

UPWDA Kennel Master Certification

The following certification standards have been adopted by the United Police Work Dog Association. Each test is designed to determine the proficiency of the Kennel Master for certification in each phase of the Kennel Master's certification process. Each test will be based on a pass or fail basis.

Certifying Authority

Master Trainers will act as the certifying authority for all United Police Work Dog Association certification testing. Kennel Masters successfully completing certification testing in a specific phase will be issued a certification certificate and will be valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of issue.

Appeal

Any Kennel Master failing a certification test may reapply for testing at the next and most convenient time and date.

The Master Trainer, upon being notified of the appeal, will file a written report of his or her observations and the reasons they believe to have been judged unfairly.

Kennel Masters desiring to be tested and certified under this Association's standards must be a regular or associate member in good standing with the United Police Work Dog Association.

Under no circumstances will any member's certification be valid if his or her membership status is not in good standing.

There will be no charge for UPWDA certifications. Master Trainers may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses or be given a reasonable stipend to cover travel-related expenses.

This test is to determine the Kennel Master's knowledge and proficiency of his duties as Kennel Master.

The Kennel Master has 15 minutes to pass each phase of the test.

The certification process will consist of the written test and the three practical field tests.

Written test: A minimum of 75% must be obtained to pass the written test.

Written Test:

- Kennel Master/Trainer Safety
- Kennel Master Custodial Duties
- Explosive and Chemical Characteristics
- Storage, Transportation and Handling of Training Aids
- Training Records Management
- Train the Trainer Advanced Principles of Conditioning
- Kennel Master/Trainer Odor Imprinting
- Detector Dog Proficiency/Sustainment
- Patrol Dog Proficiency/Sustainment Training
- Kennel Master Client Relations
- Kennel Master/Trainer QA/OC Responsibilities

The Kennel Master must pass each practical test on a pass or fail basis by demonstrating his ability to instruct all phases.

Practical Test

This will consist of three different phases:

Obedience

Patrol

Detection

Obedience

- Safety for dog and handler
- Principal of conditioning (timing, reward, etc.)
- Teach a team how to train obedience
- Commands, heeling phase (4 corners)
- Evaluate the handler's techniques

Patrol

- Safety for dog and handler
- Teach a student how to conduct patrol aggression
- Demonstrate and teach proper handling techniques for patrol phase
- Demonstrate and teach canine bite zones
- Evaluate a handler's techniques

Detection

- Teach safety for the dog and handler
- Teach a student how to handle a detection problem
- Demonstrate and teach proper handling techniques for detection phase
- Demonstrate and teach odor imprinting techniques
- Teaching pattern (vehicle)
- Teaching proper techniques (cans/boxes/luggage)
- Evaluate a handler's techniques