

Patrol Dog Certification Scenarios

1. Shots Fired Scenario

This Scenario has been designed to evaluate the Patrol Dog Critical Skills in a single scenario to assure the certificant is sufficiently skillful to challenge the total evaluation. Of particular interest are the following behaviors.

1. Sociability.
2. Discipline/Control.
3. Gunsureness.
4. Handler Protection (Combat/Defense skill).
5. Pain Tolerance.
6. Disengage.
7. Handler Skill.

The Handler and Dog shall be deployed in this scenario via radio communications. Once the first radio transmission is received, the scenario evaluation begins. They shall first be dispatched to report to an on-scene officer (Evaluator) for a deployment briefing. After being briefed, the Handler shall then command or signal the Dog to Heel as s/he advances approximately 100 feet to meet a group of three Handlers and Dogs who are part of the scenario. At approximately the midpoint, a series of obstacles shall be encountered which will require the Handler and Dog to execute at least one right turn and one left turn to negotiate.



Upon reaching the other Handlers and Dogs, the Handler shall be advised to take a position at the front of the group. S/He shall Heel in serpentine fashion through the group of Handlers whose Dogs are lying at their sides.

Upon arriving at the front of the group, the Handler shall be dispatched to advance quickly to another scenario position and standby. S/he shall leave the group and jog to the assigned position. While en route, the Handler and Dog shall have to negotiate a (simulated) fence which is about 39 inches high, and then continue jogging. At a point beyond the fence, the Handler shall receive a dispatch to go to an assigned location and standby for further communication.

A short time after the Handler arrives at the location, two shots (blank gun) shall be fired from a designated location in the crime scene. The Handler shall not be advised whether these are suspect or police rounds. S/he shall find the nearest cover and take a safe position.

Next, the Handler shall observe a group of at least three people walking in his/her direction. The Handler shall stop the group and conduct a field interview with each person, utilizing whatever departmental procedures s/he has been trained in, while using the Dog as a backup.



One of these persons will assault the Handler while being interviewed. The Handler shall not know ahead of time which person will become hostile. The Handler shall take evasive action and the Dog must defend its Handler immediately and attempt to subdue. The Handler shall deal with the assault as tactically as possible, with special emphasis on not losing focus on the other persons in the group, giving lawful orders as appropriate. The attacker shall suddenly brandish an impact weapon and inflict at least two strikes on the Dog.

The Dog shall continue attempting to subdue the attacker, in spite of the blows, until s/he begins to exhibit a distinct change of behavior. S/he shall clearly want to give up and show signs of extreme fear. S/he shall make defensive gestures toward the Dog, as if trying to protect him/herself from further injury. At this point the Handler shall Disengage the Dog. When the Dog Disengages, the person shall continue to act fearful. The actions shall be vigorous and loud, but clearly fearful. S/he will not stand still, but neither will s/he be threatening. Once the Dog Disengages, the Handler shall take control of the group once more and make such radio transmissions as are appropriate. At this point the Dog shall remain alert and quiet while the Handler completes the frisk and places the individual in custody.



The Handler shall remand the arrestee to the responding backup officer (Evaluator) and then complete the interview of the other persons. The scenario shall not be concluded until all persons have been interviewed, in the event the first or second person commits the assault.

8. Procedures.

1. The Dog being tested should be muzzled and shall be off-leash during this scenario, up to the point where three persons are field interviewed. The Dog shall be unmuzzled for the field interview. If the Dog is being tested unmuzzled throughout the entire examination, it may begin so at this point.
2. The group of Handlers and their muzzled Dogs that are assisting shall be positioned about 10 feet apart. These Dogs shall be maintained on-leash.
3. After the Handler and Dog have exited the group, they are excused from the immediate area.
4. The hurdle obstacle shall be a chain-link or similar-type fence. It shall be at least 39 inches high and see-through. The Dog shall demonstrate a Stand-, Sit-, or Down-in-Place on command after it jumps the hurdle. The Handler shall then negotiate the same obstacle before resuming movement in the scenario.

5. The firearm used to evaluate gunsureness should be about as loud as a 9mm handgun. The distance from gun to Dog should be at least 60 feet.
6. The group to be interviewed shall be moving in a line facing and perpendicular to the Handler and Dog. They shall be at least six feet in front of the approaching Handler and Dog. The members of the group should be about 10 feet apart from each other. They shall be moving at a walking speed.
7. The strikes to the Dog shall be of medium intensity on the less sensitive parts of the body.

2. Tracking Scenario.

0. This Scenario has been designed to evaluate the Patrol Dog and Handler deployment skills for Tracking suspects or victims, including finding evidence dropped along the way.

1. The Handler shall deploy the Dog in a scenario which has been prepared to examine the Dog's ability to track a person's travel route. A investigative scene, including an object of evidence (car, briefcase, etc.) marks the starting point of the track. The person shall depart from the object and travel about 600 feet to a hiding spot. Along the way s/he shall make two realistic turns and drop one item of realistic evidence. The Handler shall deploy the Dog to cast about for the track, then follow it. The Dog shall Indicate the evidence, as well as the passive hidden person.



2. Procedures.

1. The Judge shall determine the place where the initial evidence object is to be placed.
2. A "scentpad" is not permitted. Footprints should not be visible.
3. The tracklayer shall walk in a natural manner and wear ordinary shoes. S/he is forbidden from making abnormal footfalls.
4. The track shall not be a defined pattern and shall be laid reasonable to the lay of the land. Unnaturally sharp or acute-angle turns are not realistic and not appropriate for the examination. Obtuse-angle turns are permitted.
5. The evidence items shall not be larger than 10" and shall be similar color as the terrain.
6. The evidence shall be thoroughly permeated with human odor.
7. The evidence may be placed anywhere along the track, except in the first or last 60 feet.
8. The track must have at least one change of terrain.
9. The Dog may track on-leash or off-leash and at any length, long or short, with vigilant scrutiny to watch for inappropriate Handler help.
10. The track concludes at the hiding place where the passive person is

placed. S/he may be in any position and will be totally passive and compliant when encountered.

11. The Dog shall demonstrate an Indication on the person as defined previously.
12. The Dog may exhibit either precision-tracking, street-tracking, or trailing to accomplish this task. Neither is evaluated superior to the other. The overall evaluation shall be according to the skill of the Dog to follow/locate the person and the evidence.

3. Criminal Evidence Search.

0. This Scenario has been designed to evaluate the Patrol Dog and Handler deployment skills for searching, locating, and indicating criminal evidence or lost property.

1. The Handler shall deploy the Dog in a scenario which has been prepared to examine the Dog's ability to locate and indicate criminal evidence. The search area shall be about 800m² size. The Judge shall place four contaminated realistic objects in the search area and the Dog shall be given a reasonable amount of time (10 minutes) to deploy.



2. Procedures.

1. The search area shall be realistic and typical of deployment scenarios.
2. The Dog shall deploy unmuzzled.
3. The Handler and Dog shall be out of sight when the objects are placed. They shall be composed of four different materials and not be over 10cm² in size. The objects shall be similar color as the terrain and shall not be placed in plain sight.
4. The objects shall be thoroughly permeated with human odor.
5. The Handler shall inform the Judge of the Indication behavior prior to deploying the Dog. The Dog shall exhibit the same Indication behavior at all objects.

4. Building Search.

0. This Scenario has been designed to evaluate the Patrol Dog and Handler deployment skills for searching inside buildings for suspects or victims.

At the discretion of the Judge, a situation may develop during this scenario in which the Handler should command the Dog to over-ride its Detain, Guard, or Transport and Engage the subject. This encounter shall result in a struggle in which both the Dog and the subject are on the ground. If the encounter occurs, the subject shall be in a prone position when the Handler verbally commands



the Dog to Release.

1. The Handler shall deploy the Dog in a scenario which has been prepared to examine the Dog's ability to locate and indicate a suspect hiding in a building.
2. The Handler shall issue at least two official announcements prior to deploying the Dog. After the second announcement, the Handler may deploy at will.
3. When the Dog has located the suspect, it shall immediately and intensely Indicate. Upon hearing the Dog's Indication, the Handler may tactically advance to the location. When the Handler arrives at the hiding spot, s/he may take control of the situation as circumstances dictate.
4. The Handler shall frisk, arrest, and transport the person to the Judge outside the building.
5. Procedures.
 1. The Dog shall deploy muzzled or unmuzzled and off-leash.
 2. The building shall be at least 1000m². Numerous hiding spots shall be available in the building. This is intended to ensure that the Dog's skill level may be accurately evaluated.
 3. The suspect shall be placed in a high location such that direct contact by the Dog is not possible when the find is made. The suspect may be in a standing, sitting, or prone position, according to the environment available in the building.

5. Open Area Suspect Search.

0. This Scenario has been designed to evaluate the Patrol Dog and Handler deployment skills for conducting a systematic search for suspects in large, open search areas.
1. The Handler shall deploy the Dog in a scenario which has been prepared to examine the Dog's ability to search for and locate suspects in large search areas.
2. Prior to deployment, the Judge shall place a person in an area about 100m x 200m size. The person shall be lying in a prone position. For purposes of the examination, this person represents a sleeping or unconscious person who does not hear the K-9 Announcements.
3. When the Dog finds the person, it shall Detain and Indicate the location immediately to the Handler. When the Dog Indicates, the Handler may tactically advance to the location.
4. The Handler shall determine the identity of the person and discover s/he is not the suspect in question. At this time, the Handler shall dismiss the person from the search area.
5. Procedures.
 1. The Dog shall deploy muzzled or unmuzzled and off-leash.



2. The search area shall have considerable undergrowth or other conditions which dramatically reduce visual abilities.
3. The person placed in this scenario represents an innocent citizen inadvertently in the search area. S/he shall wear inconspicuous clothing and lie in a natural manner. The person shall not be visible to the Handler until the last moment.
4. The Judge shall dictate the starting point for the deployment, after considering wind, etc., in order to provide the Dog with optimal chances for success.
5. The Handler shall conduct a systematic search through this area.
6. If the Dog overruns or the boundary of the search area slightly or does not go completely to the boundary during the process of searching, this is not faulty.
7. The Handler is not required to follow an exact center-line, but rather, may follow the lay of the land during his/her advance.

6. Pursue and Apprehend a Surrendering Suspect In Sight.

0. This Scenario has been designed to evaluate the Patrol Dog and Handler deployment skills for pursuing a fleeing suspect who decides to surrender prior to the Dog's arrival.

This scenario presents several options for the Handler. Since the subject is in plain view, the Handler may choose to allow the dog to perform a Detain, Richey Maneuver, Down Enroute, or Recall to the Handler. The Gradesheet contains each category and may be evaluated according to the behavior chosen.

1. The Handler shall deploy the Dog in a scenario which has been prepared to examine the Dog's ability to pursue and subdue a suspect who is fleeing in sight.
2. The Handler and Dog shall assume a Surveillance position at a point designated by the Judge.
3. A suspect shall appear at a distance of about 300 feet. The Handler shall then issue two official announcements. After the first announcement, the suspect shall flee.
4. After the second announcement, the Handler shall deploy the Dog. The Dog shall pursue at top speed. When the Dog is en route, the suspect shall stop, face the Dog, and surrender. The surrendering behavior shall be evident and s/he shall then remain motionless.

The Handler now has the option of permitting the Dog to perform whichever of the following s/he deems the best course of action:

1. Detain;
2. Down-en-route;
3. Richey Technique; or
4. Recall.

5. Detain Option: The Dog shall do so without physical contact. When the Handler arrives at a distance of at least ten paces, s/he shall command the Dog to assume a backup position.



Down-en-route Option: The Dog shall do so immediately upon receiving the command. It shall then await the Handler's approach and they shall advance together for the remainder of the distance. Upon arrival at the suspect's location, the Handler shall command the Dog to assume a backup position. To clarify, the intent of this behavior is that the Dog lays down immediately upon receiving the command and awaits the Handler to deploy further.



Richey Technique Option: The Dog shall do so immediately upon receiving the command. It shall then await the Handler's approach while remaining at a Guard position. Upon arrival at the suspect's location, the Handler may command the Dog to assume a backup position, either at a Heel position or close to the Suspect. To clarify, the intent of this behavior is that the Dog is eventually down at a proper Guarding distance from the suspect.



Recall Option: The Dog shall do so immediately upon receiving the command. It shall go to the Heel position immediately or upon subsequent command. It shall then advance with the Handler at the Heel position for the remainder of the distance. Upon arrival at the suspect's location, the Handler shall command the Dog to assume a backup position. To clarify, the intent of this behavior is that the Dog returns immediately upon receiving the command and then act as a partner for the remainder of the scenario.



6. It shall now remain quiet and alert, ready to respond to a furtive movement. The Handler shall then frisk, arrest, and transport the suspect back to the Judge for Remanding.
7. Procedure.

1. The Dog shall deploy muzzled or unmuzzled and off-leash.
2. The suspect shall remain passive and motionless once the surrendering behavior is exhibited. If the Detaining Dog circles or positions itself behind the suspect, s/he may turn in order to maintain a frontal view of the Dog.

**NOTE: A muzzled or unmuzzled Patrol Dog exhibiting skills 1-6 may be designated DPO-1.
A muzzled or unmuzzled Patrol Dog exhibiting skills 1, 4-6 may be designated DH-1.**

7. Recapture an Escaping Prisoner.

0. This Scenario has been designed to evaluate the Patrol Dog and Handler deployment skills for recapturing escaping suspects.
 1. The Handler shall deploy the Dog in a scenario which has been prepared to examine the Dog's ability to subdue an escaping arrestee.
 2. During a Front Transport, an arrestee attempts to escape. At the direction of the Judge, s/he shall begin running straight ahead.
 3. The Handler shall issue at least two official announcements prior to deploying the Dog. The Dog shall remain at Heel, even during the announcements. After the second announcement, the Handler may deploy at will.
 4. The Handler shall now be required to respond to a perceived emergency situation. At some point the Judge shall announce that some form of emergency exists and the Handler should take immediate control of the situation. The Handler shall perform an Emergency Release and remove the Dog from the physical engagement and from the immediate area. The scenario ends at that point.
5. Procedures.
 1. The Dog shall deploy muzzled or unmuzzled and off-leash.
 2. The escapee shall flee suddenly and without any other stimulation than the flight.
 3. The Dog shall Pursue at top speed, engage, and attempt to subdue the escapee. The Handler shall follow and take control of the situation as the environment dictates.
 4. If the Dog knocks the escapee down, s/he shall protect him/herself. Otherwise, the escapee shall stop running when engaged and then resist the Dog by hitting and grabbing, while facing the Dog at all times.
 5. The Handler is permitted to choose the type and form of Emergency Release s/he shall perform, as long as it comports with the intent of the maneuver.

8. Pursue and Apprehend a Hostile Suspect In-Sight.

0. This Scenario has been designed to evaluate the Patrol Dog and Handler deployment skills for pursuing and engaging suspects who attempt to thwart the Dog using intimidation.
 1. The Handler shall deploy the Dog in a scenario which has been prepared to examine the Dog's ability to subdue a hostile suspect, even if s/he attempts to thwart the Dog's efforts.

2. The Handler and Dog shall assume a Surveillance position as directed by the Judge. A known suspect shall appear at a distance of about 150 feet. The Handler shall then issue two official announcements to surrender. After the first announcement the suspect shall turn and flee.
3. After the second announcement, the Handler shall deploy the Dog. The Dog shall pursue at top speed. When the Dog is about 100 feet distance, the suspect shall attempt to scare the Dog away by charging it, yelling, and making threatening gestures.
4. The Dog shall disregard the suspect's behavior and engage with considerable intensity. It shall attempt to subdue the suspect, regardless of his/her actions. Backup officers may then assist in the capture and the Handler shall perform a Tactical Release to prevent further possible injury.
5. The suspect shall be frisked, arrested, and transported to the Judge for Remanding.
6. Procedures.
 1. The Dog shall deploy unmuzzled and off-leash.
 2. The suspect shall wear suitable protective clothing such as a sleeve or bitesuit.
 3. When the suspect charges the Dog, s/he shall do so in a manner which is intended to thwart the Dog's desire to engage. The suspect shall continue to make combative movements and actions, even after the Dog has Engaged. The suspect shall stop resisting within 5-10 seconds, then exhibit an obvious desire to surrender. By now, the Handler should be nearby and shall take control of the situation as circumstances dictate.

NOTE: A muzzled or unmuzzled Patrol Dog exhibiting skills 1-8 may be designated DPO-2. A muzzled or unmuzzled Patrol Dog exhibiting skills 1, 4-8 may be designated DH-2.

9. Tactical Windscenting.
 0. This Scenario has been designed to evaluate the Patrol Dog and Handler deployment skills for windscenting and indicating hidden suspects or victims.
 1. The Handler shall deploy the Dog in a scenario which has been prepared to examine the Dog's ability to tactically windscent, locate, and Indicate a suspect hidden in a search area. The Handler shall deploy the Dog on a short leash across the wind current until it Indicates. The Handler shall immediately take cover. The Handler shall then issue at least two official announcements prior to deploying the Dog. After the second announcement, the Handler may deploy at will.
 2. The Dog shall then search for and find the suspect. When the Dog has located the suspect, it shall Detain immediately and intensely Indicate. Upon hearing the Dog's Indication, the Handler may tactically advance to the location. When the Handler arrives at the hiding spot, s/he may take control of the situation as circumstances dictate.
 3. The Handler shall frisk, arrest, and transport the suspect to the Judge.
 4. Procedures.
 1. The Dog shall deploy muzzled or unmuzzled and on a short leash for the windscenting phase.

2. The suspect shall be standing upright in a natural hiding-place which is not visible to the Handler from the windscenting phase.
 3. The scenario shall be set up such that the wind favors the windscenting Dog.
 4. Should the wind cease, the suspect shall make minimal noises which shall not be perceivable to the Handler.
10. Pursuit and Apprehension Out of Sight.
0. This Scenario has been designed to evaluate the K-9 and Handler deployment skills for searching for a suspect who appear at great distances and then hides. At the option of the Judge, this scenario may be fashioned into a "Yard-to-Yard" type search.
 1. The Handler shall deploy the Dog in a scenario which has been prepared to examine the Dog's ability to Pursue a fleeing suspect and locate him/her, even if hidden.
 2. The Handler and Dog shall assume a Surveillance position as directed by the Judge.
 3. At a distance of about 300 feet, a known suspect shall appear. The Handler shall then issue two official announcements to the suspect.
 4. After the first announcement, the suspect shall flee out of sight and hide in a location about 100 feet beyond the view of the Handler.
 5. When the suspect is out of sight, the Handler shall deploy the Dog to Pursue. The Handler may follow immediately behind but shall halt at the point where the suspect disappeared.
 6. The Dog shall Pursue at top speed to the point where the suspect disappeared. Now the Dog is expected to independently search for and locate the suspect.
 7. When the Dog locates the suspect, it shall immediately Detain and Indicate the location to the Handler. When the Handler hears the Dog Indicate, s/he may tactically advance to the location.
 8. When the Handler arrives at the location, s/he may take control of the situation as circumstances dictate. The suspect shall be frisked, arrested, and transported to the Judge for Remanding.
 9. Procedures.
 1. The Dog shall deploy muzzled or unmuzzled and off-leash.
 2. The suspect shall run quickly to the hiding spot, after the announcement is issued. For purposes of the examination, the suspect shall remain upright and passive during the encounter.

NOTE: A muzzled Patrol Dog exhibiting skills 1-10 may be designated PSP-1.
An unmuzzled Patrol Dog exhibiting skills 1-10 may be designated UPSP-1.
A muzzled or unmuzzled Patrol Dog exhibiting skills 1, 4-10 may be designated DH.