

# Canine Courier

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CANINE ASSOCIATION, INC.

WINTER 2020



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# Canine Courier



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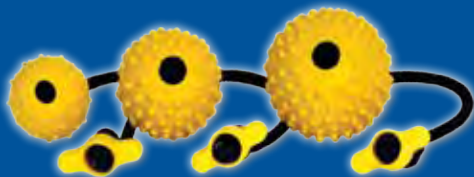
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## FROM THE EDITOR

To all our members and their families, wishing you all safe and happy holidays. Please be safe and the Canine Courier will return in 2021.

*Bob Dougherty*



To our Members,

Please allow me to take this time during the holiday season to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. It's a good time to reflect on how blessed we are to be with our family and friends who love and support us and we are also fortunate we still have our jobs. To top it

## National President

off, we are lucky to work with our great canine partners. We made it through 2020!! This year has certainly been a year for the record books. In some ways, it has been the most memorable year of our lives and in others it has been one of the most challenging. We know how hard this year has been for our members because of the pandemic with not being able to continue your normal training and certifications, but we are hopefully that the New Year will bring positive change.

In this upcoming year, the USPCA will be celebrating its 50th anniversary of supporting the police canine community. I believe this association has been successful in gaining the respect of the police canine community because of our

high standards and ethics. I look forward to continuing this success in the years to come.

Our National Trials for 2021 will be as follows: Detector Trials on May 2nd-5th in Mercer County, New Jersey and the PD-1 Trials on September 19th-24th in New Hanover County, North Carolina. The hosts are planning great trials so be sure to come out and support our association.

During this holiday season please take time to relax, reflect, and enjoy quality time with your family and friends. As always, be well, stay safe and continue training!!!

*Wayne Rothschild*

*National President*

*United States Police Canine Association*





# Executive Director

In anticipation of lessening COVID restrictions sometime during 2021, we have begun talking about future canine training. All talks are fluid, with nothing fixed until we see how the Pandemic slows. Options could be multiple national seminars in different areas of the country to webinar training.

Several months ago, the USPCA

began reaching out to Canine Industry Leaders around the United States. This small group started a conversation about police canines in the U.S. and the issues that have come to light. From these talks, the group discovered several topics of interest. Best Practices in Contemporary Canine Policing is the foundation for all future articles. In 2021 we will provide information on Canine Supervision, Policies, Training today's Canine Team, Training Records, and Deployment issues. With the hope that all canine handlers are made aware of current problems with

thoughts for updating and fixing any issues. We will also provide information in newsletters and through the website.

It is that time again to put all Regional and National information and certifications into our Calendar of Events.

Check out the USPCA Blog and Canine Resources for more information and ideas for your canine.

Please continue to support the Canine Courier with cases and articles.

*Don Slavik*

# Treasurer Message

Well, 2020 is finally coming to an end. It was quite memorable.

Instead of dwelling on the depressing, I would like to point out some good that has occurred. Personally, my wife and I were blessed with another grandchild (our daughter and son-in-law's son) Jude Charles. Also, I am almost completely recovered from some surgery that I needed on my feet.

This year, the Association launched a new website. Our Secretary, Melinda Ruopp and National Executive Director Don Slavik have done a great job keeping it updated and

timely. Even though we had to postpone our two National events, we were still able to hold an Executive Committee meeting online. Again, many thanks to Don and Melinda for setting it up. President Wayne Rothschild has kept us moving forward with some new ideas.

We have an election coming up soon. I believe every position is running unopposed. Still, I encourage everyone to take the time and vote for two reasons. If you do not vote, you do not have any cause to complain or comment. Second, we need you to vote to make sure



our voting system is working correctly.

Finally, if anyone has any ideas for a training opportunity, please pass it up the line. We have some available funds to assist. I hope everyone stays safe. I look forward to the day (hopefully soon) when we can talk to each other in person and unmasked.

*James Matarese*





# National Secretary

AND WE ARE ALMOST OUT OF 2020! Thank goodness!

This year has been a total mess for everyone, so I'm sure you all will be just fine with seeing the arrival of a new year.

This will be the first automatic renewal for our web page. If you have not already logged

into your profile (personal area), please contact me and I'll help you get logged in. You can find a TON of great training articles, paperwork and even your k9 certifications! I can also upload your judging file on request.

Please be patient with this process, as it is new for all of us, including me! I will be still accepting paper applications through 2021, but starting in 2022, we intend to go completely paperless! The web site is fantastic and truly saves me a ton of work.

If you have regional events, be sure to contact me about putting those events online. If you are interested, I can also create a "register here" form

that will allow your members to register and even pay for an event. We used it a few times this fall and it works great!

I cannot extend enough thanks to all of you out there who make this Association what it is! We continue to lead, not follow - and that is because of you. Remember, to be a leader, we have to stay ahead. We cannot just "wait to see what happens". It is important that we be in the lead when it comes to certification standards. If you have ideas for certifications, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Take care and have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS.

*Melinda Ruopp*  
National Secretary

## 2020 National Executive Board Meeting Summary Via Google meet on 9-20-20

Meeting called to order at 0910 hours.

Secretary Ruopp: Ruopp received approval of minutes from November 2019. Secretary Ruopp gave a briefing on the new web page and reported that it is working well. She also reminded regions to take advantage of the page to include utilizing it for registration and/or payment of trial fees.

Treasurer Matarese: James Matarese gave his treasury report. All taxes are filed.

Scorekeeper: Lynn Howell thanked Deb and Dan Page for all they have done for the UPSCA.

She encouraged scorekeepers who are not nationally certified to consider national certification.

Judges report: Gary Pietropaolo received approval for new regional judges. He will be inviting novices to the 2022 trials so that they can be certified.

Trainers report: Danny Jones presented his list for approval as USPCA trainers.

Awards Committee report by Larry Love: All awards that were to be presented in 2020 will be invited to 2021 trials. He will contact them.

Training Grounds: John Binnix requested approval for a canine

training ground.

Courier Report: Bob Dougherty had nothing negative to report.

Explosives Committee report was given by John Kerwick: Reported on the best practice documents that continue to come out. He will stay on top of all new information.

Bylaws Committee: Art Rescigno presented two Bylaw Changes that will be voted on next spring:

### **CURRENT BYLAW**

#### **Under Article 4**

1.a The National President, Regional Presidents and National Vice Presidents must be full

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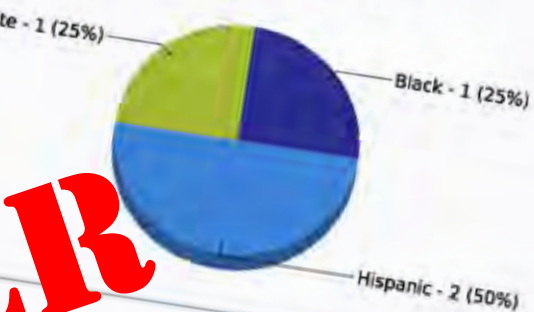


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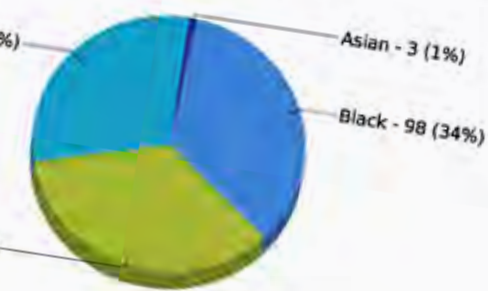
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## Arrests per Race



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members and also a current handler, trainer or administrator. The positions of National Secretary and National Treasurer may be held by a full member regardless of current working status. (Retired or working)

### PROPOSED CHANGE

1.a. The National President and National Vice Presidents must be full members and also a current handler, trainer or administrator. The Positions of National Secretary, National Treasurer and Regional President may be held by a full member regardless of current working Status. (retired or working)

The second bylaw change is concerning emergency powers:

### RESOLUTION BY

The National Executive Committee

### RESOLUTION

#### Bylaw Amendment

BE IT RESOLVED that Article IX shall be amended and include a new Section as follows:

#### ARTICLE IX Meetings

##### Section 4. Emergency Powers

In the event of an “emergency,” the National Executive Committee may exercise the emergency powers described in this section and any other emergency powers conferred upon the Association entities authorized by applicable legal authority.

(a) The National Executive Committee may relocate the principal office, designate alternative principle offices, meeting locations or authorize the officers to do so.

(b) The annual meetings of the National Executive Committee may be moved to a month other

than the National Field Trials.

(c) Any notice required to be given by these Bylaws may be given in any reasonable and practicable manner and given only to those Executive Committee members with whom it is practicable to communicate.

(d) There should be at least four members of the National Executive Committee notified and any action taken in good faith during an emergency under this Section to further the ordinary affairs of the Association shall bind the Association and shall have the rebuttable presumption of being reasonable and necessary.

(e) Any officer, or member of the National Executive Committee of the Association acting with a reasonable belief that the actions taken during an emergency are lawful in accordance with the Bylaws shall incur no liability for doing so, except in the case of willful misconduct or gross negligence.

(f) These emergency provisions shall supersede any inconsistent or contrary provisions of the Bylaws during the period of the emergency.

An “emergency” only exists during a period of time that the Association is subjected to: a state of emergency declared by local civil or law enforcement authorities; federal or state “disaster area” status; a catastrophic occurrence that seriously impedes or damages, or threatens to seriously impede or damage, the ordinary business functions of the Association such as war or armed conflict, terrorism, civil unrest, earthquake, fire, hurricane, tornado, flooding, epidemic, asteroid collision, and the like. An “emergency” also exists for purposes of this section during the

time when a quorum of the Board cannot readily be assembled because of the occurrence of a catastrophic event. A determination by four or more National Executive Committee Members that an emergency exists shall have presumptive effect that an emergency exists.

Rules Committee: Secretary Melinda Ruopp presented changes that are up for vote at this meeting. The following changes PASSED and are or will be in effect.

\*\*The first change is the request to remove Marijuana from testing at National Trials. Everyone should have a copy of this. This is effective January 1st, 2021.

Regions must offer the following testing to their members:

K9's that are used to detect marijuana MUST be tested on marijuana on the regional level.

K9's that are not used to detect marijuana will be offered an alternate test on the regional level using the below testing option.

Marijuana will not be used at the National Detector Dog Certification. The 4th odor will follow the guidelines below for non-marijuana trained dogs. The National Office requires that all dogs attending the National Detector Dog Certification must have certified regionally using Marijuana if they are utilized to detect marijuana.

\*\*The 2nd is the new Firearms Certification test which was approved by the board and is effective immediately:

### GOVERNING RULES and REGULATIONS

#### For CERTIFICATION

#### FIREARMS DETECTION CANINES

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine



to detect and find firearms and ammunition (both live and expended) concealed in various locations. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (i.e. If you certify on April 1st, 2012, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2013).

**\*FIREARM SAFETY IS A MUST.** The USPCA mandates that all guns used be unloaded. A safety officer designated by the Chief Judge will confirm that all guns used during this test be checked and confirmed to be unloaded. The USPCA will not sanction a test without a safety officer.

**\*ALL Judges for the FIREARMS TEST** should safely secure ALL personal weapons and ALL live or spent ammunition away from the testing venue to avoid interfering with the canine's detection of the hidden testing aids.

**\*ALL canines performing this test SHALL** be passive alert canines for safety reasons.

### 1. TESTING:

A. The test will consist of three parts, vehicle search, interior room search and area search. For certification purposes at least one odor from each group (Firearm, Live Ammunition, and Expended Ammunition "casings") shall be represented in the operational testing. No combination of live ammunition or firearms shall be placed in the same hide location. Live ammunition and casings must be placed in scent box or left in its original container, magazine or carton. All firearms used for testing must be secure with a trigger locking device or cable lock.

B. Amounts- A minimum of one firearm or six rounds of ammunition (live or expended) for each hide

will be used for testing. All firearms used for certification must have been fired within 24-72 hours of certification (verified by Chief Judge). Expended casings will then be collected and also used for operational testing.

C. Soak time- Time placed of the operational testing odors, will be one half hour (30 minutes) before the first search.

#### GROUP 1: FIREARMS (UNLOADED)

Shotgun, pistol or rifle. (Any caliber, no minimum barrel length, semi-automatic or revolver)

#### GROUP 2: LIVE AMMUNITION

Shotgun, pistol or rifle. (Minimum of six rounds) Must be placed in scent box or left in its original container, magazine or carton.

#### GROUP 3: EXPENDED AMMUNITION (SHELL CASINGS)

Shotgun, pistol or rifle. Expended ammunition is defined as spent ammunition (shell casing) that has been fired within 24-72 hours of certification. (Minimum of six rounds)

#### FIREARMS OPERATIONAL VEHICLE TEST-

A. Five vehicles will be used. The vehicles may be of any type or model and may include autos, trucks, buses, airplanes, boats etc.

B. The order of the vehicles will be approved by the chief judge and will permit team's easy access for searching.

C. The operational testing odors can be placed inside or on the outside of the vehicles.

D. There will be two hides used for this phase. No two hides will be placed on the same vehicle.

E. If only the outside of the vehicles are searched, there will be a ten

(10) minute time limit total with a two-minute warning at the eight (8) minute mark. If the interior of a vehicle is searched there will be an additional one minute per vehicle added to the total time. If all five vehicle interiors are searched the maximum time limit will be fifteen (15) minutes with a two-minute warning.

#### FIREARMS OPERATIONAL INDOOR TEST

A. The indoor search will consist of three (3) separate rooms. Each room will be a minimum of 200 square feet. There will be a time limit of one and one half (1.5) minutes for every 100 square feet. Large rooms can (optional) be sectioned off with a makeshift or temporary barrier to reduce the room to the 200 square foot minimum. The unused part of this room cannot be used as one of the three required searchable rooms. (i.e. a large classroom can be divided off to create a 200-foot search area, but the rest of the room cannot be used for the trial).

B. The rooms utilized will contain furnishings compatible with room type. No empty rooms will be searched.

C. There will be two hides contained within the three (3) rooms, with no more than one hide per room used.

D. For inside/room searches, no hide may be higher than six (6) feet from the ground or floor.

E. There will be a two (2) minute warning before time expiring for the exercise. The handler can indicate the location of the hides after time expires.

#### FIREARMS OPERATIONAL AREA TEST

A. Separate search areas will be provided to each team when



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available. There will be two hides in each search area.

B. The area will be approximately 30 yards by 30 yards. The search area may have brush, trees and/or foliage covering the area. It should be thick enough as to hide the visual location of the hidden item.

C. This test will have fifteen (15) minute time limit with a two (2) minute warning. The handler can call the location of the testing aids after the time limit has expired.

D. Care should be taken to use areas that will allow the canine to work off lead safely. The handler may enter the search area to direct the canine. The canine must be able to work with judges accompanying the handler, however if the judges can observe without entering the area this may also be done as not to interfere with the working canine. The judges will stay in back of the handler and work under the direction of the handler if the judges enter the area.

### SCORING

A maximum total point score of 300 is possible with certification (passing) at 210 points. To certify the canine team must find 5 of the 6 training aids.

\*\*3rd change presented and approved and will be put into effect on 1-1-2021.

### Current Language:

#### JUDGES AND JUDGING

The host city of the National Certification will select the Chief Judge from Outside the Region/District, and the National Executive Board shall select the remaining required judges.

### PROPOSED CHANGE:

#### JUDGES AND JUDGING

The National Executive Board will work with the host city or agency to select the Chief Judge for a National Certification from outside the hosts Region/District. The National Executive Board shall select the remaining required judges.

\*\*And Finally Secretary Ruopp presented the Temporary Patrol Dog Testing which passed and is effective immediately.

General Rules and Definitions Governing Temporary Patrol Dog Testing

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the basic skills needed by a patrol dog team to work the street effectively and under control and to attest to an acceptable performance level until the next regular scheduled certification is conducted by the Region. This basic test is recommended to provide testing for new handlers prior to leaving their training course. Testing must be approved by the

Regional Board. The Certificate of Certification upon passing should say "Basic Patrol Certified".

This certification test will consist of the following:

1. Obedience - to show the extent of control by the handler at a heel and stay position.
2. Searching – To locate, indicate and/or retrieve articles containing the scent of a stranger (Evidence Recovery) and to locate and indicate a hidden suspect by scent only. (Suspect Search)
3. Criminal Apprehension and recall – to show the control of the dog during an apprehension and recall.

### RULES AND DEFINITIONS

These general rules and guidelines will govern testing unless specifically stated otherwise herein. Rules may be discussed for clarification prior to testing, but no changes will be made prior to the test. This testing will be valid until the next available regional certification (not a mini trial) and can only be offered 1 time to each dog/handler team. (for clarification, this means that this test can be offered only one time in the career of the dog. If the dog fails the test, they can retest to attempt to pass.) The USPCA encourages its regions and trainers to offer a Basic Patrol Dog test to their new members or



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newly graduated teams as a “step up” to the USPCA PDI test.

### 1. Association:

The term “Association” when used in the context of these regulations shall refer to the rules committee, the judges committee or the National USPCA Executive Committee.

### 2. Individual entries:

A. Each handler must be a member of the USPCA and a full-time paid law enforcement officer of a city, town, county, state or federal agency. The handler must also be a working K-9 officer assigned to a K-9 and duties appropriate to it. Any member who has retired in good standing with a minimum of 10 consecutive years as a member of the USPCA may also certify their trained K-9 if they are working in a part time status for a law enforcement agency and are assigned K-9 duties. This would also apply to any full retired member who is a reserve, special deputy or any status where the member is still recognized as a law enforcement officer. The member must maintain continuous membership to the USPCA upon retirement. If their membership is not continuous, they will not be eligible to certify their K-9.

B. A basic Patrol Dog test DOES NOT qualify a team to participate in a National Field Trial.

C. Basic Patrol Dog tests will not be permitted for the purpose of marketing or selling dogs.

D. Testing order is at the discretion of the Chief Judge, as is scheduling of participants at each location or venue.

### 3. Judges and Judging:

A. All judges must be regular active or associate members of the

USPCA and must have handled or trained a PDI dog.

B. Basic Patrol Dog testing requires a minimum of three judges. At least one of these judges must be a regional or nationally certified PDI judge. This judge shall be designated as the “chief judge” for purposes of administering the test and handling all paperwork requirements. (this person does not necessarily have to have qualified for the list maintained by the Judges Committee)

C. Judges shall for the most part, follow the USPCA PDI Guidelines when judging a Basic Patrol dog Test.

D. Judges decisions are final with no protests.

E. Scoring is Pass/Fail as outlined under test phases.

F. Vendors and trainers shall not be a judge for any participant that they trained or sold.

### 4. Test Requirements:

A. During testing, handlers will not carry any paraphernalia that would indicate an attempt to control or influence the dog unless specifically stated in these rules. No whistles, ultrasonic devices or related aides not specifically state herein will be allowed. All of these devices must be left in the parking area. Spike or pinch collars are permitted. A dummy collar or non-operational electronic collar shall be allowed. Prior to entering the testing field, a judge or steward will check the K9's E-collar to ensure that the device is a dummy collar or that it is shut off. The handler will hand the remote to the judge or steward prior to the exercise. Leashes may be used as stated in each phase.

B. Duty uniforms are not required and numbered vests are optional.

C. Any extreme or abusive correction or treatment of a dog – loss of temper or display of poor sportsmanship will result in disqualification from the certification trial.

D. General rules as outlined in the PDI certification will apply unless otherwise stated to include the listed definitions.

E. Extra Commands are not scored against the team unless otherwise designated.

## TEST PHASES

### OBEDIENCE TEST

A. This test will be done at the direction of a Judge or steward. For simplicity, this exercise is set up and directed to mirror the heeling phase of the existing PDI testing with the exception of the length of the legs, which will be a minimum of 50 feet. In this exercise, walking and distance control are part of the heeling pattern.

B. The complete exercise will be done off lead. Leashes may be handed to a judge or steward, or the handler will secure the leash around his torso or waist.

C. Handlers will start and end each phase from a finish position.

### Testing:

This phase will consist of normal, slow and fast paces, left, right turns and about turns just like the PDI heeling pattern. The team will begin from the starting point and will move forward at the direction of the steward or chief judge. Following the existing PDI pattern, the dog will move around the U-shaped heeling pattern as normal until the last leg of the heeling pattern. On this leg, the steward or judge will direct the handler to place the dog into a sit or down when he reaches the



half way point of the final leg. The handler will continue on to the end. (which is the original start line) The handler will then turn around and call the dog into the finish position. (verbal, hand or both at the same time)

1. If the dog moves or leaves the down or sit position on this final leg before being called, the handler may reset the dog into the desired position. (handler may touch the dog to reposition) If the dog moves again before being called, it will be considered a test failure. If the dog never returns to the finish position and the handler has to retrieve the dog, it is a failure.

2. The team will pass this phase if the dog is generally obedient during this exercise. But only one failure is allowed during the entire obedience exercise. If the dog leaves the handler and does not return to a heel, it will be considered a failure. Multiple commands are not counted against the team. However, the dog should be generally obedient to the commands of the handler. See scoresheet guidelines.

#### **ARTICLE/EVIDENCE SEARCH:**

A. This test will be the same as the existing PDI Evidence search phase unless otherwise stated. The purpose of this phase is to show that the dog will locate items that are contaminated with human scent. Obedience will not be tested unless the dog leaves the area and does not return when given commands. (no points are taken off for multiple commands of any kind)

#### **Testing:**

This phase will mirror the existing Evidence search phase, including time used and articles, with the following exceptions:

1. The test may be conducted on or off lead. The handler will be allowed to secure their leash on their person if they choose to test off lead.

2. Handlers will not have to finish their dogs at the end of the exercise.

3. There is no penalty for a passive dog who disturbs the aid.

4. The dog must find 1 of 2 articles. If he does not find at least 1 article, it will be a test failure. Judges must see an obvious alert to the article. It will not be considered a find just because the handler sees the article.

**SEARCH FOR HUMAN SCENT:**  
The team is allowed to pick one of the two options.

#### **OPTION 1: using USPCA Boxes**

A. This option will be conducted to mirror the existing PDI Box search phase unless otherwise stated. The purpose of this phase is to show that the dog will locate human scent. Obedience will not be tested unless the dog leaves the area and does not return when given commands.

#### **Testing:**

This phase will mirror the existing PDI box search phase with the following exceptions:

1. Contamination of the box for the first search will be at least 5 minutes. The decoy or hider will remain in this box throughout the testing process for all participants.

2. The test may be conducted off lead or using a long line, on lead. The handler is not penalized if he leaves the "alley" as designated in the PDI rules, but should remain in the general center of the field.

3. Once the dog alerts to the box,

the dog will be called to the handler and no finish position is required. The handler will declare the box by pointing or verbal box number. The decoy will not come out of the box.

4. As with the existing PDI rules, the alert must be obvious to the judges.

The handler may touch the dog at any time during this exercise if needed and is not penalized. Simple pass/fail. If the k9 alerts and the handler calls the correct box, it is a pass.

#### **OPTION 2 – using a building**

A. This option will be conducted inside a building. The purpose of this phase is to show that the dog will locate human scent. Obedience will not be tested unless the dog leaves the sight of the handler when off lead and does not return when given commands. The building for this testing should consist of a hallway with multiple doors that close and secure. At least 6 doors need to be in the search venue.

#### **Testing:**

1. Contamination of the room for the first search will be at least 5 minutes. The decoy or hider will remain in this room throughout the testing process for all participants.

2. The test may be conducted off lead or using a long line, on lead.

3. Once the dog alerts to the door, the dog will be called to the handler and no finish position is required. The handler will declare the door/room by pointing or verbally. The decoy or hider will not come out of the room.

4. The alert must be obvious to the judges.

As with the other option, the handler may touch the dog at any time during this exercise if needed and

will not be penalized. Simple pass/fail. If the k9 alerts and the handler calls the correct room, it is a pass.

### CRIMINAL APPREHENSION:

A. This test will be conducted in a similar fashion to the existing PDI rules unless otherwise stated. The purpose of this phase is to show that the dog will recall and will obey a verbal release or "out". The decoy will use a hidden sleeve or appropriately covered bite suit.

There are only two phases to this test. Apprehension with a release, and a recall. Cones or markings will be placed at the start line. 10-yard line (recall line) and the 30-yard line. (decoy)

#### Testing:

The following testing process will be used. Order of these two phases will be apprehension first and then recall.

1. Apprehension: Decoy will be at the 30-yard line. The K9 team will be at the start line. The K9 may be on or off lead at the line. The dog should start from a finish position. (this is not judged) When ready, the handler will signal the decoy to run and the dog will be sent off lead to make the apprehension. The dog will be tested on whether or not he remains engaged with the decoy until called out. If the dog fails to engage or does not remain engaged on the apprehension until called off, it will be considered a fail. When signaled by a judge, the handler will verbally call the dog from the apprehension. The handler may use multiple commands as needed, but this phase will be considered a fail if the dog does not obey the release command within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the Chief or senior judge. After the call off, the handler may take ahold

of the dog and put him back on leash. There is no finish required and no suspect search.

2. Recall: This phase is conducted the same as a recall phase in a PDI trial with the following exceptions

- a. The dog must leave the start line and then can be recalled after crossing the 10 yard line.
- b. Standing recalls are an option for this phase.
- c. If the dog makes contact with the decoy during this phase it is a failure.
- d. One attempt only for the recall. No second attempts are permitted.
- e. Multiple commands are not scored.

Retesting is not allowed by the USPCA rules unless a period of training is recorded by the team.

\*\*\*PRESENTATION OF A NEW RULE CHANGE THAT WILL BE UP FOR VOTE NEXT SPRING: Ruopp presented a new test for Police Service Therapy Dogs testing.

### General Rules and Regulations Governing Certifications of Therapy Canines

This certification test will evaluate the Police Service Therapy K9 and their handler. The test is designed to simulate real world encounters and situations the dog and handler may experience while working. The test reflects realistic expectations and requirements for the Therapy Police K9 in performing their job.

This certification will consist of the following:

- 1) Appearance and grooming
- 2) Department Policy Review
- 3) Microchip & Collar/Leash inspection

- 4) Acceptance of all Strangers
- 5) Loose lead/leash walking control
- 6) Relaxed state during contact
- 7) Verbal Recall
- 8) Reaction to loud noises/ Startling sounds
- 9) Contact with other dogs
- 10) Handler Basic Knowledge

### General Rules and Guidelines

#### 1. Terms:

- a. Association: The term "association" when used in the context of these regulations shall refer to the rules committee, the judges committee or the National USPCA Executive Committee.
- b. Control dog: This is a dog that is known already to be calm, submissive and neutral to other dogs. This dog should show only gentle interest and have no aggressive behavior toward dogs or people.
- c. Command: For the purposes of THIS test, during the recall, a command is considered one word even if given with the dog's name. For example, "HERE" is one command. "SPOT, HERE" is also one command if uttered together.

#### 2. Individual Entries:

- a. Each Handler must be a current member of the USPCA before taking this test and they must be a law enforcement officer of a city, town, county, state or federal agency. The handler must also be formally recognized as a handler for the Agency. Any member who has retired in good standing with a minimum of 10 consecutive years as a member of the USPCA may also certify their trained K-9 if



they are working in a part time status for a law enforcement agency and are assigned k-9 duties. This would also apply to any full retired member who is a reserve, special deputy or any status where the member is still recognized as a law enforcement officer. The member must maintain continuous membership with the USPCA upon retirement. If their membership is not continuous, they will not be eligible to certify their canine.

- b. A special member as defined in the By-Laws may certify a dog in this test/trial if approved as a special member by their region.
- c. Certifications will not be permitted for the purpose of marketing or selling dogs.
- d. Order of testing will be determined by the Chief Judge, as is scheduling of participants at each location or venue.

3. Judging:

Requirements for Judging a Therapy Dog for the USPCA will be different from our standard scored testing. There will be ONE judge for this test. The judge must be a National Judge of Detector or Patrol Dogs and at least a Detector Trainer or Level I Trainer. The Chief Judge for this test must be on the current list of Chief Judges maintained by the Judges Committee.

4. Test Requirements:

a. All handlers will be tested in their standard department duty uniform with the exception of foot apparel. Baseball hats may be worn as long as they are professional in appearance. Plain clothes officers can be tested in civilian clothes if that is the accepted on-duty apparel.

Numbered vests may be provided for ease of identification.

b. During testing, handlers are allowed to carry rewards to include a toy or dog food as long as the items are out of sight during the actual testing process or carried in a toy/food type bag worn on their person.

c. Equipment worn by the K9 will be approved duty gear to include their leash (6 ft), collar or their harness. Part of the testing process includes checking the duty gear of the dog. Therapy dogs being tested by the USPCA will not be allowed to wear pinch or choke style equipment, nor will they be allowed to wear an e-collar.

d. All K-9s being tested should remain on lead unless otherwise permitted during testing.

e. No dog will be left unattended at any time in such a manner as to create a concern for any other dog, person or to itself.

f. Protests: Follow guidelines as listed for other USPCA testing should a protest arise.

g. The certification is for the team- handler and dog. If the dog has multiple handlers, each handler has to certify as a team with that dog. A separate test fee for each handler will be administered by that region if applicable.

h. Loss of temper or any display of poor sportsmanship on the part of the handler will result in disqualification from the certification as determined by the judge. The Executive Board may undertake its own investigation and take any action it deems appropriate based on the totality of the circumstance.

5. Handlers Preparation:

a. There will be no lengthy explanation of the exercise while the tests are conducted. It is the handler's responsibility to know what he or she has to do on each exercise. A handler who is familiar with these rules should be able to enter the test area without having to inquire as to how the particular judge wishes to have the exercise performed and without being confronted with some unexpected requirement.

6. Miscellaneous:

a. Any K-9 relieving itself in the working areas during testing will be penalized once for 10 points. Multiple incidents will be penalized as minor deductions.

b. No consumption of alcoholic beverages is allowed on or in the testing area by judges, handlers or other participating officials to include helpers.

c. Handlers with aggressive K-9s are expected to forgo this test and NOT participate. This is a test designed for the friendly dog and not for one that has been trained or otherwise displays any aggressive behavior toward people or other dogs.

d. Handlers who have already tested will not converse with a team waiting testing in their group. The test, especially the handler testing questions, are confidential until that day's testing is completed.

e. The testing venues will be contaminated by humans and at least one dog immediately prior to testing.

f. All scoresheets will be given to or mailed to participants after the completion of the trial.

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g. No children (under age 16) or non-consenting adults will be used in this testing. Exceptions would include minors who are Police Cadets/Explorers or those officially sanctioned by the Police Department, Region or Chief Judge to be participating.

Teams failing to successfully certify will not immediately be given a second chance. Multiple tests of the same team will not be conducted. The team has to undergo a period of retraining, documenting successful performance, before any attempt at re-certification. Only official Certificates of Certification (Provided by the National Office) will be issued to participants who successfully pass a USPCA Certification test.

### GOVERNING RULES FOR CERTIFICATION OF A THERAPY K-9

The purpose of this test, as stated earlier, is to evaluate the ability of a canine to be a therapy K-9 for a law enforcement agency. The test is designed to evaluate the flexibility, adaptability and friendliness of a dog working as a LE Therapy animal. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: If you certify on April 1st, 2020, your certification will not expire until December 31st of 2021.)

#### 1. TESTING

##### A. APPEARANCE AND GROOMING:

The Chief Judge will view the dog from all angles to ensure that the dog is healthy for its breed, displays appropriate weight, fur covering, is clean, healthy and willing to be in the testing area.

The Chief Judge shall lightly touch the dog, slowly increasing touching intensity. The judge will also lightly brush the dog with a grooming

brush or comb to ensure the dog is free of excessive fur and fleas. The dog should accept this grooming with ease and not jump around or avoid contact. The handler should provide this brush or comb.

The Chief Judge should also touch the pads of the feet, tail, ears and cover the eyes with his or her hand for 5 seconds. The dog must be willing and accepting of the judge's touch and should not attempt to avoid contact. Movement is permissible, but the judge should not have to move after the dog to touch the dog.

This shall be a pass/fail exercise based on the experience of the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge shall use the scoresheet as a guideline and has the option to fail a dog based solely on appearance.

##### B. DEPARTMENT POLICY REVIEW:

This Association believes it is important for Therapy Dog Handlers to have and be familiar with their Department Policy. Each handler will provide the Chief Judge with a printed copy of their department/agency written policy to determine that the team is:

1. Officially recognized by the department in writing as having a Therapy dog.
2. That there are rules outlining its accepted and prohibited usage.

This is not designed to be an endorsement of the policy scope, legality or depth.

A handler who does not come prepared to show the Chief Judge a copy of their department Policy will be given a fail. This is a pass/fail exercise.

##### C. MICROCHIP and COLLAR/EASH/EQUIPMENT INSPECTION:

All general equipment (leash, collar, toys, harnesses etc.) will be inspected. They must be in clean, good working order and look professional. Department Patches are acceptable. All equipment must be safe and humane. Each handler will provide the Chief Judge with proof of an identification microchip for their working dog AND a proof of rabies vaccination (may be in the form of a tag on the collar). A handler who does not come prepared to show the Chief Judge a copy of proof of microchip and rabies vaccination, will be given a fail. This is a pass/fail exercise.

##### D. ACCEPTANCE OF ALL STRANGERS- GROUP TESTING: Indoor or Outdoor

1. Greeting test: A simulated greeting test between the handler and a steward (unknown to the dog) will be conducted. The dog must remain friendly or neutral to the handler/stranger interaction. This greeting interaction will include the handler and stranger in close proximity to each other and shall last no less than 2 minutes.

2. Stationary group test: The K-9 and handler will then be exposed to a stationary group of no less than 5 talking and moving people in an enclosed room, no more than 400 square feet. The dog must remain friendly or polite during this phase. The group will remain stationary with the K-9 team for no less than 2 minutes. Once the 2 minutes is complete, the K-9 and handler will then walk around and amongst the group of stationary people for no less than 2 additional minutes. No one in the group will attempt to pet or touch the dog during this test.

a. The dog should display no shyness, should not jump on people, should not strain on his leash or otherwise display

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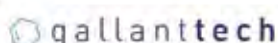


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behaviors indicating it is uncomfortable around humans or not wanting interaction.

b. At least one person in the stationary group should have a crutch or wheelchair.

This is a pass/fail exercise. Any dog that fails this portion shall not be allowed to continue testing.

### E. LOOSE LEAD/LEASH

WALKING CONTROL: Indoor or Outdoor

The dog may walk on the side of its handler and must be tolerant of the attached leash. (6 ft) The team will be directed by the Chief Judge to walk and to make at least five (5) left turns and five (5) right turns as well as five (5) about turns. The K-9 and handler will then be asked to walk amongst the group of no less than 5 people. The dog is not judged on its strict obedience to heel. He will be judged on his willingness to walk with his handler. A loose leash is a MUST and a dog displaying a tendency to roam or otherwise needs the leash to constantly be redirected will fail this test. This is a pass/fail exercise.

### F. RELAXED STATE DURING CONTACT TO INCLUDE PETTING/TOUCHING

Since the dog has successfully completed the group testing, it shall be tested on its acceptance of friendly petting from those in the group. The dog must allow petting from one or several of the group participants. The dog should remain relaxed, friendly and may move around on leash and under control to greet the participants and allow petting or touching. This can be conducted indoors or outdoors. This is a pass/fail exercise. If in the opinion of the Chief Judge the dog is uncomfortable, displays any form of

aggression or is otherwise unwilling to interact with the petting, the Chief Judge may fail the team.

### G. VERBAL RECALL:

The objective of this portion of the test is to ensure that the K-9 can be recalled by command in case of an emergency, so quickness of the dog to respond immediately and enthusiastically will be judged heavily by the judge.

Using a secure indoor area and a secure outdoor area: The K-9 will be allowed to roam freely, off leash, in each area. These areas should be no less than 400 square feet. Once the dog has separation (more than 10 feet) from the handler, the handler, upon direction from the Chief Judge, shall verbally call or summon the dog. (may use hand or voice or both, but no whistles or other devices)

a. The Chief Judge will evaluate the number of commands needed for the dog to return to the handler and for the handler to place the leash back on the dog. (the dog does not need to return to a finish position, like a sit or a down or a heel next to the handler) The team will also be judged on the willingness of the dog to immediately obey the recall command. Excessive commands can be considered as more than 5 commands. A command may include the dog's name and is considered one command. i.e. "Spot.... Come!"

b. This recall will be done 5 times in each venue, inside and out, for a total of 10 recalls.

c. The K-9 must return to the handler every time within a reasonable and safe time frame.

A K-9 that does not recall 10 times will be a fail.

### H. REACTION TO LOUD NOISES/

### STARTLING SOUNDS

This exercise is to evaluate the K-9's reactions to loud or unexpected noises. Sounds or noises used should be consistent for all participants and may be conducted indoors or outdoors.

While the K-9 is on a leash with the handler, a loud noise or distraction of a loud nature will occur. An example of this could be: starting a loud motorcycle, dropping a book on a hard floor, a crutch being dropped on a hard surface, a person yelling a name, slamming a door, etc. These noises should be in close proximity to the dog. (within 20 feet) This is not designed to be a gunfire tolerant test but is meant to test noises that may occur during work activities.

This test will be done twice, using two different distractions. The dog can flinch, show interest or show that he was startled, but should recover almost immediately and should not show any aggression, fear, try to run away, bark or otherwise panic.

This is a pass/fail exercise.

### I. CONTACT WITH OTHER DOGS:

A control dog will be used for this exercise. This dog must be already proven as a dog friendly or neutral to other dogs. (no dog that displays any aggressive or antagonizing behavior toward other dogs will be used) The control dog and the K-9 being tested will approach each other from different directions. At all distances as they approach, the Chief Judge will evaluate the willingness of the K-9 to greet the control dog with friendliness or neutrality. The K-9 should display casual interest and show no aggressive or over the top excited behavior toward the control dog.



This is a pass/fail exercise.

### J. HANDLER BASIC KNOWLEDGE:

The USPCA appreciates that all police canine handlers should have general knowledge of their dogs health, issues that may come up with general obedience, policy, etc. The Chief Judge will prepare 10 general k-9 related questions in which to quiz the handler. All participants will be asked the same questions. This can be administered in writing or verbally and should be done privately between the Chief Judge and the Handler.

The USPCA will provide example questions for use by the Chief Judge upon request but the questions are not limited to those provided.

This is pass/fail. Handler will answer at least 7 questions correctly to pass. The Judge should be reasonable with the knowledge presented by the handler.

### SCORING:

The K-9 Team must pass all of the above exercises in order to achieve certification as a Police Therapy K-9. The Chief Judges score sheet will be the final determination of pass/fail. Other participants may observe, act as advisors or apprentice but will not utilize the score sheet. Scoring is pass/fail only.

Retired K9 Committee, led by

Rich Geraci – Rich reported he had raised some money pre-pandemic but will be putting out new ideas soon to raise more. He is also working on a pet insurance program and reminded everyone about the car donation program.

Training and Certification Committee. Lou Kaelin has nothing to report at this time but is excited about future seminars in 2021.

Report of the President - President Wayne Rothschild welcomed Lynn Howell as our new chair of the Scorekeepers committee. President Rothschild covered other business to include a death benefit that had been paid out as well as dates for upcoming events. He reminded all to remember to respond to all emails and communicate and thanked his board for all that they do.

National Officers presented their reports. All regions are sound and running well with the exceptions of the COVID restricted areas.

Executive Director Don Slavik gave his report. He is working with Purina on a contract with them. His focus remains on bringing in new members, bringing back old members and getting funding.

### Upcoming 2021 trials:

National Detector Trial in Mercer CO, NJ will be May 2nd to the 5th, 2021

National PDI Trial in New Hanover

CO, NC will be September 19th to the 24th, 2021

National Trials in 2022 will be combined as one, hosted by Lowndes CO, Ga

Nominations were accepted for National Officers:

National President:  
Wayne Rothschild

National Secretary:  
Melinda Ruopp

National Treasurer:  
James Matarese

VP Central: Doug Buelte

VP West: Eric Johnson

VP NW: Rob Vetsch

VP NE: Pat Cunningham

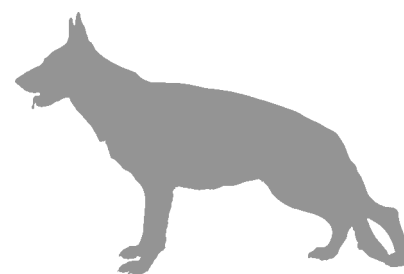
VP SE: Brandon Gilmore

VP SW: Cody Grace and Lyle Andre

Trustee: Rich Geraci and Danny Jones

Good of the Association:

Don't forget that this is our 50th Anniversary! We have new vests ready to use at the next national event and look forward to the coming year.



## Upcoming 2021 Trials

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Mercer CO, NJ  
May 2nd - 5th, 2021

**National PDI Trial**  
New Hanover Co, NC  
Sept. 19th - 24th, 2021

**National Trials in 2022**  
will be combined as one  
hosted by Lowndes CO, Ga

## Region 1

### 3rd Quarter Detector Award

#### Sheriff William “Ben” Jones and K-9 Gentry, Highlands Co Sheriff’s Office

A traffic-stop in Avon Park, Florida on Sunday, September 27, 2020 led to one of the largest drug seizures in recent memory for the Highlands County Sheriff’s Office. Deputies confiscated enough fentanyl to kill nearly 40,000 people, as well as over a pound of heroin and nearly a pound of cocaine.

Around 7:40 p.m., Deputy Seth Abeln saw a blue Ford Focus on North Central Avenue that had a tag light out. After Abeln stopped the vehicle, Deputy Ben Jones and K-9 Gentry were called to do a free air sniff of the vehicle. K9 Gentry indicated there were drugs in the car.

A search of the vehicle turned up a staggering number of narcotics:

- 554 grams of heroin
- 450 grams of cocaine
- 99.6 grams of fentanyl



- 975 oxycodone pills
- 107 Xanax pills
- 90 vape pens with liquid THC

A dose of 2-3 milligrams of fentanyl is enough to be deadly, meaning there was enough of the drug to kill 40,000 people using 2.5 milligrams as a fatal dose. To put that in perspective, that would be enough to kill nearly 40 percent of the

people in Highlands County.

The street value of the fentanyl is \$15,000. Add that to the \$20,000 of cocaine, \$40,000 of oxycodone and \$45,000 of heroin, and the total seizure is worth \$120,000 on the street, not including the value of the vape pens.

There was also a loaded handgun inside the car. The driver, a 40-year-old male was arrested and charged with:

- trafficking cocaine
- trafficking heroin
- trafficking oxycodone
- trafficking a controlled substance
- possession of opium or a derivative (fentanyl) with intent to sell/deliver
- possession of a Schedule III or IV drug with intent to sell/deliver
- possession of heroin with intent to sell/deliver
- possession of cocaine with intent to sell/deliver
- felony possession of marijuana
- possession of a weapon during commission of a first-degree felony
- possession of drug equipment

## Region 1 - Detector

### Sgt. Jared Davis and K9 Cabella

#### Lowndes County Sheriff’s Office

On November 4, 2020, at approximately 1040 hours, a Deputy with the Lowndes County Sheriff’s Office Interstate Criminal Enforcement (ICE) team conducted a traffic stop on Georgia 401 (I75) South bound at the 11-mile marker, Valdosta. During an interview with the driver, the deputy found inconsistencies in the driver’s story and called Sergeant Jared Davis and his K-9 partner Cabella to assist. While Sergeant Davis was in route, the driver denied a consent to search the vehicle.

Upon Sergeant Davis’ arrival he retrieved

K9 Cabella, his trained and certified narcotics detection K9. K9 Cabella began to sniff the airspace surrounding the vehicle. During the free air sniff K9 Cabella gave an alert on the trunk of the vehicle. Due to the K-9 alert deputies conducted a search of the vehicle. During the search of the vehicle a large amount of United State currency was located in a suit case in the trunk of the vehicle. The currency was vacuum sealed and bound by rubber bands.

The driver of the vehicle stated the money was not his and he was only paid to deliver the money. The driver signed a voluntary disclaimer of ownership of the money, which was then taken by the Sheriff’s Office.

At the Sheriff’s Office, Sergeant J. Davis conducted a currency sniff with K-9 Cabella. K-9 Cabella alerted to the presence to narcotic odor coming from the suspect money. The 6 bundles of vacuum sealed United States currency was then placed into evidence and taken to the bank for a final count. The total amount of currency was \$364,960, which will be seized according to Georgia Law.





## Region 2 - Detector

### Lt. Bryan Griswold and K9 Maya

#### Aiken Public Safety, SC

*After thirteen years, sixteen USPCA dog trials, handling four K9's, Sgt. Bryan Griswold had officially conducted his last search as a K9 handler. As of August 1st, he was being promoted to a command rank. Lt. Griswold and K9 Maya had been together for over 4 years and had been highly successful team since February 2016. Now, he's not leaving K9 behind, as he will now be responsible for maintaining training of the departments K9's.*

On July 31, 2020, officers with Aiken Public Safety assisted Narcotics Investigators with the execution of a search warrant within the City of Aiken. After the residence was secured, I conducted a walk thru to ensure there was nothing dangerous to the K9.

I entered to residence to conduct a sniff of the residence using K9 Maya. As we entered the residence, K9 Maya pulled into the back-left room. It appeared to be a bedroom but had no bed in it. K9 Maya began searching, and she had a change of behavior of the only closet in the room. K9 Maya went into the closet, went high, and alerted in the closet. We continued into the bathroom next, with no alert. Then she went into the back-right bedroom, with no alert.



We then went into the front right bedroom. K9 Maya had a change of behavior on a nightstand at the foot of the bed. She pulled open the top drawer, went to the right side of the nightstand, and alerted. K9 Maya then went to the only closet in the room, went into the closet, attempted to stand on a container but it shifted causing her to fall. She came out of the room. We went back into the closet, she

had a change in behavior, and alert high in the closet.

In total 20 grams of Cocaine, 5 pounds of Marijuana, 15 grams of Methamphetamine, over 200 MDMA, over 50 count of THC gummies, and two handguns were recovered.

# REGION 4

# MASSACHUSETTS/MAINE/NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Region 4 - Patrol

### Officer Francese & K9 Ace

#### Worcester Police Department, MA

On October 23, 2020 Ofc. Francese along with his K-9 partner Ace were on patrol in the city of Worcester. At approxi-

mately 1200 hours dispatch put a call out for a B&E in progress. Officers arrived on scene and immediately set up a perimeter around the house and requested K-9 assistance.

While the officers were holding the perimeter, the suspect attempted to push out

an A/C window unit to flee but upon seeing officers fled back into the residence. The homeowner had arrived on scene and informed officers that no one was supposed to be inside of the residence.

Ofc. Francese approached the front door and gave multiple K-9 warnings to force

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the suspect to surrender peacefully, Ofc. Francese received no response and deployed K-9 Ace into the residence on a 15-foot lead into the front doorway that had clearly been kicked in prior to officer's arrival.

Officers and Ace entered the residence and began to search. As they entered the living room area K-9 Ace showed a change of behavior on a closet door, Ofc. Francese had officers hold on this room and continued to clear the residence with other officers received no change in behavior.

Ofc. Francese then brought Ace back to the living room and allowed him to search. This time Ace gave an alert by barking on the closet door of the living room. Ofc. Francese pulled Ace back and again gave several warnings for the suspect in the closet to surrender peacefully. Ofc. Francese received no response and the door to the closet was tactically opened and Ace was deployed into the closet.

Ace apprehended the suspect on the leg and Ofc. Francese, utilizing cover and his long line, removed the suspect from the closet. Ace was then removed from the

apprehension and the suspect was then prone out on the floor in the living room and taken into custody.

## Region 4 - Patrol

### Officer Dan Pennellatore & K9 Beebs

#### Worcester Police Department, MA

On August 11, 2020 Ofc. Pennellatore, along with his K-9 partner Beebs, were on patrol in the city of Worcester.

At approximately 1200 hours a call came in for gun shots in the area of XXXXXX St. in downtown Worcester.

Units responded and found several shell casings and were able to obtain video as well of the suspect involved in the shooting. Members of the gang unit were able to identify the suspect and informed us that he may be staying in the area.

The suspect had a lengthy criminal record including several weapons charges and had a tendency to attempt to flee from law enforcement when encountered. Due to the severity of the crime and the criminal history of the suspect the gang unit requested that Ofc. Pennellatore and K-9 Beebs remain in the area.

At approximately 1430 hours gang unit officers called out on XXXXXX St. stating that they were following a vehicle that he believed the suspect was in. As the vehicle approached XXXXX Sq. the officers attempted to stop the vehicle, the vehicle stopped and the suspect immediately exited the vehicle with a back pack and fled on foot.

Ofc. Pennellatore was approximately a

half mile away from the incident and continued, as officers were chasing the subject, they were updating via radio the path the suspect was fleeing. on

Ofc. Pennellatore arrived in the area and turned onto XXXXX St. in an attempt to get ahead of the suspect and begin a yard to yard search once the perimeter was set up. As Ofc. Pennellatore turned onto XXXXX St. he was forced to slam on his breaks as the suspect ran directly across the street in front of his cruiser.

The suspect ran up a driveway. Ofc. Pennellatore turned up the driveway and ordered the suspect to stop, the suspect turned and made eye contact with Ofc. Pennellatore but refused to comply with his commands to stop. At this time K-9 Beebs was deployed from the rear of the cruiser.

The suspect had made his way around a residence at this point with K-9 Beebs following. Ofc. Pennellatore drew his department issued firearm and pried the side of the residence in fear that the suspect was still in possession of the firearm.

As Ofc. Pennellatore turned the corner he could see K-9 Beebs had apprehended the suspect on the leg. At this time Ofc. Pennellatore ordered the suspect to show his hands to which he complied. Ofc. Pennellatore removed Beebs from his apprehension and waited for back up to take the suspect into custody.

The firearm that was used in the shooting was recovered on scene along with several additional rounds.

“

*As Ofc. Pennellatore turned the corner he could see K-9 Beebs had apprehended the suspect on the leg.*

”





**Region 5****3rd Quarter Patrol Award****Patrolman Denny Jordan and K-9 Koda****City of Middletown, OH**

On August 31, 2020, Officer Jordan was asked to assist with apprehending an individual who was wanted on a parole violation and was also wanted for questioning on a homicide in the City of Hamilton, Ohio.

When officers attempted to stop this individual, a vehicle pursuit ensued, taking officer Jordan and other assisting agencies outside the City of Middletown into the City of Mason, Ohio. The pursued vehicle was disabled with the use of stop sticks coming to a stop in the front yard of a residential house. After giving the sus-

pect several commands to exit the vehicle, Officer Jordan made the decision to deploy his K9 partner Koda to assist with apprehending the wanted suspect.

In order to complete the apprehension, Officer Jordan used a K9 technique called the "Vehicle Assault." A beanbag gun was used to break the driver's side window. After the window was broken, Officer Jordan gave the command to his partner Koda. At this time, Koda jumped through the passenger side window. When Koda did this, the suspect began firing his gun at Koda and the officers. In the exchange of gunfire between the police and the suspect, Officer Jordan was struck three times. Officer Jordan was struck in the shoulder, in his right hand, and in his leg. As other officers were tending to Officer Jordan's injuries, his K9 partner Koda apprehended the suspect. His K9 partner by apprehend-



ing the suspect, kept the suspect from being able to shoot other officers. Due to Officer Jordan and his partner Koda's heroic actions, the suspect was arrested without any further incidence.

**REGION 5 - Detector****Deputy Derek Miller and K9 Fado****Warrick County Sheriff's Office**

On 3/6/2020, I was requested by narcotics detectives to assist them in an investigation. They advised they had a package they suspect of containing narcotics and requested my USPCA certified canine to check the sealed package for narcotics. I advised them to hide the package in the building inside the impound lot at the sheriff's office.

I arrived and spoke to Det. Jones. He asked if I wanted to know where the package was. I told him no, I would rather my K9 Fado find it. I took Fado into the large pole barn type structure. I put him into a sit and observed he was already sniffing intently. I gave him a dope seek command and let him go in the building off lead.

He worked around in the building check-

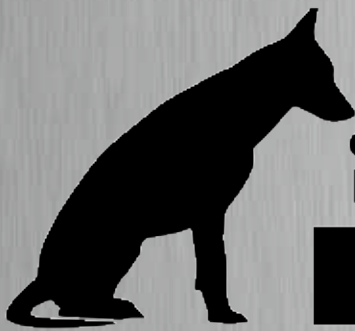
ing the maintenance office and wash bay. I observed a small barn style heater in the upper part of the barn and felt it pushing air out causing different air currents in the room. I then observed a strong head whip and he worked his way over to a metal cabinet/stand. I observed him rise up to sniff above the stand. He then got lower down and sniffed intently at the cabinet and began to sniff deeply. He used his nose to push the door open then put his nose on a package inside an opened box. He then laid down. This is his indication that he has reached the source of an odor he recognized as narcotics. Detective Jones informed me that where Fado had alerted was the location of the package.

On 3/9/2020, I was requested by Detectives Jones and Backer to come to their office to execute a search warrant on the package. I arrived and they opened the package. There was a DVD or CD in the package, a small cardboard box that was

taped, and a small package of coffee. The small package of coffee was opened to reveal a black balloon. It appeared to contain a ball like object and was tied at the top.

The balloon was opened to reveal a clear plastic bag containing what I recognized through my training and experience as crystal methamphetamine. The cardboard box was opened and it contained another black balloon. This balloon also appeared to contain a ball like object. That balloon was opened to reveal another ball of suspected crystal methamphetamine. Both balls field tested positive for methamphetamine.

Field weight was 2 ounces. Fado and I then assisted with a controlled delivery and execution of the search warrant on the residence. One suspect was taken into custody and a pipeline between Southern Indiana and California was shut down.



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**SD318**

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### Kit includes:

Four wall mounts, one adapter that allow you to attach the K-9 BSD®-3R device with barrel, K-9 BSD-4 with barrel or the K-9 BSD (4) Ball Dropper with elbow attachment to fit into the PVC tube which holds your choice of target scent.

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These special lids have 3 holes in the top and have a 1/2" outer lip so they hang in the scent detection boxes.

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## K-9 Yukon

### End of Watch Sep. 28, 2020

The Chester County Sheriff's Office mourns the death of (retired) K-9 Yukon who was loved by his human family, Cpl. Brian Bolt and Lauren Bolt; the CCSO and members of the community. After a lengthy degenerative illness, he passed peacefully with his family members by his side.

K-9 Yukon spent nine years at the CCSO with his handler, Cpl. Bolt; the dog's specialties were patrol and explosive detection. Bolt and Yukon earned top awards at U.S. Police Canine Association competi-

tions. After Yukon's 2019 retirement and the discovery of his illness, the German Shepherd took a teaching position at the Veterinary Science and Animal Science program at the Technical College High School (TCHS) Pennock's Bridge Campus. Attending school in a wheelchair and special boots for traction designed by one of the TCHS students, he helped Veterinary Science students learn to care for his paws, feed him and bolster his mental health.

Through his legacy of protection of the community and continuing series of children's educational activities available online, K-9 Yukon will be remembered by Chester County.



## Region 6

### Chester County Sheriff's Office Graduates Class #004

Chester County Sheriff Fredda Maddox welcomes two new canine teams to the Chester County Sheriff's Office.

Class #004 Deputy Anthony Detore and K9 Moose Patrol/Explosive Detection and Deputy Moyer and K9 Zeeke Patrol/Narcotics Detection. These teams were trained at the Chester County Sheriff's Office Canine Academy. They are the

fourth class to graduate from this academy. Sheriff Fredda Maddox stated these two teams will bolster the Sheriff's Office canine unit and provide more services for the citizens of Chester County.



## Region 6

### Patrol Class Graduation

Penn Vet Working Dog Center, Philadelphia, PA

On December 15th, 2020 Basic K9 Patrol Handlers Class #7 graduated from the PennVet Working Dog Centers Law Enforcement Program. Along with the four K9 teams completing the training course, another successful Train the Trainer Course graduated its 6th Assistant Trainer.

From left to right at the K9 Officer Brad Fox Memorial

End of Watch 9/13/2012 Plymouth Twp. Police Dept.

Assistant Trainer K9 Officer Joseph Homza – Wilkes Barre City Police Department

Cpl. Trevor Keller and K9 Skiff – Montgomery County Sheriff's Department



Officer Gregory Kutys and K9 Odie – Central Bucks Regional Police Department

Officer Nick O'Connor and K9 Dausen – Cheltenham Twp. Police Department

Officer Daniel Webster and K9 Lolli – West Conshohocken Police Department

# REGION 7

# NEW YORK

## Region 7 Detector

### K-9 Officer Tatiana Crankfield and K-9 Bella

### New York City Dept of Corrections

### New York City, NY

On August 27, 2020, members of the New York City Department of Correction K-9 Unit, as well as a K-9 Team from the A.T.F., assisted the Federal Bureau of Prisons, at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan, to conduct a Multi-Agency contraband sweep of the facility. The primary goal for this operation, was to increase the safety and security of the facility by removing dangerous contraband.

One standout team of the N.Y.C. Depart-

ment of Correction K-9 Unit was K-9 Officer Tatiana Crankfield, and her K-9 Partner Bella. This duo is one of the first certified contraband detection teams in Region 7 of the U.S.P.C.A. Fresh off certification, this was K-9 Officer Crankfield, and K-9 Bella's first multi-agency joint task force, and they were determined to succeed.

Under the supervision of Senior Trainer Darren Kempen, K-9 Officer Crankfield and K-9 Bella searched approximately 60 cells, as well as common area throughout 5 housing units. The search by this team provided astonishing results. In total, four cellphones with SIM cards, two separate SIM cards, one SD card, two prison-made weapons, and one altered electronic device were discovered. The outstanding work by this team, and the removal of

these items, neutralized the inmate's ability to conduct illicit and dangerous activities.

Since that day, K-9 Officer Crankfield and K-9 Bella continue to display excellent work by discovering and removing many dangerous articles throughout the New York City Jails.



## Region 7 Detector

### K-9 Officer Tatiana Crankfield & K-9 Bella

#### New York City Dept of Corrections New York City, NY

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## Region 7 - Detector Case

### Deputy Brandon Souza and K9 Link Albany County Sheriff's Office (NY)

On November 02, 2020 at approximately 18:51 hours Deputy Souza assisted U.S. Postal Inspectors with a K9 Search.

K9 Link was deployed and search multiple different sized parcels unknown to the team. K9 Link showed a focused indication to narcotic odor on two separate parcels.

Upon a search warrant the two parcels were found to contain 2.7 lbs of Cocaine. The narcotics were concealed in multiple layers of plastic wrap and a grease substance stuffed in teddy-bears. K9 Link is

a Dutch Shepherd who is certified in Narcotics Detection and PD1 through USPCA Region 7.



## USPCA REGION 7

### US Customs Border & Protection Officer Chad Duryee and K9 Roky Currency/Firearms Detection

On October 9, 2020 Officer Duryee, along with my currency/firearms detector canine "ROKY", was assigned to a joint

task force led by the FBI. A search warrant was obtained for a residence located in Brooklyn, NY. The subject of the case was involved in the illegal purchasing and exportation of commercial electronic items to countries that the United States currently has embargoes against.

Officer Duryee arrived at the 2 story

residence and began a walk through for safety. Once completed, K9 "ROKY" was deployed in search of bulk currency and or firearms within the residence. On the ground floor near a floor vent K9 "ROKY" displayed an alert which consisted of a change in his search behavior and an increase in respiration. K9 "ROKY" also



displayed odor tracing behavior within the area but was never able to pinpoint to a source. Officer notated the area and continued clearing the rest of the residence. We continued the search to the upstairs rooms. Inside the master bedroom, K9 "ROKY" again displayed an alert. After a few moments he traced odor towards a closet door within the bedroom. When I gained access to the closet, K9 "ROKY" entered and pin pointed to a section of the floor that was raised. The area was notated and K9 "ROKY" was praised until

the source of the odor could be identified. Another Agent was notified of the suspect area in the closet and began a thorough search of the area where K9 "ROKY" pinpointed. A false floor compartment was discovered in the closet containing \$60,000usd and K9 "ROKY" was properly rewarded. The search was completed and K9 "ROKY" was returned to the vehicle. A more thorough search of the ground floor was conducted resulting in negative findings. One hour after completing the canine search an access way to a crawl

space beneath the ground floor was located. Deep in the crawl space beneath the first floor was a trash bag which when retrieved and search revealed \$500,000 usd. A total of \$560,000usd was seized as evidence from the residence.



## USPCA REGION 7

### Officer Cooperstein and K9 'Blue' K9 Track

#### Town of Ramapo Police Department

On Monday October 19th 2020, at approximately 1230 AM, Ramapo Police received a call from Vermont State Police regarding a 39 year old male that was wanted for eluding police and several other charges.

Vermont State Police believed the suspect was possibly in Ramapo's jurisdiction. A warrant to ping the suspects phone was obtained by the troopers which put

the suspect in the area of 103 Sterling Mine Rd.

Upon Ramapo officers checking the area, a pick-up truck with a camper attached was located and was currently unoccupied. It was determined that the suspect was driving the truck and that the camper was reported stolen.

PO Cooperstein and K9 Blue were called out to do a K9 track. The track led west on Sterling Mine road where the suspect was found bedded down in the wood line. The



suspect was taken into custody without incident. Investigation by Ramapo PD found that the suspect was in the area committing larcenies of several catalytic converters from vehicles.

The suspect was charged with the narcotics as well possession of stolen property, fugitive from justice and several warrants from upstate NY. Without the assistance of K9 Blue and Officer Cooperstein, this suspect may have not been apprehended in a timely and safe manner.

## Region 12 - Detector

### Detective Bret Witte & Kilo Fargo Police Department

On September 16, 2020, I Deployed Kilo at an apartment complex in south Fargo related to an ongoing heroin trafficking investigation.

Kilo alerted to the presence of a trained narcotic odor coming from a first-floor

apartment and a search warrant was obtained. A search of the residence led to the discovery of 1.8 grams of meth, 1.3 grams of heroin, 3 grams of marijuana and numerous items of drug paraphernalia.

The tenant admitted two individuals pay \$200 a month for uncontrolled access to their detached garage. The tenant stated the individuals keep a safe in the garage and the tenant does not have keys or access to the safe.

I deployed Kilo who alerted to the safe, indicating the presence of a trained narcotic odor.

The warrant was amended and search of the safe was approved by a District Judge. A search of the safe led to the discovery of a Glock 43 handgun, 1,400 fentanyl laced M30 pills, and 52.8 grams of heroin. Both heroin trafficking suspects are prohibited from possessing firearms. The M30 pills are linked to multiple overdose



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deaths in our region, including Fargo and Grand Forks.

Two additional search warrants were obtained as part of this investigation, both obtained after K9 Kilo alerted to the presence of a trained narcotic odor coming from the door seam.

The second search warrant was executed at a hotel room in south Fargo leading to the discovery of a small amount of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and \$19,308 in currency obtained from the unlawful sale of controlled substances.

The third search warrant was conducted at an apartment in south Fargo. During this search warrant, Narcotics Detectives

located approximately 1.5 grams of cocaine, .2 grams of heroin, and \$32,785 of US currency obtained from the unlawful sale of controlled substances.

A total of \$52,093 in currency was seized as part of the investigation. State and Federal charges are being pursued against at least two individuals.

### **Region 12 - Patrol**

#### **Det. Derek Ellis and K9 Rudy**

#### **Austin Police Department**

On 070320 Detective Derek Ellis and K9 Rudy were off duty and called at approximately 0202hrs to assist Officers with lo-

cating a suspect of an aggravated assault by stabbing.

Ellis was advised that officers responded to a report of a victim with multiple stab wounds.

Following a series of events, information received, and evidence located, an apartment was identified where the suspect may be hiding. Ellis eventually deployed K9 Rudy into a basement after multiple warnings to the suspect believed to be hiding there.

Supported by a tactical team and detectives K9 Rudy located the suspect and bit him in the left forearm, the suspect was then taken into custody without further incident.

### **Region 13 - Detector**

#### **Sgt. Matt Shoesmith and K9 Ruger**

#### **Goodlettsville Police Dept, TN**

On 08/13/20 Officers with the Goodlettsville Police Department stopped a individual driving a dark colored Ford Fusion with a temp tag. The vehicle was seen in a high narcotics area and a traffic stop was subsequently conducted on the

vehicle. The male white driver denied consent to search his vehicle. K-9 Sgt. Matt Shoesmith deployed K-9 Ruger to perform a narcotic sniff of the vehicle exterior of the vehicle for the presence of a narcotic odor. K-9 Ruger gave a final response to the presence of a narcotic odor. A probable cause search was then conducted, in which the following items were located:

- six (6) grams of China White Heroin,

- 3 grams of Black Tar Heroin,
- 8.6 grams of Methamphetamine,
- 54 LSD strips,
- one (1) Suboxone Strip,
- Numerous other Schedule II and Schedule III pills
- A set of digital scales
- A meth pipe.

The suspect was charged with multiple narcotic and motor vehicle violations.

### **Region 16 - Detector**

#### **Officer Chris Darimont and K9 Vito**

#### **Charleston Police Department, IL**

On Friday, October 04, 2019 at approximately 0939 hours, I (Officer Darimont) was contacted by Inspector Reed of the East Central Illinois Task Force. Inspector

Reed requested I respond to the Charleston, IL U.S. Postal Office building to perform a free air sniff on a package being sent to 1308 Adams Ave. in Charleston, IL.

Inspector Reed advised he had received information from a confidential informant that a package was to be delivered to an address in Charleston, IL containing a

large quantity of methamphetamine.

At approximately 1015 hours, I responded to the Charleston, IL Postal Office building. I was allowed in by the postmaster who stated she was aware of the situation. The Postmaster laid out five similarly sized packages separated several feet apart from one another in the mid-



dle of the warehouse floor. I would note there were no other packages within the immediate vicinity of the five packages to be sniffed.

I retrieved narcotics detection trained K9 Vito from my patrol car and brought him into the warehouse to perform a free air sniff of the outside of the packages.

Upon approaching the packages, I observed, K9 Vito begin sniffing the first package on his own. I did not observe any change in behavior by K9 Vito upon sniffing the first package. K9 Vito then moved on to the second package on his own and began sniffing the outside of the second package. I did not observe any change in behavior by K9 Vito upon sniffing the second package. K9 Vito then moved on to the third package and began an exterior sniff of it. I observed change of behavior in Vito's body posture and sniff pattern as he began to sniff the third package. K9 Vito also displayed change in breathing disposition. I observed K9 Vito to indicate that he had detected the odor of drugs/narcotics emanating from inside of the third package. K9 Vito then gave a confirmation sniff on an area of damage to the box where a small hole was visible. K9 Vito then laid down/alerted to the area of the hole inside the box. (as he has been known to do when indicating to the presence of the odor of drugs/narcotics on a search below his head level).

I had K9 Vito continue to search the remaining two boxes. K9 Vito showed no change in behavior and made no indications as to the presence of drugs or narcotics in the fourth and fifth boxes.

I then had K9 Vito perform another free air sniff of all five boxes, this time starting from the fifth box and moving towards the first box. K9 Vito again alerted to the presence of the odor of drugs/narcotics emanating from the third box.

I was advised by the postmaster that they

also had two additional smaller packages going to the same address. The two smaller packages were laid in the same vicinity of the larger packages. K9 Vito performed a free air sniff of the outside of the two smaller packages. K9 Vito did not display any change in behavior nor did he alert to the presence of the odor of drugs/narcotics emanating from the two smaller packages.

Through the small damage hole in the package where K9 Vito had alerted, I observed a several articles of clothing, a plastic tube of small foam cups, a small pillow, an empty Tupperware container, a small container containing q-tips, and a package wrapped in birthday style wrapping paper in the center of the package. I was unable to observe what other items might be present in the package.



I made contact with Inspector Agney of the East Central Illinois Task Force and advised him of the K9 alert and what I could observe in the package. The Postmaster then allowed me to seize the package to transport to the East Central Illinois Task Force Office. I provided the Postmaster with a property receipt for the package. I

then seized the package and transported it to the East Central Illinois Task Force Office. Possession of the package was then transferred to Inspector Agney.

On October 7, 2019, a search warrant for the contents of the package was issued. A search of the package located 3.88 lbs. of methamphetamine packaged in multiple Ziploc bags. The bags containing the methamphetamine were secured in five plastic Tupperware containers which were wrapped in birthday style wrapping paper.



*Officer Chris Darimont and K9 Vito*

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## Region 21

### USPCA Detection Dog Certification

#### October 19-20, in Larchwood Iowa

1<sup>st</sup> place overall: Paul Samuelson and K9 Voodoo, Fort Dodge PD

2<sup>nd</sup> place overall: Mike Barnes and K9 Justice, Iowa DOC

3<sup>rd</sup> place overall: Asa Beauchamp and K9 Cash, Iowa DOC

Top Rookie Dog: Tony Ong and K9 Luna, Altoona PD

1<sup>st</sup> place rooms: Dustin Yager and K9 Maverick, Iowa DOC

2<sup>nd</sup> place rooms: Alex Ehlers and K9 Nera, Ida Co SO

3<sup>rd</sup> place rooms: Chad Chase and K9 Jarvis, Black Hawk CO

1<sup>st</sup> place Vehicles: Rob VerMeer and K9 Athos, Lyon Co SO

2<sup>nd</sup> place Vehicles: Jonathan Meyer and K9 Petey, Sac Co SO

3<sup>rd</sup> place Vehicles: Tony Ong and K9 Luna, Altoona PD

1<sup>st</sup> place Team : From Iowa DOC - Asa Beauchamp, John Schumacher, James Flint and Michael Barnes

2<sup>nd</sup> place Team: From Altoona PD - Cameron Hale, Cody Poffenberger, Tony Ong, and Chad Hulén

3<sup>rd</sup> place Team: From Des Moines PD - Dao Meunsaveng, Kelly Chioda, Aaron Cawthorn and Dustin Wing

## Region 21 - Detector

### Deputy Chad Chase and K9 Jarvis

#### Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office

On February 22, 2020, at approximately 10:25 hrs., I saw a silver 2003 Pontiac Grand Prix driving north on Vinton St. I ran the license plate through the Iowa DOT and realized the plates did not match the vehicle.

I was able to place my patrol vehicle behind the Pontiac as it turned east onto Lafayette St. Almost immediately the Pontiac slowed and started to pull into the driveway on Lafayette as I was initializing a traffic stop using my top lights. The male driver exited the vehicle. I directed him to get back into the car which he did.

I approached the Pontiac and made contact with the driver. The driver stated he had just purchased the car and someone must have switched the plates on him. After obtaining Iowa Identification cards from the driver and female passenger, I asked the couple to remain in the vehicle while I checked their information from my vehicle.

As I was attempting to run both subject's information through Consolidated Dispatch, the female passenger exited the car carrying her purse and a large white

cardboard box with a top. She started to head toward the stairs of the residence. I again exited my vehicle and directed the female back into the car. She stated she lived at the residence. I told her she was not free to leave at this time. I verbally directed her back into the Pontiac several times. She paused

and looked back at the male driver. She reluctantly had a seat back in the vehicle along with the property in hand. Due to both subjects making attempts to exit and leave the scene at different times, I called for a second car to come to my location. Waterloo Officers Fredericksen and Canby arrived on scene a short time later.

I ran both subject's information through dispatch. The male driver did not have a valid license. The female passenger's Iowa driver's license was revoked. Both subjects had local arrest histories. The male's arrest history included several controlled substance violations. He was known to resist arrest and carry weapons.

I then spoke to Officer Fredericksen. I informed him that due to what I knew and had observed, I would be running my canine partner around the vehicle.

Both subjects were asked to exit the ve-



hicle. After a pat search for weapons, they stood with Waterloo Officers in front of my patrol vehicle.

I then returned to my patrol vehicle and retrieved my canine partner Jarvis who is certified in narcotics detection through the USPCA.

I walked Jarvis past the Pontiac on the passenger side and started at the front passenger corner of the vehicle. The wind was blowing from the rear of the vehicle toward the front of the car and garage area. I worked Jarvis across the front of the car first and then along the driver's side. Jarvis pulled me down the driver's side of the car, hopped up on his rear legs sniffing the driver's door rear seam and then the open driver's door window. There was a noticeable change in his behavior and breathing. Jarvis stepped back and came to a full alert on the Pontiac by sitting. I praised my partner and continued around the vehicle. On the passenger side of the vehicle Jarvis again came to a full alert after sniffing the passenger front door rear seam. I again praised my partner and secured him back in my patrol vehicle.

Both subjects were detained without



handcuffs at this time until a search was conducted of the vehicle.

While searching the Pontiac, in the backseat I located and opened the white cardboard box that the female passenger had exited the vehicle with. Inside the box I located several used syringes, a clear plastic bag containing a large amount of marijuana in green leafy bud form, and a clear glass bong. The bong was approximately ten inches tall and had a round bulb attached which contained suspected methamphetamine residue.

Upon opening a brown purse inside the box, I located a clear plastic Ziploc style bag containing several clean and unused smaller Ziploc style bags consistent with narcotics distribution. A second clear plastic Ziploc style bag contained individually packaged amounts of methamphetamine in large white crystal form. A majority of these bags were marked "(8)" in black permanent marker. I believe that each of these bags contained methamphetamine in "eight ball" weight (3.5g each). A small navy blue in color zippered coin purse was also located inside the brown purse. Inside the coin purse I found a silver in color spoon and another clear plastic Ziploc style bag containing a large quantity of large crystal rocks of suspected methamphetamine.

I collected the cardboard box with its contents. Both subjects were transported along with the evidence to the Sheriff's Office where we met with the Task Force. Both subjects and the evidence were turned over to Task Force for further investigation.

I was informed later by Task Force that I had seized approximately 2.5 ounces of methamphetamine and 3 ounces of marijuana on this traffic stop.

Within a week of this traffic stop, I was informed that another pound of meth and a handgun were seized due to information obtained by the Task Force

## **Region 21 Detector**

### **Sgt. Nate Sands and K9 Rico**

#### **Woodbury Co. Sheriff's Office, IA**

On July 8<sup>th</sup> I was contacted by members of a North Central Iowa Task Force. They were asking for assistance from our agency in stopping a vehicle which was entering our jurisdiction North Bound on Interstate 29. Task force officers advised me this vehicle was coming from California, specifically from the LA area. The vehicle in question was a black Cadillac Escalade pulling a trailer loaded with furniture etc. They told me the vehicle left for California with an empty trailer and now was obviously loaded with stuff. The vehicle made a short stay in California as it was only there for a day and a half. I had other deputies in position to stop the vehicle as it entered our jurisdiction.

The vehicle was stopped at approximately the 135 mm northbound on the interstate. The story from the occupants were that they were moving their elderly father back to Illinois for work. The vehicle was occupied by a husband and wife, two small children and an elderly man in the back of the SUV. A closer inspection of the trailer showed that they were hauling what could only be considered "junk". Broken furniture, and things that appeared to have been left outside for a long period of time for example.

The occupants were removed from the vehicle and K9 Rico was deployed for an open-air sniff of the vehicle. As we started down the side of the trailer he began to pull heavily on the leash until we were in between the truck and trailer. He was obviously in order and kept going back and forth between the lift gate and the front of the trailer. Once we were at the open window on the driver's door, he did give a final response by scratching at the door. Because of high traffic and the trailer being loaded we did remove the truck and trailer wrote a search warrant for both.

A search of the trailer and truck resulted in a seizure of 11.6 lbs. of Methamphetamine. Approximately 6 lbs. was located in the rear of the Cadillac. The remaining 5.6 lbs. was in the front of the trailer. The trailer had to be unloaded in order to find the hide. The female, two children, and elderly man were released. The male driver who admitted knowledge post Miranda was placed in custody with a federal detainer.

## **Region 21 Patrol**

### **Sgt. Tony Walter and K9 Swamper**

#### **Webster County Sheriff's Office**

On August 6, 2020 at or about 0651 hours Deputies were dispatched to an area in Webster County. The caller advised that she had observed a male wearing camo clothing lying near a fence on the South side of her property. At the time of this call Fort Dodge PD was looking for homicide suspect #####.

A Lt. confirmed that the clothing description matched what the suspect could possibly be wearing. I arrived on scene at or about 0703 hours. I was joined by another Deputy and a Fort Dodge

PD Sgt. Due to the possibility of the male being ##### we decided to approach the area together. My backup officers were armed with rifles and flanking me on each side in a wedge formation. I had my side arm.

We approached the area and discovered that the male had left. Dispatch was still on the phone with the reporting party and they advised that the female hadn't seen the subject leave the area. It appeared to us that the male crossed through the fence into a ravine and fled on foot from there. We were currently on the north side of the ravine which runs mainly east and west.

By this time, we had several other officers on scene and we decided to attempt a canine track of the subject.

I returned to my car and deployed Canine Swamper. I placed him on a 10-foot tracking line and took him to the area where the male had been lying. We crossed the fence and I gave Swamper the track command.

Swamper tracked down to the bottom of the ravine and then into a culvert that went under the roadway to the east. On the other side of the roadway Swamper lost scent. We then went back west through the culvert to the bottom of the ravine. Swamper picked up scent at the bottom of the Ravine again and started across to the South side of the ravine toward a pasture.

There is a fence around the pasture property. Swamper reached the fence and started tracking west along it. Swamper occasionally went back down to into the

heavy wooded ravine area but always came back up along the fence. At one point we passed a couple of small old buildings.

Approximately 10 feet west of the second building Swamper appeared to want to cross the fence. Just before crossing he turned and started west again along the fence line. After approx. 20 yards, I could tell that Swamper had lost the scent.

I had asked my cover officers to note the spot in the fence that Swamper had wanted to cross. We returned to that location and crossed over the fence. Once across, Swamper picked up scent again and started tracking south toward a larger building. We reached another small building that appeared to be covered with a gray tarp or canopy. As we approached,

I announced "Sheriff's Office Canine Unit, Give yourself up." When I said this, I heard a subject respond from the bushes next to the small building. I was approximately 15 feet away from him. I drew my side arm and ordered him to show me his hands. He complied and stuck his hands up out of the bushes.

My cover officers approached the male and took over commands. I kept Swamper about 10 feet away and ready to assist if needed.

Backup officers took the male into custody without further incident. The male was identified as the wanted murder suspect. He was placed under arrest on an active arrest warrant for 1st Degree Homicide.

## Region 21 - PDI Trial Results

### Algona, Iowa

August 17-18, 2020

#### 1st Place Overall

Sgt Michael Barnes and K9 Justice, Iowa DOC

#### 2nd Place Overall

Deputy John Forlenza and K9 Dax, Lake CO SO, Illinois

#### 3rd Place Overall

Deputy Erik Rollie and K9 Melee, Wabasha Co SO, MN

#### Top Rookie Dog

Officer Curt Russell and K9 Murphy, West Des Moines PD

#### 1st Place Obedience

Dao Meunsaveng and K9 Bero, Des Moines PD

#### 2nd Place Obedience

Asa Beauchamp and K9 Cash, Iowa DOC

#### 3rd Place Obedience

Jared Clausen and K9 Blitz, Mapleton PD

#### 1st Place Agility

TIE: Jared Clausen & K9 Blitz from Mapleton PD and Todd Trobaugh & K9 Judge from Altoona PD

#### 2nd Place Agility

TIE: Jordan Maag & K9 Kion from Lee CO, Jason Gibson & K9 Hugo from DOC, Steve Dill & K9 Rosco from DOC.

#### 3rd Place Agility

Asa Beauchamp and K9 Cash, Iowa DOC

#### 1st Place Evidence

Asa Beauchamp and K9 Cash, Iowa DOC

#### 2nd Place Evidence

Todd Trobaugh and K9 Judge, Altoona PD

#### 3rd Place Evidence

John Schumacher and K9 Storm, Iowa DOC

#### 1st Place Suspect Search

Bob Rohmiller and K9 Ace, LeMars PD

#### 2nd Place Suspect Search

Jake Wingert and K9 Gulliver, Plymouth CO SO

#### 3rd Place Suspect Search

Curtis Russell and K9 Murphy, West Des Moines PD

#### 1st Place Criminal Apprehension

Todd Trobaugh and K9 Judge, Altoona PD

#### 2nd Place Criminal Apprehension

Steve Dill and K9 Rosco, Iowa DOC

#### 3rd Place Criminal Apprehension

Mark Reed and K9 Doctorae, Akron PD

#### 1st Place TEAM

Iowa Dept of Corrections: Jason Gibson, Mike Barnes, Dustin Yager, Steve Dill

#### 2nd Place Team

Iowa Dept of Corrections: John Schumacher, Damon Van Bogaert, James Flint, Asa Beauchamp

#### 3rd Place Team

Team DSM: Dao Meunsaveng, Dustin Wing, Curt Russell, Derek Huxford



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D-Ring for attaching a lead



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K-9 Collar

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K-9 Traffic Lead

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**8115-1**

K-9 Traffic Lead

Adjustable 40", 50", 60", 72"  
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4285V-5 (Ballistic Weave)

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4285C-2 (Clarino)  
4285C-3 (Basketweave)

Hook & Loop with Clip

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# K9 CASE LAW

## CANTON V. HARRIS – A RETROSPECTIVE ON CONSTITUTIONALLY ADEQUATE POLICE TRAINING

*By: Lynn Carpenter, Esq. & Eugene P. Ramirez, Esq.*

In this era of increased scrutiny of law enforcement with calls for defunding the police, the issue of training has become even more important to survive the inevitable lawsuit. Defunding the police, as has been demonstrated, has resulted in the loss of officers and a corresponding decline in patrol operations. The effect of defunding the police may also result in a reduction in a department's training budget. Yet, training is something that should not be defunded. Canine units, in particular, need to maintain their training budget in order to prevent accidents and minimize liability. To do otherwise, could have disastrous results.

In 1989, the Supreme Court addressed the issue of failure to train within the context of the appropriate time for an officer to summon medical aid for a detainee. In *Canton v. Harris*, the Court examined an underlying scenario where Canton Police Officers arrested Geraldine Harris and transported her to the police station in a patrol vehicle. When officers arrived at the station, they found Ms. Harris sitting on the floor of the car. Officers inquired whether she needed medical attention, but her response was incoherent. When they brought her into the station, she slumped to the floor two times, causing the officers to leave her on the floor to prevent her from falling. Notably, officers never requested medical care for detainee Harris. When Harris was later released from custody, she was transported by ambulance to the hospital, where she was treated for emotional ailments.

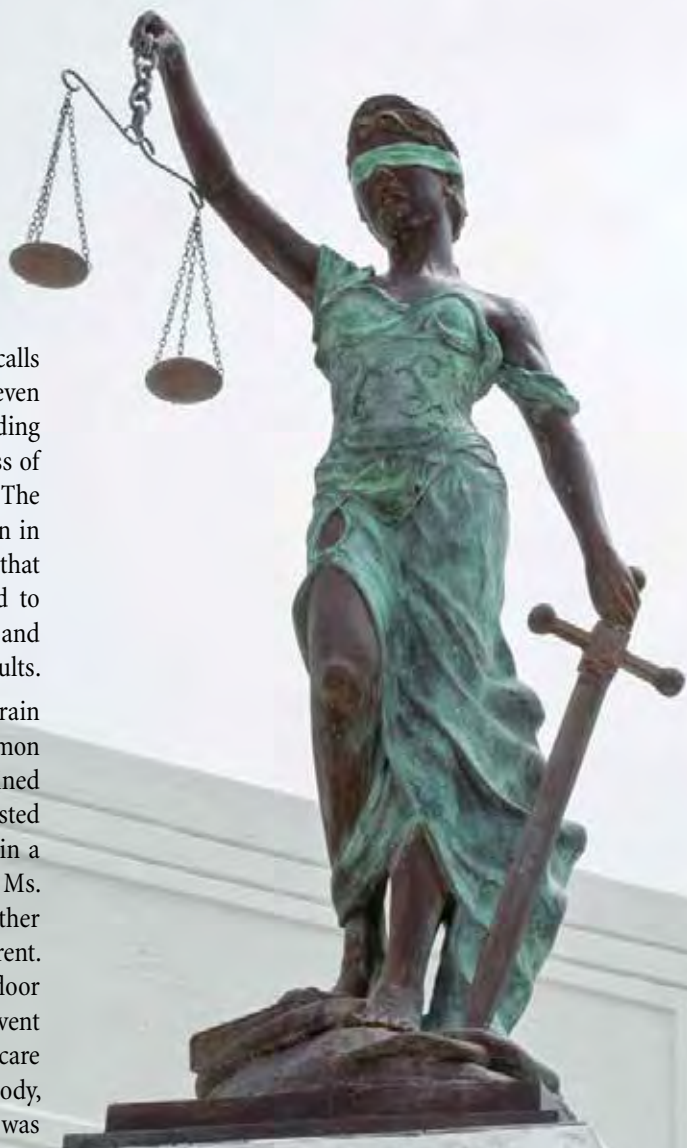
Under applicable Canton Police Department's training regulations, shift commanders were authorized to determine whether a detainee required medical attention within their sole discretion in spite of the fact that they were not provided sufficient medical training to enable them to make such decisions.

In analyzing the subject incident, the Court looked to *Monell v. New York City Dept. of Soc. Servs.* and determined that a City could be held liable for the inadequacy of its training program under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 "only where the failure to train amounts to deliberate indifference to the rights of persons with whom the police come into contact." The Court explained the standard of deliberate indifference as when "the need for more or different training is so obvious, and the inadequacy so likely to result in the violation of constitutional rights, that the policymakers of the City can be reasonably said to have been deliberately indifferent to the need."

By way of example, the Court explained that deliberate indifference occurs when the City's policymakers are aware that their armed

police officers will be required to arrest fleeing suspects, yet fail to train their officers on the constitutional limits of use of deadly force, or when officers develop a pattern of constitutional violations of sufficient frequency that the need for retraining must have been "plainly obvious" to the policymakers who failed to change course. "That a particular officer may be unsatisfactorily trained will not alone suffice to fasten liability on the city, for the officer's shortcomings may have resulted from factors other than a faulty training program." The Court further held that in order for liability to attach, there must be a causal connection between the alleged training deficiency and the actual injury.

In the years that followed the Supreme Court's *Harris* opinion, constitutional failure to train has been examined in a variety of law enforcement contexts. In *Connick v. Thompson*, the Supreme Court analyzed the underlying lack of training related to the failure to turn over exculpatory evidence by the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office. During the prosecution of *Thompson*



for armed robbery, Orleans Parish District Attorneys failed to turn over to the defense a swatch of fabric stained with the robber's blood. The prosecution completed the entire trial without mention of the swatch or lab reports regarding the swatch. When Thompson was later tried for murder, he was convicted and sentenced to death. Fourteen years later, a private investigator discovered the withheld crime lab report regarding the swatch. Thompson was then tested and found to have a different blood type than the blood type found on the swatch. The Louisiana Court of Appeal reversed Thompson's murder conviction, and he was retried and ultimately acquitted of the murder charges.

Though Thompson did not establish a pattern of similar Brady violations, he contended that during the ten years preceding his armed robbery trial, Louisiana courts had overturned four convictions because of Brady violations by prosecutors in the same office.

In analyzing his claim under the deliberate indifference standard, the Court first looked to whether Thompson was able to establish a pattern of similar constitutional violations by untrained employees. Thompson cited to four reversals on appeal for Brady violations by prosecutors in the same office, but none of them involved the failure to disclose blood evidence, a lab report, or comparable forensic evidence. Thus, the Court found that the four reversals for factually dissimilar Brady violations were insufficient to put the policymaker on notice that the office's training program was inadequate.

The Court then looked to whether Thompson's theory of single-incident liability was sufficient to demonstrate that the violation of rights was an "obvious" consequence of the failure to train. The Court compared the incident facts to the hypothetical posed in *Canton v. Harris*, and determined that the specific legal training

necessitated by a police officer's need to make split-second decisions in the field was not of the same type required to function as a prosecutor by virtue of the legal education, substantive examination, licensing and ethical obligations attorneys receive, and the on the job training that is typical in a prosecutor's office. "A licensed attorney making legal judgments, in his capacity at a prosecutor, about Brady material simply does not present the same 'highly

“  
*During the pursuit,  
the handler tripped in  
the snow, lost hold of  
the canine's leash, and  
gave the canine "Billy"  
a verbal command to  
apprehend Holiday.  
When officers caught  
up to Holiday and  
attempted to take him  
into custody, he failed  
to comply with repeated  
commands to get on the  
ground...*

predictable' constitutional danger as Canton's untrained officer." The Court ultimately reversed the District Court's denial of the motion for judgment as a matter of law on the failure to train claim.

In *Robinson v. Shasta*, the District Court analyzed the sufficiency of the Redding Police Department's training program for contact with emotionally disturbed or mentally ill persons. There, Redding Police Officers had responded to a distress call from a medical transport driver who was attempting to transport a mentally disabled patient to a lockdown facility in Redding on a WIC § 5150

hold. When the driver tried to transfer the patient to the lockdown facility, the patient became agitated and violent and fashioned a potentially dangerous weapon out of a plastic light. The facility refused to accept the patient until he calmed down, so the driver called for police assistance so he could be transported to a hospital.

When Officers arrived, they extracted the patient from the vehicle, tackled him to the ground, struck him in the face approximately five times with a pepper spray canister, and placed a spit hood over the patient's head. Eventually, the patient stopped breathing, prompting an officer to administer CPR until emergency medical services arrived at the scene. The patient suffered two fractured ribs among other injuries, and ultimately died in the hospital eight days; the cause of death was disputed.

Plaintiffs attempted to base their failure to

train claim on the single episode at issue in the lawsuit, rather than a constitutionally inadequate overall training program. The Court determined that the isolated incident was insufficient to establish deliberate indifference, and granted summary judgment to the City.

In *Estate of Mendez v. Ceres*, the District Court reviewed a case involving the Ceres Police Department's training policy with regard to the use of force. The case involved a vehicle pursuit, where the unarmed driver attempted to abscond on foot after the vehicle stopped. As he was running away, at least one Ceres Police Officer shot the driver in the back, and he later died from his injuries. The plaintiff attempted to establish failure to train liability by providing the Court with a list of the City's prior settlements, and another list containing prior incidents, citizen complaints, and pending litigation. However, the Court noted that the cited cases were remote in time from the pending litigation, and that some of the cases were factually different from the instant matter.

In analyzing whether the cited cases were sufficient to meet the Canton deliberate indifference standard, the Court noted the time gaps between prior cases, the dissimilarity of some of those cases, and the plaintiffs' failure to make any factual showing that the City's police department failed to take subsequent action following excessive force incidents. Ultimately, the Court held "[p]laintiffs have not alleged sufficiently a pattern of prior, similar constitutional violations that plausibly demonstrate deliberate indifference in training or supervision, such that the pattern permits inference of policy or lack of policy on excessive force," and dismissed the Monell claims against the City.

These case decisions show that is far easier for plaintiffs to allege a failure to train cause of action, than to meet the stringent pleading and proof requirements established by Canton. Practically speaking, what do these cases mean for police canine handlers and the City's that employ them?

In *Holiday v. City of Kalamazoo*, the District Court reviewed the sufficiency of the City's police canine training program under a 42



U.S.C. § 1983 failure to train claim. Plaintiff Holiday alleged that the City failed to train its Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (“KDPS”) Officers on the proper procedure for apprehending a subject with a police canine when the handler is not present. The case involved the arrest of suspect Holiday on several outstanding warrants, including a warrant for felony domestic violence. The handler gave Holiday several canine warnings, and Holiday ignored the warnings, choosing instead to flee on foot. During the pursuit, the handler tripped in the snow, lost hold of the canine’s leash, and gave the canine “Billy” a verbal command to apprehend Holiday. When officers caught up to Holiday and attempted to take him into custody, he failed to comply with repeated commands to get on the ground, and the canine bit him on his rib cage and left arm before the handler was able to catch up to the group.

In analyzing the City’s canine training program under the deliberate indifference standard, the Court noted that all KDPS officers received 4 hours of canine training during their time at the City’s police academy. It was undisputed that KDPS provided “extensive and ongoing” police dog training to its handlers. Furthermore, even though plaintiff alleged that KDPS failed to provide its officers training on the unlikely scenario where the handler became incapacitated and was not present during

the apprehension (as happened in the incident), it was insufficient to diminish the adequacy of the entire training program or to establish deliberate indifference liability. Citing *Canton*, the Court noted that the City was only required to train its officers “to respond properly to the usual and recurring situations which they must deal.” These words strike at the heart of what is required for a canine training program to pass constitutional muster.

In *Kerr v. West Palm Beach*, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit reversed the District Court’s entry of judgment notwithstanding the verdict on behalf of the City on 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claims for inadequate training and supervision, and encouraging an “atmosphere of lawlessness.” On review, the Appellate Court noted that the City utilized a 12 week training program for its canines and handlers involving 480 hours of instruction on basic obedience and police work, implemented policies and operational guidelines for when force could be used by a police canine, and had established uniform procedures for how to properly investigate and document a canine use of force.

However, testimony showed that the department’s policy did not require a handler to have probable cause to believe that a suspect had committed a felony before deploying a canine, but held that reasonable suspicion was sufficient. The department had an

*The Court held that the evidence showed that “police dogs must be subject to continual, rigorous training in law enforcement techniques. Such training ensures that the dogs will continue to respond with alacrity to the commands of their handlers.”*



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oral policy that allowed apprehension of fleeing and concealed suspects for “serious misdemeanors” but left the interpretation of that term to officer discretion. The Court cited to the department’s use of the bite and hold method of training as being particularly aggressive in that unless a handler gave the canine a release command, the canine would continue to hold the suspect - increasing the likelihood of prolonged or multiple bites, and making serious injury inevitable. Finally, the Court noted the canine unit’s high overall bite ratio of about fifty percent, the department’s lack of formal procedures for monitoring the performance of the unit (the department prepared informal force reports that were not preserved, but typically discarded after 30 days), and three prior canine apprehensions that had resulted in lawsuits and a jury finding of excessive force.

The Court analyzed the evidence according to the Canton deliberate indifference standard and determined that the City and its former police chief failed to establish an adequate training program. The Court held that the evidence showed that “police dogs must be subject to continual, rigorous training in law enforcement techniques. Such training ensures that the dogs will continue to respond with alacrity to the commands of their handlers.” The evidence also established that the officers in the

City’s canine unit resorted to using force more frequently than other municipalities, as indicated by the high bite ratio, and used excessive force to apprehend subjects suspected of only minor misdemeanor offenses. The Court determined that the confluence of evidence, when weighed in the balance according to the applicable legal standard, was enough to show a constitutionally inadequate training program.

In analyzing whether the inadequate training program represented City policy, the Court looked to the high incidence of injuries caused by the apprehension of suspects by the City’s canine unit. The Court noted the fact that when apprehension resulted in a bite, force reports were prepared and reviewed by supervisors, including the former chief of police, who in turn failed to implement any corrective action where the “unconstitutional character of many of the canine unit’s apprehensions was plainly obvious.” Finally, the Court explained that direct evidence of the City’s awareness and inaction with regard to the canine program deficiencies had been presented to the jury through testimony of the former chief. The Court ultimately determined that there was sufficient evidence to support liability and reinstated the jury’s verdict against the City. It is clear from the Court’s analysis in *Holiday* that the constitutional sufficiency

of an overall training program can involve many facets: implementing a rigorous, ongoing training program; utilizing best practices and techniques to minimize injury as much as possible; using a formal tracking mechanism in the department to monitor canine performance and injuries; setting mandatory policies that govern deployments and minimize the incidence of injuries; and debriefing critical incidents for lessons learned and taking corrective action when necessary are key.

Conversely, a “[s]ingle incident cannot establish a municipal policy or custom,” with regard to canine training. Thus, the law seems to account for the rapidly-evolving situations and unpredictable factors encountered by officers in the field, and the occasional instance of human error.

In light of the recent media attention on cities such as Salt Lake City and Indianapolis, the issue of training is more important than ever. Canine units must be able to demonstrate that their canine/handler teams are well-trained and that the training is well-documented. Canine handlers must not only be able to defend themselves in a court of law, they must also be able to defend themselves in the court of public opinion. Contemporary and documented training is a way to win in both courts.

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**Lynn Carpenter** has worked closely with law enforcement through the course of her legal career, first as a prosecutor and advocate for victims of violent crime, and now as a defender of officers and deputies in civil rights cases. In her time as a litigation defense attorney, she has handled numerous wrongful death – excessive force cases, and has defended every manner of use of force, including use of firearm, TASER, K-9 deployment, O.C. spray, control holds, manual and baton strikes, as well as SWAT/SRT tactical operations all within the context of claims made under the civil rights statute. Through this important work, she has gained extensive knowledge of police use of force and tactical training, and understands the enormity of the responsibility placed on officers with regard to proper use of force in often heated and exigent situations.

Ms. Carpenter has tried a number of criminal and civil trials to successful verdict, and has negotiated settlements in very challenging cases where the initial hope for resolution was very dim. Through this experience, she has learned that most important battles are won (or lost) in advance, through careful planning and preparation.





# Navigating the Police K-9 Import Business

*By Steve Pearson*

I am writing this article because I have seen far too many agencies swindled when they purchase a new green dual-purpose police dog candidate. I thought that a little insight into the K-9 import business might help decrease the number of “victim” agencies who fall prey to deceitful police K-9 importers and exporters.

The importation of dogs for police work in the United States began picking up steam in the mid 90's. Today we see some dogs coming from Mexico, Brazil, and a few other countries but a majority of them come from Europe. Why? The simplified reason is because that is where the working dog breeds were originally created and developed into the dogs we see today.

Prior to September 11, 2001 suitable quality imports were relatively easy to find and affordable. After 9/11 things changed in a dramatic way. Dogs are a world-wide commodity just like oil and oranges. The 9/11 attacks generated an enormous world-wide demand for police and military working dogs. The brisk demand created a short supply and a significantly higher price for quality working dogs. To compensate for the low supply of quality German Shepherd Dogs and Malinois, the European breeders began to increase their cross breeding of the German Shepherd and Malinois and Dutch Shepherds. The goal of this cross breeding is to take the stability of the GSD and mix it with the drive of the Malinois. The cross breeding helped with the short supply but the increase in demand did not slow. This supply and demand scenario created the situation we are in today. There are not enough quality green dogs from working lines to meet the demand. Consequently, more and more agencies are being conned, tricked, and defrauded by dishonest and corrupt importers and/or “vendors”

who are selling sub-standard dogs. It is not my intention to imply that most K-9 importers and/or “venders” in the United States are crooked or corrupt. However, it is my experience that this industry has a very high level of fraud and corruption on both sides of the pond compared to other businesses.

In my opinion, too many agencies are accepting green dogs that should have been immediately rejected or returned. Just so we are clear on terminology, my definition of a green dog is a dog who has not been trained. They search because they have the inherent genetic disposition to do so. They have been “built” in a sense because they bite a sleeve and/or a suit, but green dogs do not have any formal training beyond that.

One of the most common areas of fraud is selling single purpose dogs as dual purpose quality. A dog who has the character of a single purpose detection dog must not be placed into the role of a dual-purpose dog. They simply are not built for that type of work and will likely get the handler hurt or killed. These dogs frequently fail to engage or run from danger. They are not likely to search into dark rooms or tight places and may not want to walk on slick floors. Single purpose dogs who are thrust into the dual-purpose role are more likely to become high in defense and become fear biters. Another potential area of fraud is the sale of dogs who have the character for the sport (IPO, Schutzhund, KNPV, ZVV and alike). These dogs may not be good candidates for police work. They test quite well on green grass where they are comfortable. Once you bring the sport dog into a building you might see a very different dog. Environmental issues are the most common problems you see in these dogs. They may not want to walk on slick floors, enter dark rooms,

or even climb some types of stairs. They are quite comfortable and strong outside but might be quite insecure indoors. Solid environmental testing indoors is a must with these dogs. Are all sport dogs poor dual-purpose police dog candidates? Absolutely not. Some sport dogs make fine dual-purpose dogs. But be careful and make sure these dogs are just as strong inside as they are outdoors.

So why do the “vendors” sell these dogs as dual purpose dogs and who is to blame? The answer to the first question is easy; money. Dual purpose green dogs bring more money than single purpose and sport dogs. It is that simple. The vendors do not care whether or not you or your partners are hurt or killed because your dog did not do his job. That is your problem. Who is to blame? Ultimately it is the person who selected the dog and often times that is you. There are only a handful of serious European companies/kennels who export dogs to the United States. Most of them are in one way, shape, or form dishonest. An American company who imports the dogs is then faced with a dilemma. Do they return the single purpose dogs who have been advertised as dual-purpose quality? Or, do they perpetuate the lie and try to make it work? This is the ethical issue that the importer is faced with. To me the answer is simple. But to some, returning the dogs to Europe is a costly venture and not good for the bottom line. So, they keep these single purpose dogs and either perpetuate the lie or sell the dogs as single purpose and make significantly less money.

In 2003 I was selecting dogs at a kennel I used to do business with in Holland. We were driving back to the kennel from the testing area when the owner of the kennel told me, “you are a fu\*king idiot”. I was a bit surprised and I asked him why he

thought that. He said, “because all you ever do is come here and take my best dogs”. He added, “there is no money in good dogs. The money is in the shit. You will be bankrupt in 2 years”. I did not immediately understand what he was talking about but soon realized that he was correct. If you can get someone to purchase a low quality or otherwise substandard or defective green dog at the same price as a high-quality dual-purpose dog you will reap fantastic profits. The person who told me this is a tremendously successful exporter of working dogs. But there is one problem with this business model. It won't work if you have any integrity or ethical values.

A common question is, why would an importer keep going back to an exporter who had been deceitful in the past by slipping in a few clinkers from time to time? Simple. Either the importer has acquiesced to what I call the Dutch business model; “the money is in the shit”, or there is nowhere else to go. This is a difficult part of the import business that forces many into bankruptcy. They are swindled and taken advantage of by the exporter. Then they locate a new kennel in Europe and purchase some nice dogs from the new kennel. Once the level of “trust” has been built, Bam! The new kennel tosses in a few inferior dogs and the cycle starts all over again. Even if the exporter would take the dogs back, (and most will) the importer is still out big money. He paid for the dogs to go from Europe to the U.S. and back again. Then he had to pay for the replacement dogs to ship to the U.S. hoping and praying that these dogs will work. The importer has spent thousands on shipping and hasn't even sold a dog yet. The exporter is out nothing. This is why so many importers in the U.S. concede to the fraud. It is either that or go out of business.

It is common to banter about the age of some green imports. Someone would say, “how old is the dog?” The answer would be, “how old do you want him to be?” The sad part is, that in many cases this banter is actually true. Have you ever seen a new green dog who is grey in the muzzle and has an abundance of scaly plaque on his molars? The handler is told that the dog

is 14 months old and he has the dog's passport to prove it. Yet another con. It is not at all uncommon for 3 to 4-year old dogs to be sold as 14-18-month-old dogs. I recently saw an imported dog who had just been purchased by an agency and the dog's passport indicated he was 18 months. The dog was grey in the muzzle, had an ample amount of plaque on his teeth, and arthritis in his hips. The vet estimated the dog's age at between 4.5 and 6 years. Granted this is an extreme example but it does happen and will continue to happen into the future.

Prior to 9/11 it was not uncommon to purchase new green dogs between the age of 18-24 months. The dogs were more mature and you rarely saw any puppy biting from these dogs. So, if the world-wide supply of quality green dogs is exceptionally low, does it make any sense that an importer would have an abundance of dogs between 18 and 24 months or even older? No chance. The fact of the matter is that importers are now forced to purchase their dogs at a much younger age. The general rule is that if the importer does not buy the dog now, someone else will. When you see a dog that is 24 to 36 months old being sold as a 14 to 18-month old dog you can rest assured that the dog was most likely returned to the seller by one or more agencies. The reasons the dog had been returned may not be clear to you until you take the dog to the vet and/or start training the dog. Be very afraid of the internet as it is full of misleading falsehoods and lies. Beware of the web site with claims such as, “we have 20-25 of the finest world class green and trained patrol and detection dogs on hand at all times”. There is no chance that this claim is true.

What about titled dogs? What are they and are they worth the money? A titled dog is one that is at least 15 months old on the lower end and minimum 20 months old on the upper end of titles in the sport. The most common titles are IPO-BH, IPO-1, IPO-2, and IPO-3. (IPO has replaced the Schutzhund 1, 2, and 3 titles.) Another common title is the KNPV PH-1 title. KNPV is a Dutch organization founded in 1907. In English KNPV translates to Royal Dutch Police Dog Association. There are other titles in KNPV but PH-1 is most

common. There are three levels of the PH-1 title. The most common breeds used in the KNPV sport are the Malinois and Dutch Shepherds. The number of dogs with this title on an annual basis has decreased significantly from about 695 PH-1 titled dogs in 1993 to fewer than 200 today. The reason for the lower number is simple. There are substantially fewer quality dogs available who can pass the test. The PH-1 test is a strong one. KNPV titled dogs are typically very strong and are generally not a good choice for a new handler particularly if the new handler does not have help from trainers who have experience with Mals. A PH-1 dog may cost between 6,000 and 10,000 Euro. After that you have to teach the dog the skills needed for police work. Plus, there is no guarantee the dog will be environmentally solid. All of the testing for KNPV and IPO titled dogs is done outside. These dogs are not required to perform any tasks indoors to earn their titles. Worth the risk and money? Not for me.

This is not an article about what tests to use and how to use them. That subject has been covered quite thoroughly over the years. If you are not experienced at selecting a dog then you must either hire someone who is, or trust and ensure that your trainer is well suited to select a quality dog for you. Most law enforcement agencies in the United States do not have staff with the expertise required to select and train police dogs. As a result, it is customary for agencies to rely upon their trainers to do the job for them.

In the 1980's former President Ronald Reagan used an English version of a Russian proverb when describing the relationship between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The proverb was, “trust but verify”. That is the stance I suggest everyone takes when selecting their new green dog. Most dogs test very well and look super strong on green grass. Conducting further “tests” outdoors on your own are pointless. There are a few things that you can do to add to your peace of mind that your dog has the potential of being an effective dual-purpose patrol dog:

- Make sure that you have thoroughly vetted your supplier and/or trainer and



know what the guarantee(s) are:

- If the trainer and importer are the same person or company then the guarantee should not be a problem
- If the trainer and importer/supplier are not the same person or company, you need to clarify how the guarantee is exercised if necessary and ensure that the trainer will advocate on your behalf
- At first glance does the dog look about how old the is alleged to be? If not, bring up your concerns when you visit the vet.
- Bring the dog inside fire stations, public works garages, slick floors of any kind, Home Depot, Lowes, and similar places. Jump him over objects, counters, and benches. How does he behave? The objective is to ensure that the dog is environmentally stable. If there are any concerns you must discuss these concerns with the trainer and/or importer right away. If the dog is not environmentally sound, there is no point in proceeding. Return him.
- Is your dog social around people and other dogs? It is not common for a quality, well socialized 12-14 month-old dog to act like a prick around people. If you see some anti-social behaviors in your dog shortly after you acquire him please seek some advice from a professional. A 12-14-month old dog who shows aggressive or other anti-social behaviors before basic training will likely become an out of control lunatic after training. That is, if he makes it that long. Do not accept dogs like this.
- If your new dog hesitates a bit when entering a new area or room don't panic. You want to know whether or not the dog recovers from his initial fear of a new area. If he recovers quickly and enters new areas a day or two later without hesitation you are good to go. However, if you bring the dog to this "new" area repeatedly and he still shows fear and/or hesitation you most likely have a problem.
- In my opinion a dog who will not walk on slick floors can never be rehabilitated 100%. Others may disagree with me but this is a serious environmental issue and may be indicative of other problems with the dog. Do not accept a dog who will not walk on slick floors. Do not accept the notion that

the dog can be fixed over time.

- The European Union has a registration law whereby all dogs that are for sale must be registered with their government. Unfortunately, most EU countries do not strictly follow this rule. If your dog came from Slovakia you can go to a web site ([www.crsz.sk](http://www.crsz.sk)) and enter the dog's passport number or transponder number to view the dog's history. If the Slovak dog is not in the system, you most likely have a fraudulent passport. Dog's coming from other countries who do not have the registration system are more prone to passport fraud. The most common passport fraud is the birth date.
- Touch your dog on his flank. If he flinches or otherwise shows you a reaction that he really does not like being touched there, you may have a problem. Some dogs are "flanked" by twisting the skin (their flank) to cause them pain and make them bite. If your new dog has been flanked it should cause you to examine the dog in greater detail. What other behavioral issues might he have? Is he likely to be less social than you desire?
- If the dog is neutered, ask the importer why that is so. It is not normal for the Europeans to neuter the dogs. I am not opposed to neutering a dual-purpose dog. But If he is neutered it is likely that he was purchased by a different agency who neutered him and then returned him to the importer. You are most likely being asked to buy a dog that someone else returned. Big red flag.
- Bring your new dog to the vet sooner than later. It is best that your vet has some experience with working dogs but I understand that is not always possible. Each import from Europe comes with a pet passport. Vaccinations, the dog's name, DOB, previous owner's name, passport number, and transponder number (microchip) are all documented in the passport. It is not necessary to revaccinate for diseases already covered in the passport. You will want the vet to give the dog a "once over". If not previously done by the importer, have the dog's blood tested for Lyme's, heartworm, anaplasmosis, and

ehrlichiosis. (This is all done with one blood draw) Vaccinations for Lyme's, Leptospirosis, and Bordetella can also be given at this time. Such vaccinations are rarely given in Europe. If the dog does not have an EU passport send him back. That is a sure sign of fraud.

- X-rays should be available from the importer. If you are going to have your vet read the x-rays please remember that the dog is a working dog. Mild hip dysplasia is not uncommon in new dogs. The key word is mild. Your new working dog is not expected to pass an OFA standard. In all likelihood your dog is too young to be rated by OFA. These ratings are only given to dogs age 2 and older. Your new dog's hip and elbow x-rays may have been taken around 11-13 months of age. A lot can change in the hips over the next 12 months as the dog matures.
- Upon delivery your trainer will likely have a list of do's and don'ts for you to follow. I recommend that you follow them. If any of my recommendations are in conflict with what your trainer told you to do, I suggest you discuss that potential conflict with the trainer. You put your trust in your trainer. You must follow his/her advice.

I hope that this information has or will become helpful when you purchase your next working dog. Please remember, if there are too many red flags and you are not totally sold on the new dog either reject him or send him back immediately. Don't wait until you start seeing problems during basic training. If you wait, you only increase the possibility of running into roadblocks when you try to return the dog for a new one.

The author: Steve Pearson has been a member of Region 12 since 1988. After nearly 30 years of service he retired from the Brooklyn Park, MN police department. Pearson handled 2 patrol dogs and later became the agency's K-9-unit supervisor and trainer. Pearson started Performance Kennels Inc. in 1998 importing and training police K-9's on a part time basis. After retirement in 2010 he started running Performance Kennels on a full-time basis.

# Best Practices in Contemporary Canine Policing

## K9 Operations Insights & Lessons Learned

### LESSONS LEARNED

#### Introduction

The following are lessons-learned based on internal management studies conducted of police K9 units (training and operations), as well as an assessment of national policies, current trends, proposed legislation, and K9 related litigation patterns and outcomes.

#### Risk management and liability reduction<sup>1</sup>

Canine operations by their nature present unique risk management challenges, which have the possibility of manifesting in criminal and civil liability for handlers and agency leaders. However, undeniably that exposure can be mitigated.

The three critical areas of police liability are:

#### Supervisory oversight

- Failure to provide effective supervision
- Poor supervisory training
- Tacit supervisory approval/concurrence of problematic conduct

#### Policy

- Poorly written policies or guidelines
- Failure to enforce existing policy, rules and guidelines
- Operational practices which are consistently outside course and scope of existing policy or department expectations
- Policies that do not comport with current law

#### Training

- Failure to properly train
- Failing to identify and abate critical training needs and deficiencies
- Failing to enforce government (i.e. POST) training mandates or agency training requirements (i.e. certification standards)

Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats<sup>2</sup>

The discussion points in this article do not

make any specific recommendations but are overall ideas (opinions) which reflect insight into possible *Threats* and *Weaknesses* to police departments, K9 units and handlers, which have the possibility of resulting in:

- Civil (and even criminal<sup>3</sup>) liability for handlers and agencies
- Severe (unreasonable) restrictions or limitations on the use of a Police Service Dog (PSD) imposed by police agency leadership or by state or local governments
- Over-reaction by elimination of the K9 unit entirely

These comments present best practices-based opinions which are intended to offer an *Opportunity* for agencies to face those potential threats and address them before they occur with proactive changes (Strengths).

*One of the true tests of leadership is the ability to recognize (and address) a problem before it becomes an emergency.*

~ Arnold Glasgow

### BEST PRACTICES IN CONTEMPORARY CANINE POLICING

#### *- Defined*

*Efficient operational practices which meet or exceed current national and local industry standards, which prioritize the safety of officers, the community and the police service dog, while mitigating injury to the suspect and reducing liability for personnel and the organization<sup>4</sup>*

*Whosoever desires constant success (survival) must change... with the times.*

~ Niccolo Machiavelli

The insights provided are not specific to any law enforcement agency or region; nor are they focused on any particular canine policy or training process/philosophy, but are based on a comprehensive assessment of issues facing civilian canine policing and are intended to generate a prospective-solutions



based discussion regarding industry best practices.

**Note:** The pronoun he will be used throughout for simplicity, the terms K9 and canine may be interchanged. Police department may be used and references any law enforcement agency.

**Policy:** operational policy versus administrative guidelines. With the intent of reducing exposure to liability, it is often best to leave operational policy, training and administrative guidelines separate, for example:

- *Operational Policy.* The document that clearly and specifically governs an agency's policy for the use of K9 and provides operational direction for carrying out that policy; this includes definitions, deployment, contact and accidental bite guidelines and general tactics for use of the K9.

- *Administrative Manual.* This document covers everything else such as training mandates, work schedules, care and feeding, housing, take home car-issues, DEA/training substance guidelines etc.

- *Training Guidelines.* While policy should govern some tactics (general rules), training (scenario based) is where general policy is taught; it is evolving, dynamic and situational and comprised of often confidential details that should not be set in hard cover.

**Policy: confusing, conflicting or poorly worded.** A policy is a general rule to follow; procedures and guidelines are how to achieve that policy. When the K9 policy and the Use of



Force (UOF) policy conflict or have material differences, problems will inevitably occur. When the policy or procedural guidelines are vague, it becomes difficult to interpret by officers and supervisors. Also, when procedures conflict, the officer will make assumptions which may be contrary to the agency's intent. For example, most agencies classify a K9 bite as a UOF. When UOF factors (policy text) are different for K9 than other force, this can lead to confusion and civil liability of all kinds. A standardized UOF policy should cover both deployment (contact bites) and directed deployment (directed bites). Agencies which do not distinguish the two may have problems. Also, if three different officers or supervisor can give three different answers to a policy question or officers can be disciplined differently for the same violation, then the policy is vague and needs formal clarification supported by timely training. For example, what is a *serious crime*? What is *reasonable purpose* or *exceptional circumstances*, or how is a particular deployment criterion defined? If it depends on who is making the decision (subjective), it is poorly worded. In the end, policy should be objective and clear, based on consistent terms and definitions and should always be evenly enforced.

**Internal review: bite ratios** (percentage of deployments resulting in a bite and or percentage of finds resulting in a bite etc.). Agencies which do not distinguish between a find-bite (contact bite) and directed deployment/ apprehension (directed bite) often have a high bite ratio. Often such agencies do not track these ratios or calculate it with a different, vague, or subjective formula. If all deployments and subsequent actions (bite/find etc.) are recorded in a system database, these ratios are easy to assess and audit, which can help identify issues and concerns (and demonstrates transparency).

Several management and accountability reasons exist for tracking of K9 activity. For example, a culture can develop where handlers (perhaps reasonably) believe that if the K9 deployment is justified by policy, any ensuing bite is also covered. Management needs to intervene and flesh this issue out and follow up with specific training to reinforce that deployment does not mean automatic bite.

When handlers are required to provide articulation based on clear criteria for deployment (i.e. *Graham v Connor*), as well as for any ensuing directed bite (intended force) these ratios can be consistent, and bites can be tracked and audited to ensure consistency with agency expectation and best practice standards.

**Note:** It is advisable for policies to be written and maintained in-house and audited/revised as needed no less than annually. Vendor written policies are often general; and while they intend to be specific, they are often written by multi-state companies and could miss the nuanced needs of a particular agency or community. In either case, the department should review operational policies regularly.

**Report writing:** canned language. Use of canned language is problematic and demonstrates that the handler is relying on boilerplate jargon when articulating rationale for initial deployment, for a directed bite or to support the duration of bite. Generalized language such as...*he was fighting my dog... violently resisting the K9...taking a fighting stance...near a possible weapon etc.* can be a problem when justifying a bite; especially when bodycam footage does not reflect those facts. Remember, an officer merely yelling "stop fighting the dog" does not objectively support that the suspect was violently resisting the dog. It also is repetitive (as seen on every YouTube Video of a K9 bite) and those statements can sound self-serving, especially when the suspect is yelling "*ok, ok, ok I give up.*"

**Tactics: recall versus hard-out.** It appears that a significant number of agencies use a hard-out (physical removal) as a default operational tactic versus recalling the PSD off an active bite. However, in training and certification, standardized training entities and trainers certify that the PSD will in fact recall off the bite (required for certification). First, this presents potential issues of liability when officers/teams train one way and perform in a manner apparently contrary to that training. Second, it could cause confusion for a PSD which is expected to maintain a bite through cuffing in the field but expected to release on command in training. Third, again while there are certainly going to be

reasons for leaving the PSD on the bite until cuffing (exceptions) and a hard out may be appropriate and reasonable; in many cases, this tactic is not objectively reasonable and can result in an extended and avoidable duration of bite (DOB). In the end, a best practices-based policy requires that the PSD be recalled when the suspect has clearly and objectively submitted to custody and is no longer actively resisting but-for the bite. The common and rote reaction by handlers is... *the suspect may flee, and this would cause a re-bite.* While this certainly could be the case and a second clearly articulatable directed bite may occur - leaving the PSD on an extended bite in all cases, to avoid a possible re-bite in some cases is not a reasonable operational tactic.

Also, while *bad optics* is never a basis for making policy or for developing tactics or training, in light of current events and national trends towards restricting canine, it is a consideration that agencies need to keep in mind. As we have seen, ignoring the reactions of the community or even the media, can lead to bad consequences for department and city/county/state leaders. For example, in broad support for police reform, based on patterns and practices, the California Attorney General recently proposed the use of limiting police dogs.<sup>5</sup> Other communities have been reacting or voicing concerns over use of K9 as well <sup>6, 7, 8</sup> In the end, ignoring issues raised by those we serve because we know what's best....is not in line with best practices in any industry and can invite foreseeable problems and possible ruin. It is not inconceivable for a law enforcement leader to simply change policy on use of K9 in (knee-jerk) reaction to a YouTube video or a lawsuit. The good news is that It is not difficult to foresee these outcomes and avoid them with critical thinking and proactive industry changes to training and policy.

**Tactics: duration of bite (DOB).** This issue is likely to be the most problematic for agencies in the future. Agencies must assess their K9 policy to ensure they are consistent with any agency/state/POST or other required provision regarding UOF *Proportionality, De-escalation, and Reasonableness*. In the end, if you cannot continue to deploy the Taser or use the baton, handlers should probably not continue to 'use'(maintain active bite) the

K9 (arguably more damaging than a baton or Taser).

While handlers may consider this, bite-until-secure tactic as...*just the way it's done*, and public opinion be dammed, the future (even survival) of K9 operations may be dependent on making reasonable best practice-based changes in policy and training. While an extended DOB may certainly be appropriate; in many cases it objectively is not. Videos that show a suspect being handcuffed during an active bite can be disturbing to juries and the lay person and will continue to be questioned. In the end, the involved continuation-of-force may not be objectively reasonable or proportional to the level of the suspect's resistance (against cuffing); especially when the suspect is often resisting a painful dog bite and not police restraint. Simply assess as follows:

1. Does the bite increase (escalate) or decrease (de-escalate) the level of resistance by the suspect?
2. Would similar force (Taser or baton) be acceptable in the same situation?
3. Would removing the PSD earlier to allow conventional handcuffing to de-escalate the suspects resistance?

How would a well-versed expert testify to these questions in a civil trial?

If the reaction is that your agency does not have an actual de-escalation policy, this is ignoring national trends just to maintain the status quo and may not be the best option. While 34 states do not yet mandate *de-escalation* training, it is reasonably foreseeable that all states will eventually adopt some form of de-escalation or proportionality protocols in police training. Best practices suggest that agencies foresee these changes and adapt policies and practices accordingly.

On June 16, 2020, the White House issued an Executive Order that states:

*...(c) The Attorney General shall certify independent credentialing bodies that meet standards to be set by the Attorney General reputable, independent credentialing bodies, eligible for certification by the Attorney General, should address certain topics in*



*their reviews, such as policies and training regarding use-of-force and de-escalation techniques...<sup>9</sup>*

Also, invariably the response is...but K9 is different. In the end, how is the use of a K9 different? We know it is unique and highly specialized, but it is a UOF and must be covered by the agency parameters and public policy involved in any UOF.

**Critical assessment: body worn camera (BWC) avoidance.** Approximately 60% of agencies have some form of BWC system and that number continues to grow. The Justice in Policing Act of 2020 *would make it compulsory for "federal uniformed police officers to wear body cameras."* It would also require *"state and local law enforcement to use existing federal funds to ensure the use of police body cameras."*<sup>10</sup>

Many law enforcement agencies either excuse K9 handlers (or specialized operations) from the requirement of wearing and activating the BWC or are lackadaisical when it comes to enforcing BWC policies. This is apparent when officers fail to activate their BWC before a K9 deployment. More and more often, the incident is captured on other civilian cell phone or CCTV video and the department is caught trying to explain footage on TV news edited by others, instead of being ahead of the curve with their own unedited BWC video. In a worst case scenario, supervisors or handlers are seen on video telling others on scene to turn their BWC off. Needless to say, this recording would be invaluable to any plaintiff attorney.

This fear of transparency and accountability is antiquated, fraught with liability and is simply unreasonable. In the end, K9 handlers (departments) should never fear transparency

when they are following properly developed policies which are based on agency leadership expectations and consistent with best practices-based tactics and training.

By and large, communities support the police and appreciate K9 units for several reasons. The community also understands that policing, like surgery can be ugly, and PSD bites may not be pretty. But the days of avoiding transparency and refusing to explain police actions (i.e. 'no comment') are quickly fading. Best practice agencies have no problem confidently explaining an incident and being in front of any bad media or poor optics that may result.

Also, all law enforcement agencies should be equipped for and capable of internal critical assessment—and embrace the concept of *quality through continuous improvement*—learning and growing when things do not go right. Refusing to look at the video or identify problems or ignoring them, then refusing to resolve clear problems can cause immeasurable problems internally, can erode community trust and even end careers.

**Organization: Informal leadership.** Imagine if SWAT or the Tactical/ Gang Unit were simply left on their own to operate with little supervision or with part time supervisors who really have no interest or knowledge of the subject matter. The part-time K9 sergeant - with collateral duties is often assigned because the span of control for the unit is small. However, this does not take into consideration the significant impact on the organization that a K9 unit can have, as well as the tremendous risk management issues involved. The part-time sergeant is often not even working the same shift with the K9 unit and has little interaction with its members. It is not unusual for the K9 sergeant to simply tell the unit to "keep him informed", then leave the day to day operations to K9 handlers. In this case, the informal leadership of the unit takes over because handlers learn to take care of themselves. This can work out fine – or not.

This is the case with many agencies; a patrol (or other) supervisor with collateral duties is assigned as the K9 sergeant. He has little or no knowledge or interest in K9 and therefore



has little confidence to direct the operations of this highly specialized, high liability exposure unit. Time and time again, high profile bites occur and the police command either have no idea what happened or defers to the K9 unit itself to explain the incident. In the end a chief may be embarrassed because he did not know what was going on in his own department or on the street. Imagine having your chief deposed on a K9 incident when he was unaware of the policy, training and tactics that led to it and, in the end, disagrees with it.

Often K9 unit informal leadership consists of every handler fending for himself; or may mean that unit tactics are adopted based on the opinion of the vendor trainer who may or may not have experience in police work or be familiar with the department's UOF or other policies. For example, a handler attends a training course by a military K9 handler or at an out of state conference and brings that training back to the unit. Without a formal leadership process to regulate training and policy, this can lead to objectively bad consequences.

In the end, committed, full-time supervision with a priority on K9 operations is a best practice. When a part-time K9 sergeant is the only option, that supervisor must prioritize the K9 unit, be fully trained on K9 operations, attend all training, and remain fully accountable to department command.

One effective way to support a part-time K9 sergeant is to identify a 'lead handler' (corporal or formal senior rank), especially for any unit which has four or more K9

teams. The lead handler can coordinate with the K9 sergeant, day to day operations of the unit including tracking training and unit needs. Arguably, units that are larger than four teams should have a full-time sergeant assigned. The critical role of the K9 unit and the liability involved is far too great to leave this to a part-time supervisor who may have little commitment or formal accountability. If for example, the four- member traffic unit has a full-time sergeant and the similar sized K9 unit does not, the agencies need to reassess.

**Training: chief trainer.** K9 unit training should be consistent and every unit should have a chief trainer either in-house for larger agencies or with an identified vendor. The chief trainer should be a law enforcement oriented, experienced trainer who will integrate tactical training into basic K9 training. K9 handlers need specific perishable tactical training such as team movement and search technique. Without such a chief expert trainer, the team and each handler are left to adapt their own tactics which may or may not be consistent with each other or with industry best practices. The department (certifying) training entity is often responsible for a dozen or more agencies often in more than one state and is not responsible for teaching police tactics. There are a dozen ways to search a building, but some are far better and safer than others. Contrary to popular belief, the basic training a handler gets (and certifies to) is not enough for a canine unit. Tactical training is essential and perishable and should be best practices based, uniform and consistent.

**Internal assessment: database/files.** The K9 unit should always track training and all deployments as an internal assessment process which is not part of the supplemental police report or UOF report. This can be in a hard file with a training record or a database such as *KATS* or *PackTrack*. These files should be audited regularly by the lead handler or supervisor for trends and ratios and should timely reflect all training.

**Internal assessment: Post Bite Assessment (PBA).** Part of the internal review should be a mandatory PBA on every bite, where a supervisor reviews the exact circumstances and identifies any training issues honestly, consistently, and fairly. Those issues should be remediated timely and all this information should be retained in the internal (confidential) file. This can be fulfilled with hard files or online based on agency needs. Lastly, the

K9 supervisor should conduct regular debriefs with the unit to discuss incidents, trends and litigation that is occurring across the country.

## Conclusion

To reiterate, these recommendations and discussion points are not mandatory for any agency or required by law, but reflect best practices based on national trends and litigation outcomes nationwide.

For a list of resources including model policy language, case law, articles and videos, visit [www.policing-solutions.com](http://www.policing-solutions.com)

*Scott Sargent*

## Scott Sargent, LAPD Captain, ret.



Scott is a 34 year law enforcement veteran and founder of Policing-Solutions.com LLC which is focused on consultation to law enforcement agencies on use of force and canine policing operations and policies. Since 2018, Scott has worked as a project team member with the Law Firm of Manning & Kass in conducting management studies of canine units including assessment of bite ratios, training and policies with the goal of providing best practices-based recommendations for change. Scott worked for several law enforcement agencies including seven years with the Rialto Police Department in San Bernardino County, where he was a cross trained K9 handler. Scott joined the LAPD in 1993 and retired after 22 years. He was the commanding officer of the LAPD Use of Force Review Division, responsible for the adjudication of over 13,000 use of force incidents over seven years including categorical K9 Bites and over 500 officer involved shootings. Scott revised the LAPD K9 Manual and drafted numerous LAPD force related policies and tactical directives over the years. He has served as an expert witness in several federal OIS civil cases as a police practices; and human-dynamics expert, and as a police-defense consultant on other cases. Since 2015, Scott has been an Assistant Monitor on the Department of Justice Consent Decree compliance team for the City of Cleveland where he has been involved in use of force related policy reviews including the department's K9 Policy. Scott has a MA in Organizational Management from Azusa Pacific University, a BA from University of Redlands and a Law Degree from Southwestern University and is an active attorney.

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# END OF WATCH



## K9 Sjaak

La Vergne Police Department, Tennessee  
End of Watch

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

K9 Sjaak succumbed to a gunshot wound sustained the previous day after a subject opened fire on his handler's patrol car with an AR-15 rifle without provocation.

K9 Sjaak had served with the La Vergne Police Department for six years.



## K9 Titan

Johnstown Police Dept, Pennsylvania  
End of Watch Sunday  
November 22, 2020

Officers responding to a burglary located two suspects hiding in the warehouse and learned three more suspects were inside.

As K9 Titan conducted a search of the building's fourth floor he fell down an open, unsecured elevator shaft. K9 Titan suffered fatal injuries in the fall.

K9 Titan had served with the Johnstown Police Department for six years.



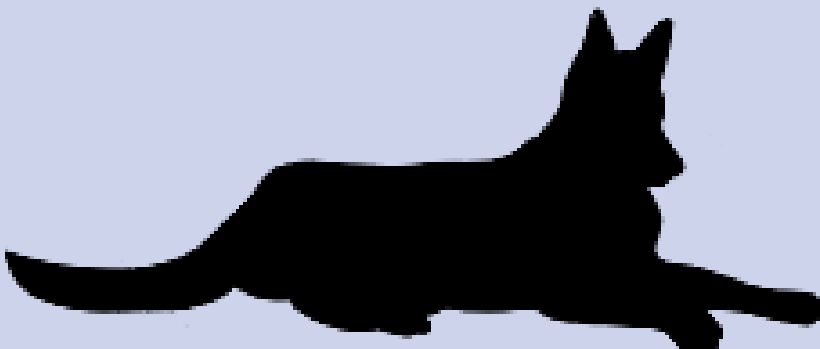
## K9 Diesel

Bartholomew Co. Sheriff's Office, Indiana  
End of Watch

Saturday, November 14, 2020

K9 Diesel was struck and killed by a vehicle while attempting an apprehension of a subject on two felony domestic battery warrants. It was later determined that K9 Diesel had been struck by a vehicle while chasing the suspect across the interstate.

K9 Diesel had served with the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Office for four years.





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