must complete an additional 24 hours of instruction, every three months, specifically dedicated to narcotics/explosive detection.

- D. Any team which fails to satisfactorily complete a program of In-service Training approved by the commissioner will not be re-validated until completing a course for previously trained canine and handlers.
- E. Any team which still receives a rating of "Unacceptable" during any phase of evaluation, shall be given the opportunity by the examiner, at his/her convenience, to be re-evaluated in the specific phase(s), where the unacceptable rating was earned.
- F. Teams which still received a rating of "Unacceptable" during any phase of evaluation as outlined above, may within 90 days, apply to the commissioner to be re-evaluated in those specific phases where an unacceptable rating was earned. After 90 days, an entire re-evaluation must be conducted.
- G. All evaluations must be conducted by State Certified Examiners who have been approved by the commissioner to conduct that specific category of examination.
- H. Examiners must forward to the Commissioner, within 72 hours of an evaluation, all evaluation sheets including those who failed.

Section III

Trainer Certification

- I All individuals applying to the commissioner for certification as police canine trainers, shall meet the following criteria. Each person must:
 - A. Possess a minimum of three years experience as a police canine handler; and
 - B. have successfully completed an instructor development program, or its equivalent, as approved by the commissioner; and
 - C. obtain a written recommendation from 3 MPTC certified Police Canine Trainers, attesting to the applicant's knowledge and expertise in the proper application and deployment of police canine. Their recommendation will be considered by at least two (2) examiners, chosen by the commissioner, or designee; and
 - D. upon written prior approval by the commissioner, as an apprentice trainer, have successfully completed (as attested to by a MPTC certified trainer) a Police Canine Basic Training Course, approved by the commissioner and presented by that trainer; and
 - E. offer a Police Canine Basic Training Course, the content of which meets or exceeds the minimum criteria as established by the MPTC; and
 - F. have trained two (2) police canine teams, one of which may be his or her own, which has successfully achieved the minimum acceptable level of performance as established by the MPTC.
- II The trainer certificate will be valid for five (5) years from the date of issuance, unless revoked by the commissioner prior to expiration.
- III A trainer's certification will be renewed upon verification that the individual trainer has offered a Police Canine Basic Training Course, within the current certification period:
 - A. The content of which meets or exceeds the minimum criteria as established by the MPTC; and
 - B. trained at least one additional new police canine team, other than his or her own, which has successfully achieved the minimum acceptable level of performance as established by the MPTC.

Section IV

Maintenance Trainer Certification

- I All individuals applying to the commissioner for certification as a maintenance trainer, shall meet the following criteria. Each person must:
 - A. Possess a minimum of three years experience as a police canine handler; and
 - B. have successfully completed an instructor development program, or its equivalent, as approved by the commissioner; and
 - C. upon written prior approval by the commissioner, as an apprentice maintenance trainer, have successfully completed (as attested to by a MPTC certified trainer) a police canine maintenance training course, approved by the commissioner and presented by that maintenance trainer; and
 - D. have maintenance trained two (2) police canine teams, one of which may be his or her own, which has successfully achieved the minimum acceptable level of performance as established by the MPTC.
- II The maintenance trainer certificate will be valid for five (5) years from the date of issuance, unless revoked by the commissioner prior to expiration.
- III A maintenance trainer's certification will be renewed upon verification the individual trainer has offered a Police Canine In-service Training Course within the current certification period:
 - A. The content of which meets or exceeds the minimum criteria as established by the MPTC; and
 - B. the trainer has maintenance trained at least one additional police canine team, other than his or her own, which has successfully achieved the minimum acceptable level of performance as established by the MPTC.

Section V

Examiner Certification

- I The commissioner will arrange to train a group of police canine examiners, as necessary. These examiners will evaluate existing police canine teams in order to determine which teams successfully meet the minimum acceptable level of performance as hereafter established.

- II All people applying to the commissioner for certification as police canine examiner shall meet the following criteria. Each person must:
 - A. Be a MPTC certified police canine trainer (using the criteria outlined in Section III above), in the area(s) which apply; and
 - B. satisfactorily complete a police canine examiners training program, as established by the commissioner, in the area(s) which apply;

OR

 - C. Be eligible (using criteria outlined in Section III above), for certification as a police canine trainer, in the area(s) which apply; and
 - D. satisfactorily complete a police canine examiners training program as established by the commissioner, in the area(s) which apply;

OR

 - E. Possess a minimum of three years experience as a police canine handler in the area(s) which apply; and
 - F. obtain a written recommendation from at least three, MPTC certified Police Canine Trainers attesting to his/her knowledge and expertise in the proper application and deployment of police canine, in the area(s) which apply; and
 - G. satisfactorily complete a police canine examiners training program as established by the commissioner, in the area(s) which apply; and
 - H. upon written prior approval by the commissioner, as an apprentice examiner, obtain a written recommendation from three MPTC certified Police Canine Examiners, attesting to the applicant's knowledge and proficiency, not only in the proper application and deployment of police canine, but also in the background, intent and proper conduct of each examination.

- III The examiner certification shall be valid for five (5) years from the date of issuance unless revoked by the commissioner.
- IV An examiner's re-certification must be requested in writing by the agency head, and shall be renewed at the discretion of the commissioner.

Section VI

Police Patrol Canine

- I The following is the **360 hour minimum course** content for **untrained handlers and canine**, neither of which has received prior training in police patrol functions:
- A. **Phase 1 - Obedience - 80 hours** - The team will be instructed in both on lead and off lead obedience, encompassing heel work at varied paces. The handler must learn how to establish and maintain complete control of the canine.
 - B. **Phase 2 - Agility - 40 hours** - The team will be instructed in both on lead and off lead agility. The canine must be taught to surmount various obstacles, including but not limited to, fences, ladders, tunnels and walls. The handler and canine must learn confidence and proficiency in overcoming these obstacles.
 - C. **Phase 3 - Building Search - 80 hours** - The team will be instructed in proper methods of conducting a building search for concealed subjects. Handlers must learn: officer safety, search patterns, possible interior hazards, departmental policy and safety of the public. The canine must be taught to perform off lead searches, to locate and alert to, and/or apprehend a subject concealed in a building. Handlers must be instructed in the issuance of warnings before deploying a canine off lead.
 - D. **Phase 4 - Area Search - 40 hours**- The team will be instructed in the use of outside area searches to locate individuals, when no known starting point exists. Teams will be taught the use of wind and scent availability. The handler must learn how to "read" the canine and control his range of mobility. Handlers must be instructed in the issuance of warnings before deploying a canine off-lead.
 - E. **Phase 5 - Criminal Apprehension - 100 hours** - The team will be instructed in both on lead and off lead criminal apprehension. Canine will be taught: to apprehend on command of the handler, protect the handler from attack, stop the apprehension on command of the handler, and recall on command of the handler. Canine will be trained to apprehend under a variety of conditions, including but not limited to apprehension while under gunfire by the criminal. Canine will be taught to be non aggressive on command of the handler.
 - F. **Phase 6 - Related Topics - 20 hours** - The following topics must be included in this section:

1. Justifiable use of physical force, as outlined in Article 35 of the New York State Penal Law and related case law, especially as it pertains to the use of force by police canine teams. The legal aspects section shall consist of not less than 10 hours of instruction.
2. Various aspects of canine maintenance including but not limited to: first aid, general health care, the importance of regular exercise and In-service Training.
3. A discussion of proper: training record keeping procedures, policy, rules and regulations, with special reference to their impact on courtroom testimony.

II The following is the **340 hour minimum course** content for a **trained handler** who seeks to undertake a course of training with a canine which has not been trained in police patrol functions:

- A. **Phase 1 - Obedience - 80 hours** - The team will be instructed in both on lead and off lead obedience, encompassing heel work at varied paces. The handler must learn how to establish and maintain complete control of his canine.
- B. **Phase 2 - Agility - 40 hours** - The team will be instructed in both on lead and off lead agility. The canine must be taught to surmount various obstacles such as, but not limited to: fences, ladders, tunnels and walls. The handler and canine must learn confidence and proficiency in overcoming these obstacles.
- C. **Phase 3 - Building Search - 80 hours** - The team will be instructed in proper methods of conducting a building search for concealed subjects. Handlers must learn; officer safety, search patterns, possible interior hazards, departmental policy and safety of the public. The canine must be taught to perform off lead searches, to locate, and alert to, and/or apprehend a subject concealed in a building. Handlers must be instructed in the issuance of warnings before deploying a canine off lead.
- D. **Phase 4 - Area Search - 40 hours**- The team will be instructed in the use of outside area searches to locate individuals when no known starting point exists. Teams will be taught the use of wind and scent availability. The handler must learn how to "read" the canine and control its range of mobility. Handlers must be instructed in the issuance of warnings, before deploying a canine off-lead.
- E. **Phase 5 - Criminal Apprehension - 100 hours** - The team will be instructed in both on lead and off lead criminal apprehension. Canine will

be taught: to apprehend on command of the handler, protect the handler from attack, stop the apprehension on command of the handler, and recall on command of the handler. Canine will be trained to apprehend under a variety of conditions including apprehension while under gunfire by the criminal. Canine will be taught to be non aggressive on command of the handler.

- III The following is the **120 hour minimum course** content for an **untrained handler** who seeks to train with a **canine which was previously trained** in police patrol functions:
- A. **Phase 1 - Obedience - 20 hours** - The team will be instructed in both on lead and off lead obedience, encompassing heel work at varied paces. The handler must learn how to establish and maintain complete control of the canine.
 - B. **Phase 2 - Agility - 10 hours** - The team will be instructed in both on lead and off lead agility. The canine must be taught to surmount various obstacles, including but not limited to, fences, ladders, tunnels and walls. The handler and canine must learn confidence and proficiency in overcoming these obstacles.
 - C. **Phase 3 - Building Search - 20 hours** -The team will be instructed in the proper methods of conducting a building search for concealed subjects. Handlers must learn: officer safety, search patterns, possible interior hazards, departmental policy and safety of the public. The canine must be taught to perform off lead searches, to locate, alert to and/or apprehend a subject concealed in a building. Handlers must be instructed in the issuance of warnings, before deploying a canine off lead.
 - D. **Phase 4 - Area Search - 10 hours**- The team will be instructed in the use of outside area searches to locate individuals, when no known starting point exists. Teams will be taught the use of wind and scent availability. The handler must learn how to "read" the canine and control its range of mobility. Handlers must be instructed in the issuance of warnings, before deploying a canine off-lead.
 - E. **Phase 5 - Criminal Apprehension - 40 hours** - The team will be instructed in both on lead and off lead criminal apprehension. Canine will be taught: to apprehend on command of the handler, protect the handler from attack, stop an apprehension on command of the handler, and recall on command of the handler. Canine will be trained to apprehend under a variety of conditions including apprehension while under gunfire by the criminal. Canine will be taught to be non aggressive on command of the handler.

F. **Phase 6 - Related Topics - 20 hours** - The following topics must be included in this section:

1. Justifiable use of physical force, as outlined in Article 35 of the New York State Penal Law and related case law, especially as it pertains to the use of force by police canine teams. The legal aspects section shall consist of not less than 10 hours of instruction.
2. Various aspects of canine maintenance including, but not limited to, first aid, general health care, and the importance of regular exercise and In-service Training.
3. A discussion of proper training record keeping procedures, policy, rules and regulations, with special reference to their impact on courtroom testimony.

IV The following is the **100 hour minimum course** content for **handlers and canine who have been previously trained** in police patrol functions:

- A. **Phase 1 - Obedience - 20 hours** - The team will be instructed in both on lead and off lead obedience, encompassing heel work at varied paces. The handler must learn how to establish and maintain complete control of his canine.
- B. **Phase 2 - Agility - 10 hours** - The team will be instructed in both on lead and off lead agility. The canine must be taught to surmount various obstacles, such as but not limited to: fences, ladders, tunnels and walls. The handler and the canine must learn confidence and proficiency in overcoming these obstacles.
- C. **Phase 3 - Building Search - 20 hours** - The team will be instructed in the proper methods of conducting a building search for concealed subjects. Handlers must learn: officer safety, search patterns, possible interior hazards, departmental policy and safety of the public. The canine must be taught to: perform off lead searches, to locate and alert to and/or apprehend a subject concealed in a building. Handlers must be instructed in the issuance of warnings, before deploying a canine off lead.
- D. **Phase 4 - Area Search - 10 hours-** The team will be instructed in the use of outside area searches to locate people when no known starting point exists. Teams will be taught the use of wind and scent availability. The handler must learn how to "read" the canine and control its range of mobility. Handlers must be instructed in the issuance of warnings, before deploying a canine off-lead.

- E. **Phase 5 - Criminal Apprehension - 40 hours** - The team will be instructed in both on lead and off lead criminal apprehension. Canine will be taught: to apprehend on command of the handler, protect the handler from attack, stop an apprehension on command of the handler, and recall on command of the handler. Canine will be trained to apprehend under a variety of conditions, including apprehension while under gunfire by the criminal. Canine will be taught to be non aggressive on command of the handler.

Section VII

Police Patrol Canine Performance Objectives

I Following each specified training phase, the canine team will satisfactorily complete all exercises required for that phase, as outlined below, and in compliance with the conditions described herein.

II **Obedience-** Following this phase of training the team must demonstrate acceptable proficiency in the following areas:

A. **Heeling** - The canine will, off lead and on command, remain at heel until released by the handler. This exercise will consist of six legs, each approximately twenty paces long: at least two right, two left, two about turns, and two changes of pace: one slow, one fast and two halts.

Acceptable The canine heels on command and any errors made are corrected by means other than touching, i.e. verbal commands, hand or arm motions.

Unacceptable The canine is unmanageable and the only means of control is by touching. Handler cannot carry a ball, food or throw chain.

B. **Gunfire during heeling (off lead)** During this phase, one 38 caliber gun shot will be discharged (**blanks only**) at a distance of approximately 100 feet and away from the team.

Acceptable The canine may show interest in, but no aggression toward people.

Unacceptable The canine shows uncontrollable aggression toward people in the area, by growling, snapping, barking, breaking position toward people or running away. Muzzles are not allowed in this exercise.

C. **Stay command** - The canine will, off lead, be placed in a stay command, in any position (at handler's discretion) and remain in that position for 1 minute, while the handler walks in a circle around the canine, at a distance of approximately 25 feet and until commanded by the handler to return to the handler.

Acceptable The canine must remain in a "sit" or "down" position for a period of one minute. The canine may adjust position or lay down from a sit position, but does not break the stay command. The canine returns to the handler on command.

Unacceptable The canine breaks the command in less than one minute.

D. **Distance Control** - The canine will off lead, given hand or voice commands, be controlled from a distance of approximately 50 feet. The canine will be left in a "sit" or "down" position for 30 seconds and from this position, change position, and then on command return to the handler.

Acceptable From a distance of 50 feet the canine may require more than one, but less than four commands, to reach each desired position(s). The canine returns to the handler on command.

Unacceptable Four or more commands are required to make the canine reach each desired position, or the canine refuses to move to a desired position from a distance of 50 feet.

E. **Social Exposure** - The canine will on lead, be placed in a "Stay Command" in either a "Sit or Down" position, and remain in that position while at least two people pass by the dog in a non threatening manner, at a distance of within two feet. A third person must stop and face the handler and dog from a distance of 3 feet or less, and maintain a conversation with the handler in a normal voice, for a period of no less than 30 seconds. The handler must remain within reach and in complete control of the canine at all times during this exercise, in the event the canine shows aggression.

Acceptable Canine may show interest, but no aggression.

Unacceptable Canine shows aggression toward any person.

F. **Agility** - Following this phase of training the team must, off lead, demonstrate acceptable proficiency in overcoming the following obstacles which may routinely be encountered during normal law enforcement operations.

1. **Hurdles** The canine will on command, jump over three (3) hurdles, three (3) feet high. The hurdles shall consist of a solid wall with an open window and either a picket fence, chain link fence, or a

similarly constructed hurdle. Thereafter, the canine will on command, return to handler.

Acceptable The canine jumps the three hurdles on command. The canine may touch hurdles without "pushing off" or knocking them over. Note: The canine shall be allowed two (2) attempts to satisfactorily complete this requirement.

Unacceptable The canine refuses to jump, or knocks over the hurdle.

2. **Ladder Climb** - The canine will, on command, climb a ladder placed at approximately a 45° angle to a six foot high platform and, on command, remain in any stay position on the platform. On command, the canine will descend from the platform, on a ramp placed at approximately a 45° angle and once on the ground, on command return to the handler.

Acceptable The handler may encourage and assist the canine, as needed, to climb. The canine returns to the handler on command.

Unacceptable The canine refuses to climb or jumps off.

3. **Drain Pipe** The canine will, on command, crawl through a drain pipe approximately eight feet long and between 18" and 30" in diameter. Thereafter, the canine will on command, return to the handler.

Acceptable The handler may use encouragement and move as needed with the canine, without touching. The canine returns to the handler on command

Unacceptable The canine refuses to crawl through the pipe on command.

- G. **Building Search** - Following this phase of training the team must, off lead, demonstrate acceptable proficiency in searching for, locating, alerting to, and/or apprehending a subject concealed inside a building. The handler must issue two (2) warnings indicating the deployment of police dogs.

1. **Conditions for search:**

- a. One examiner may be the concealed subject.
- b. The team must conduct a search, locate and alert to, or apprehend a subject inside a building containing at least 10,000 square feet of floor space. A time limit of one minute of search time for each 1,000 square feet of floor space must be applied.
- c. The canine must give an obvious alert to a non aggressive subject, or physically apprehend an aggressive subject. At the examiner's discretion, the helper may be accessible to the canine once found. If accessible, the helper will act aggressively toward the canine.
- d. The handler must demonstrate that the canine is under his or her direction and control at all times.
- e. Prior to this exercise, one handler and canine must be walked through the area to be searched.

Acceptable **Off lead only**, the canine shows adequate interest, locates the subject in the allotted time and works with the handler. The canine alerts vocally or physically as appropriate.

Unacceptable The canine exceeds time limit, shows lack of interest, fails to locate the subject, or does not alert.

H. **Area Search** - Following this phase of training the team must, **off lead**, demonstrate acceptable proficiency in locating a subject hidden in an outdoor area, approximately the size of a football field. The handler must issue two **(2) warnings** indicating the deployment of police dogs.

1. **Conditions for search:**

- a. Prior to the start of the evaluation the handler must notify the examiner, regarding how the canine is trained to alert to an accessible, non-aggressive subject. The canine must give an obvious alert to an accessible, non aggressive subject, without engaging same.
- b. It will be the option of the trainer or examiner to use
 - (1) concealed sleeve

- (2) muzzle
- (3) bite suit for this phase of the examination, or
- (4) exposed bite sleeve

However, the subject not carry or use a correction stick.

- c. The canine will, at the examiner's discretion, be allowed to continue searching until the subject is located (up to 15 minutes), or the examiner is satisfied that the canine is unable to complete the exercise. The helper will be accessible to the canine, once found, and must alert without engagement.
- d. The handler must demonstrate the canine is under his or her direction and control at all times.

Acceptable **Off lead** only, the handler deploys the canine in the search area and covers the area. The canine may require additional encouragement from the handler to successfully complete the exercise. The handler must demonstrate the ability to read the canine. The canine's alert must be apparent to the examiner.

Unacceptable The canine is unable to locate the hidden subject within 15 minutes.

I. Criminal Apprehension - Following this phase of training, the team must **on and off lead**, at the direction of the handler, demonstrate acceptable proficiency in protecting the handler, without command, when necessary.

- 1. The canine will on command, pursue a fleeing "criminal" subject. Teams must demonstrate the ability to terminate an apprehension without the canine engaging the fleeing subject.
 - a. The subject will, from a distance of 75 feet, at the direction of the examiner, run away from the team for a distance of approximately 50 feet, at which point the subject will turn and "surrender." The examiner will ensure that the "surrender" does not occur until after the canine is sent.
 - b. At the direction of the examiner, the handler will command the canine to apprehend the subject.
 - c. The canine must travel a distance of at least 40 feet before being given the command to terminate the apprehension.

- d. The team must demonstrate the ability to terminate the apprehension without the canine engaging the subject. This shall be accomplished by whatever means the handler deems necessary. The canine may be allowed to "bump" the subject, but under no circumstances shall the canine be allowed to bite the subject.
- e. The subject will not possess or use a stick during this phase of the examination.

Acceptable The canine gives chase and terminates the apprehension, with or without command.

Unacceptable The canine refuses to give chase; or engages the subject.

2. The canine will on command, apprehend and hold a fleeing "criminal" subject, and on command, release the subject.

- a. Immediately upon the dog's release, the subject will, from a distance of 75 feet, run away from the team and fire a gun twice.

Note: Under no circumstance will any firearm ever be pointed at a canine or any person, or discharged in a manner which would endanger the canine, or any person. Firearms used in the exercises must be a .38 caliber handgun loaded with blank ammunition. A written policy and/or the presence of a firearms instructor regulating safety practices during training and testing is recommended.

b. The canine must demonstrate the ability to apprehend and hold the fleeing subject.

c. Following apprehension, at the direction of the examiner, the handler will command the canine to release the subject. No more than three out commands will be allowed.

Acceptable The canine, on command, gives chase, does not retreat when the gun is fired by the subject, apprehends and holds the subject, and releases the subject on command, remaining in the guard position

Unacceptable The canine refuses to give chase, retreats, does not apprehend the subject, and/or will not release the subject on command.

3. The canine will, on command, assume and remain in a guard position, while the handler searches the "criminal" subject.
 - a. The canine must remain in a guard position, while the handler searches the subject. The handler may reinforce the canine, with verbal commands during the search.

Acceptable The canine remains in the guard position and under control, during the course of the search.

Unacceptable The canine bites the subject without cause, after being placed in the guard position.

4. From the guard position, the canine must respond without command, to an assault upon the handler by the "criminal" subject.
 - a. During the search phase and at the direction of the examiner, the subject will "assault" the handler.
 - b. Following the apprehension, at the direction of the examiner, the handler will command the canine to release the subject and assume a guard position. No more than three out commands will be allowed.
 - c. The handler will place the canine on lead and command the canine to the heel.
 - d. The handler will direct the subject to walk in front of the canine and handler at a distance of approximately 10 feet, to a predetermined location.

Acceptable The canine, without command, engages the subject when the handler is assaulted, and releases the subject on command. The canine remains under control of the handler during the prisoner escort.

Unacceptable The canine does not engage the subject when the handler is assaulted, or will not release the subject, or cannot be controlled by the handler and shows constant aggression during the prisoner escort.

5. While the canine is on line, a helper with a hidden, concealed bite sleeve, covered from view by an ordinary article of clothing, such as, coat, shirt, etc, will present himself for a bite from the canine. During this bite the helper will administer one stick hit to the canine, in a non sensitive area of the body (e.g.,sides, back). Canine shall maintain **one** full mouth bite and hold until told to out by the handler.

Note : For the remainder of the criminal apprehension phases, any of the following may be used at the discretion of the trainer and examiner, bearing in mind helper's safety.

- a. hidden/concealed sleeve
- b. muzzle
- c. bite suit
- d. exposed bite sleeve

J. **Related Topics** - Following this phase of training the handler will, from memory, without reference to notes, correctly demonstrate his knowledge of the legal aspects of police canine activity and other related topics.

1. Part 1 of the examination will consist of 15 questions concerning the legal aspects of police canine activity.
 - a. Eleven questions must deal with Article 35, as it relates to the use of force by police canine teams.
 - b. Four additional questions will deal with other legal aspects of police canine activity.
 - c. At least 11 of the questions in Part 1 must be answered correctly.
2. Part 2 of the examination will consist of 15 questions concerning various aspects of canine maintenance.
 - a. At least 10 of the questions in Part 2 must be answered correctly.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the course director; to assemble all examination materials; administer; and supervise the written examination and grade the examination papers. The course director shall retain all documentation pertaining to the examination, for a period as specified by the State Education Department, pursuant to Section 65 b of the Public Officers Law. In any event,

examination papers shall be maintained for a period of not less than ten years, during which time they shall be available for inspection by members of the council, the commissioner, or designee.

Section VIII

Police Tracking Canine

- I The following is the **120 hour minimum course** content for a **trained or untrained** handler who seeks to train with a **canine not trained** in police tracking functions:
 - A. The team will be instructed how to track a subject from a known starting point to an unknown point, following the available scent left by the subject. The handler must learn the properties of scent and conditions adverse to it. Instructional areas to be covered must include: wind, time of day, terrain, surface changes, weather conditions, as well as age of the track and cross tracks.

- II The following is the **30 hour minimum course** content for a **trained or untrained handler**, who seeks to train with a **canine previously trained** in police tracking functions:
 - A. The team will be instructed how to track a subject from a known starting point to an unknown point, following the available scent left by the subject. The handler must learn the properties of scent and conditions which adversely affect tracking scent. Instructional areas to be covered must include; wind, time of day, terrain, surface changes, weather conditions, as well as age of the track and cross tracks.

Section IX

Police Tracking Canine Performance Objectives

I Following this phase of training the team must, **on lead**, demonstrate acceptable proficiency in following a selected track.

A. **Conditions for Track:**

1. One examiner may lay the track to be followed.
2. The track must be approximately 300 yards long, containing two turns.
3. There must be an article containing the track layers scent located at the end of the track. If the track layer is at the end of the track, there shall be no bite.
4. The track must begin and remain on vegetation and be approximately 30 minutes old.
5. The canine must alert to the article containing the track layers scent, or the track layer, who is located down wind on the last leg of the track.
6. The canine will, at the examiner's discretion, be allowed to continue tracking until the subject is located (up to 30 minutes), or the examiner is satisfied that the canine is unable to satisfactorily complete the exercise.

Acceptable The canine works the track and follows it to a satisfactory conclusion. The canine may have some difficulty with turns or require additional direction. The handler demonstrates the ability to read the canine.

Unacceptable The canine shows lack of interest and enthusiasm and does not complete the track satisfactorily (within 30 minutes). The handler does not demonstrate the ability to read the canine.

Section X

Police Article Search/Scent Detection Canine

- I The following is the **60 hour minimum course** content for **untrained handlers and canine**, neither of which have received prior training in police article search/scent detection functions:
 - A. The team will be instructed, both on lead and off lead, to locate and alert to articles containing human scent in outside areas. Handlers must learn that they have complete control over their canine by being able to contain and direct their search pattern. Handlers must also learn scent properties, wind usage and indications given by their dog.

- II The following is the **10 hour minimum course** for a **trained handler**, who seeks to train with a **canine not trained** in police article search/scent detection functions:
 - A. The team will be instructed, both on lead and off lead, to locate and alert to articles containing human scent in outside areas. Handlers must learn that they have complete control over their canine, by being able to contain and direct their search pattern. Handlers must also learn scent properties, wind usage and indications given by their dog.

Section XI

Police Article Search/Scent Detection Canine Performance Objectives

I Following this phase of training the team must off lead, demonstrate acceptable proficiency in searching for and locating articles of evidence containing human scent.

A. **Conditions for Evidence Search:**

1. Articles of evidence may include the following materials: wood, plastic, metal or paper. Articles will be taken from the following list and be changed before each canine is tested:
 - a. plastic credit card
 - b. 4 to 6 inch screwdriver
 - c. paper match book
 - d. crumpled cigarette package
 - e. expended shotgun shell
 - f. metal handgun
 - g. leather wallet
2. The canine must within four minutes, locate and alert to (or retrieve) articles of evidence which are concealed from the handler's view, in an area 30 feet x 30 feet which contains sufficient vegetation to fully conceal the articles.
3. The canine may alert in any manner or retrieve, however before the evaluation, the handler must identify for the examiner the manner of alert that will be used.

Acceptable

- (1) The canine shows willingness to search for evidence; and
- (2) may require some direction from the handler; and
- (3) within four minutes alerts to or retrieves at least two of the three articles; and
- (4) in general shows proper training and ability to complete the exercise.
- (5) The canine may leave area due to disinterest, for a limited time and have to be directed back.

Unacceptable

- (1) The canine shows no willingness to search; or
- (2) cannot be directed to search; or
- (3) does not alert to or retrieve two items within 4 minutes; or
- (4) in general, the canine shows lack of training in the exercise.

Section XII

Police Narcotics Detection Canine

- I **Police Narcotics Canine Training** - The following is a listing of the minimum number of hours of training required to meet the MPTC minimum standards for Police Narcotics Canine Training:
- A. The minimum amount of narcotics training for which approval will be granted to the **handler and canine with no prior training**, shall consist of not less than **160 hours**.
 - B. The minimum amount of narcotics training for which approval will be granted to the **untrained handler, with a pre-trained narcotics canine** shall consist of not less than **80 hours**.
 - C. The minimum amount of narcotics training for which approval will be granted to the **pre-trained handler, with a pre-trained narcotics canine** shall consist of not less than **40 hours**.

Section XIII

Police Narcotics Detection Canine Performance Objectives

- I Following this phase of training the canine team must demonstrate acceptable proficiency in searching for and locating hidden quantities of narcotic substances in two different environments. The environments must include a building and several vehicles.

The minimum acceptable standard for the team's performance (dog & handler) during the examination will be recorded as "Pass" or "Fail" based upon the following:

- A. **Basic Certification** - Using 2 narcotic substances (marijuana and cocaine), the team must locate 6 of 8 hides (hidden packages).
- B. **Advanced Certification** - After completing the Basic Certification, the team must locate at least one additional substance. The team must successfully locate at least 1 of 2 hides (hidden packages) per additional substance used. The additional substance(s) may include the following:
1. heroin
 2. methamphetamine
 3. hashish
 4. peyote
 5. other
- C. **Conditions for Narcotics Search** - The team must successfully execute a search, by locating a certified substance, concealed by the examiner, at multiple locations within each environment.
1. Each substance will be of variable weights, with the minimum being one (1) gram; and
 2. one weight must be at least double the smallest weight used; and
 3. a minimum of two (2) exercises per substance, in each environment, must be conducted.
 4. The canine will, at the examiner's discretion, be allowed to continue searching a room or vehicle until both hides are located (up to 15 minutes), or the examiner is satisfied that the canine is unable to complete the exercise. To keep the exercise fair, each room should not contain more than 400 square feet of floor space.

5. If a handler terminates the search before both hides are located, the team will be scored with one miss for each hide not found.
6. Pseudo narcotics will be allowed for canine training. Certified narcotics will be used for the examination, which will consist of two (2) finds/hits on each substance in two (2) areas. A methamphetamine/heroin test requires two (2) finds/alerts, in room search only.
7. In the vehicle environment, there must be at least one control vehicle, and one of the aids must be concealed in the vehicle's interior. No aids will be hidden in the engine compartment, however, the grill area is acceptable.
8. Substances used for examination will be furnished by the state certified examiner.
9. The substances shall be certified by a laboratory.
10. Variable packaging of the substances will be used; such as plastic, rubber, paper, etc.
11. All testing materials must be stored in separate containers, to avoid contamination of said materials.
12. No reward containing the odor of a controlled substance shall be present during the test.
13. **The safety of the detector dog (such as overdose), shall be the sole responsibility of the handler.**
14. The training aids will be placed by the examiner, in an area unknown to the handler. Rubber gloves will be worn to avoid contamination of the substances.
15. No aid will be placed at a height greater than five (5) feet above the floor.
16. The examiner will use discretion to avoid/eliminate overlapping odors.

II The examiner will evaluate the canine's performance in all the following areas:

- A. **Intent** - Intent is demonstrated by the dog through the interest, attitude and enthusiasm displayed while searching. Since intent is the result of certain motivational factors instilled through training, and directly affects

the thoroughness of the examination, it becomes a critical factor. All other aspects of performance are dependent upon this trait.

B. **Detection** - During the initial training process, the animal's instinctive reactions were channeled to achieve a positive response, when the animal was exposed to a narcotic odor. This response is of primary importance in daily deployment and is evaluated during training under the heading of "Detection." Detection is divided into three parts; alert, interest, and response.

1. **Alert** - The alert is an emotional reaction that results in a physically "readable" response from the dog when the narcotic substance is detected.
2. **Interest** - Interest, in this portion of the evaluation, pertains to the period of time after the alert, and is reflected by the enthusiasm and desire the dog displays to pinpoint and not leave the place of narcotic concealment.
3. **Response** - The response an animal displays, either passive or aggressive, toward the narcotic container, is of paramount importance. The majority of motivational factors influencing both training and performance, are related to this aspect of detection. A passive response is defined as a sitting or downing beside the narcotic container. An aggressive response is defined as biting and scratching at the container in an attempt to penetrate or destroy it.

III **Canine Performance Criteria** - The canine may be worked **on or off lead** during the testing, but the team must use a search pattern designed to insure complete examination within that environment.

- A. Normal distractions will be present in each environment being used for certification.
- B. Unknown responses by the canine will be noted in the remarks section of the evaluation sheet on any given exercise to determine how many of these responses the canine had during the examination.
- C. The handler must specifically indicate to the examiner, prior to the test, whether the dog's indication of a find will be "Active or Passive."
- D. The handler must verbally notify the examiner to the dog's alert.
- E. During an examination, the examiner may ask the handler to "detail," in those instances where, in the examiner's opinion, the alert is called on an odor, rather than a source.

- F. When an examiner calls "detail," the handler must be more specific in locating the source or aid.
- G. The examination may be terminated, if in the opinion of the examiner, the dog is no longer actively searching for narcotics.
- H. An examiner may refuse to evaluate any dog, which in the examiner's opinion, poses a threat to the safety of those present.

IV **Handler Performance Criteria** - At the same time the dog is being evaluated, the handler's performance will be evaluated. This will also be recorded on the evaluation form.

- A. If the handler fails to use a search pattern designed to ensure complete examination within the area, or does not interpret the dog's alert; this will automatically be documented as unsatisfactory.
- B. Examples of discrepancies are as follows:
 1. handler "Keys" dog to narcotic
 2. improper leash control
 3. encouragement before dog responds to odor.
 4. handler does not direct dog to detail search.
 5. handler does not properly control dog.
 6. handler does not demonstrate confidence in dog.
- C. The following rating scale will apply to the officer's performance.

Satisfactory: No more than a total of two discrepancies for the Basic and Advanced Certification tests combined.

Unsatisfactory: Three discrepancies or more.
- D. Other Considerations:
 1. No examiner will examine more than five (5) dogs per day.
 2. A handler requesting an examination must notify the examiner of the schedule of drugs needed for the examination a minimum of seven (7) working days in advance.

Section XIV

Police Explosives Detection Canine

- I **Police Explosives Detection Canine Training** - The following is a listing of the minimum number of hours of training required to meet the MPTC minimum standards for Police Explosives Detection Canine teams:
- A. The minimum training for which approval will be granted to a team with an **untrained handler** and a **canine untrained in explosives detection** shall consist of not less than **240 hours**.
 - B. The minimum training for which approval will be granted to a team with an **untrained handler** and a **canine trained in explosives detection** shall consist of not less than **160 hours**.
 - C. The minimum training for which approval will be granted to a team with a **trained handler** and a **canine trained in explosives detection** shall consist of not less than **80 hours**.

Section XV

Police Explosives Detection Canine Performance Objectives

- I Following this phase of training the canine team must demonstrate acceptable proficiency in searching for and locating hidden quantities of explosive substances in four different environments. The environment must include buildings, vehicles, packages, and open areas.
- II The canine team must demonstrate acceptable proficiency in detecting the scents of eight categories of explosive compounds, as categorized by the Commissioner.
- III The minimum acceptable standard for the team's performance (dog and handler) during the examination will be recorded as "Pass" or "Fail" based upon the following:
 - A. Phase I - Odor Recognition
 - 1. Twenty-four cans
 - 2. Eight explosive categories (1 sample from each)
 - a. Ground level, space greater than 6 feet apart
 - b. No less than 20 grams, no more than 120 grams
 - c. Cans - one quart or one gallon (consistent barrier)
 - d. Set time - Samples will be in the can no less than 20 minutes prior to the test
 - e. False hit, can is removed
 - 3. Canine must identify all eight samples with no more than three false hits / alerts. Canine can have three attempts to alert on all eight categories. Once a canine alerts on a sample, that sample and three negative cans can be removed. Breaks allowed. Canine team must pass Phase I to proceed to Phase II of testing.
 - B. Phase II - Explosives Search
 - 1. Search four environments
 - a. Open - (defined as any outdoor area including fields, wooded areas, or a combination thereof).
 - (1) Building
 - (2) Vehicle
 - (3) Package

- b. Substances per environments to include all eight categories
 - (1) Two (2) substances per environment
- c. Amount (same as Phase I)
- d. Set time (20 minutes)
- e. The canine team will, at the examiner's discretion, be directed to search four areas to include a room, vehicle, open area and package until the hides are located (up to 20 minutes per area) or the examiner is satisfied that the canine team is unable to complete the exercise.
- f. Team must have no more than:
 - (1) Two misses total in the four environments and the two misses cannot be in the same environment; or
 - (2) Five discrepancies total and no more than two discrepancies in one environment, to include
 - (a) False alert
 - (b) Poor search patterns
 - (c) Improper indication
 - (d) Unsafe procedures
 - (e) Handler keying
 - (f) Improper control
 - (g) Any aggressive actions on behalf of the canine or handler
 - (h) Or other objective factors identified by the examiner that negatively impact the ability of the canine team to perform a safe effective search.

IV Canine Performance Criteria - The canine may be worked on or off-lead during the testing, but the team must use a search pattern designed to insure complete examination within that environment.

- A. Normal distractions will be present in each environment being use for certification.
- B. Unknown responses by the canine will be noted in the remarks section of the evaluation sheet on any given exercise to determine how many of these responses the canine had during the examination.

- C. The handler must specifically indicate to the examiner, prior to the test, what type of passive indication will be used by the team.
 - D. The handler must verbally notify the examiner to the canine's alert.
 - E. During an examination, the examiner may ask the handler to "detail" in those instances where, in the examiner's opinion, the alert is called on an odor, rather than a source.
 - F. When an examiner calls "detail" the handler must be more specific in locating the source or aid.
 - G. The examination may be terminated if, in the opinion of the examiner, the canine is no longer actively searching for explosive substances.
 - H. An examiner may refuse to evaluate any canine which, in the examiner's opinion, poses a threat to the safety of those present.
- V Other considerations
- A. No examiner will examine more than five (5) canines per day.
- VI Conditions for explosives search
- A. Environment conditions
 - 1. Open area
 - a. Less than 10,000 square feet per explosive substance
 - b. Total of two substances
 - c. Explosive substance must have ground contact
 - 2. Building / room search
 - a. Maximum search area will be 400 square feet per explosive substance
 - b. No explosive substances to be more than five feet above the floor, and at a depth of more than two feet
 - c. Using three rooms, two with explosive substances with 1 negative room
 - 3. Vehicle search - Vehicle is defined as an automobile, van, pickup or SUV

- a. Explosive substance placement and search will be exterior only (to include grill, bumpers, wheel wells, door and trunk seams) using two explosive substances
 - b. Exercise will use three cars with explosive substances placed on two vehicles
 - c. Vehicles placed a minimum of fifteen (15) feet apart
4. Package searches - Any package, luggage, wrapped container, box and any enclosed object which is not sealed in such a manner as to deem it to be airtight. Examples of containers to be utilized include: suitcases, briefcases, boxes (wood, plastic, cardboard, metal), backpacks, duffel bags, or paper bags.
 - a. Maximum size of the package not to exceed 12 cubic feet
 - b. Three (3) negative packages to one (1) positive package

B. Other conditions

1. All testing materials must be stored in separate containers to avoid contamination
2. No reward containing an explosive material shall be present during the examination
3. The safety of the canine shall be the sole responsibility of the handler
4. Training aids will be placed by the examiner in an area unknown to the handler. Rubber gloves will be worn to avoid contamination of the substance.
5. The examination may be held over a period of two days.

Section XVI

Police Explosives Detection Canine Trainer Certification

- I All individuals applying to the Commissioner for certification as police explosives detection canine trainers, shall meet the following criteria. Each person must:
 - A. Possess a minimum of three years experience as a police canine handler; and
 - B. Have successfully completed an instructor development program, or its equivalent, as approved by the Commissioner, and
 - C. Have completed the explosive safe handling course as established by the MPTC or possess an acceptable certification as a bomb technician; and
 - D. Offer a police explosives detection canine training course under the direction and supervision of a certified explosives detection canine trainer, the content of which meets or exceeds the minimum criteria as established by the MPTC; and
 - E. Have trained two (2) police explosives detection canine teams, one of which may be his or her own, which have successfully achieved the minimum acceptable level of performance as established by the MPTC; and
 - F. Obtain a written recommendation from a State-Certified Police Explosives Detection Canine Trainer, attesting to the applicant's knowledge and expertise in the proper application and deployment of police explosive detection canine. This recommendation will be considered by at least two (2) examiners, chosen by the Commissioner or designee.
- II The explosives detection canine trainer certificate will be valid for five (5) years from the date of issuance, unless revoked by the Commissioner prior to expiration.
- III A police explosive detection canine trainer's certification will be renewed upon verification that the individual trainer has offered a police explosives detection canine training course within the current certification period:
 - A. The content of which meets or exceeds the minimum criteria as established by the MPTC; and

- B. The trainer has trained at least one police explosives detection canine team, other than his or her own, which has successfully achieved the minimum acceptable level of performance as established by the MPTC.

Section XVII

Police Explosives Detection Canine Maintenance Trainer Certification

- I All individuals applying to the Commissioner for certification as police explosives detection canine maintenance trainers, shall meet the following criteria. Each person must:
 - A. Possess a minimum of three years experience as a police explosives detection canine handler; and
 - B. Have successfully completed an instructor development program, or its equivalent, as approved by the Commissioner, and
 - C. Have completed the explosive safe handling course as established by the MPTC or possess an acceptable certification as a bomb technician; and
 - D. Have maintenance trained two (2) police explosives detection canine teams, one of which may be his or her own, under the direct supervision of a certified trainer or maintenance trainer for a minimum period of 8 hours per month for one year. Each of the teams must have successfully achieved the minimum acceptable level of performance as established by the MPTC.
- II The explosives detection canine maintenance trainer certificate will be valid for five (5) years from the date of issuance, unless revoked by the Commissioner prior to expiration.
- III A police explosive detection canine maintenance trainer's certification will be renewed upon verification that the individual trainer has offered a police explosives detection canine In-service training course within the current certification period:
 - A. The content of which meets or exceeds the minimum criteria as established by the MPTC; and
 - B. The trainer has maintenance trained at least one police explosives detection canine team, other than his or her own, which has successfully achieved the minimum acceptable level of performance as established by the MPTC.

Section XVIII

Police Explosives Detection Canine Examiner Certification

- I The Commissioner will arrange to train a group of police explosive detection canine examiners as necessary. These examiners will evaluate existing police explosive detection canine teams in order to determine which teams successfully meet the minimum acceptable level of performance as hereafter established.
- II Each person must:
 - A. Be eligible (using criteria outlined in Section XVI) for certification as a police explosives detection canine trainer; and
 - B. Satisfactorily complete a police explosives detection canine examiners training program as established by the Commissioner, administered by an explosives detection canine examiner / trainer.
- III The examiner certification shall be valid for five (5) years from the date of issuance unless revoked by the Commissioner.
- IV An examiner's re-certification must be requested in writing by the commanding officer of the examiner, and shall be renewed at the discretion of the Commissioner.

Section XIX

Waiver of Certification Standards

- I For the purpose of implementation of the standards pertaining to explosive detection canine, the Commissioner may grant explosive detection canine trainer, explosive detection canine maintenance trainer, and explosive detection canine examiner certification to individuals who demonstrate that an acceptable combination of their training and experience meets or exceeds the requirements of the standards. Such applications for certification shall be submitted in writing to the Commissioner, accompanied by documentation of the relevant training and experience, and shall be submitted within a period of one year from the date of adoption by the MPTC of the certification standard for which the individual is applying.
 - A. Such individuals shall be required to submit proof of successful completion of the explosives safe handling course established by the MPTC, or possess an acceptable certification as a bomb technician.