

USK9 Unlimited

Detection/Apprehension/Tracking Certification

“5-WEEK DUAL PURPOSE HANDLER PROGRAM”

For every great and successful canine trainer, there are hundreds who fail. The single most important element that will determine success or failure as a K9 handler is choosing the right dog training school, making sure that the courses offered provide both entry and advanced levels specific to the handler's needs so that the handler can start with a solid foundation and graduate to more advanced courses.

This course moves the student from the basic 4-week Handler Detector Course into a more specific certification that is dual purpose in nature, focusing on the use of K9s for detection, suspect apprehension and tracking. The course starts with an overview of canine policy and procedures related to using a canine for apprehension/tracking and moves into K9 obedience, agility and decoy techniques before transitioning into its main focus: obedience, patrol functions, suspect apprehension and tracking. Students will be subjected to classroom lecture, presentations and real time field practical exercises as they progress toward their certification. Upon completion of the 5-week course, the student becomes certified in K9 team detection, apprehension and tracking. The course curriculum requires both a final written exam and practical K9 handler demonstration test for passing and certification.

Course content developed by USK9's CEO and Master Trainer Roger D. Abshire, a professional and world renown leader and expert in canine training, regarded as one of the best in the industry.

This course prepares students to conduct in-service training for police K9 functions of detection and patrol work including specific instruction in the following areas:

- Patrol functions
- Criminal apprehension
- Decoy techniques
- K9 Policy and Guidelines
- Obedience and agility
- Tracking/trailing

The USK9 dual purpose curriculum includes 5 weeks of extensive hands on training, coursework, quizzes and a cumulative final exam. Handlers are required to be on site for training Tuesday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of current case law, K9 policy and guidelines and application of the proper handling for patrol functions.
- Students will demonstrate written and oral communication skills appropriate for the K9 handling field.
- Students will demonstrate decision-making and personal conduct consistent with the professional standards of the K9 training field.

WEEK 1

- I. Introduction and observation of K9 performing:
 - A. Obedience
 - 1. Training in drive
 - 2. Correct timing
 - 3. Reward & correction
 - B. Patrol Functions
 - 1. Introduction to decoy work
 - a. Bite suit
 - b. Sleeve
 - 2. Area searches
 - 3. Building searches
 - C. Tracking
 - 1. Proper track laying
 - 2. Correct line handling
- IV. Manual discussions
- V. Overview of training
- VI. Review instructions for at home or weekend care of K9

WEEK 2

- I. Obedience
 - A. Active/reactive
 - B. Reward & correction
 - C. Practical obedience training
 - 1. Proper eye contact
 - 2. Heeling
 - 3. Introduction to commands
 - D. Practical Agility Training
 - 1. Jumping
 - 2. Climbing
- II. Patrol functions
 - A. Building searches
 - B. Area searches
 - C. Introduction to hidden sleeve, muzzle work and civil protection
- III. Tracking
 - A. Scent theory
 - B. Scent Discrimination tracking/trailing
 - 1. Hunt drive shaping
 - 2. Beginning trails
- IV. Power point presentations and related quizzes:
 - A. Dual team record keeping
 - B. Obedience
 - C. Training Management System
- VI. Manual discussions

VII. Overview of training

WEEK 3

I. Obedience

- A. Introduction to hand signals
- B. Introduction to distance commands
- C. Practical Agility
 - 1. Open stairs
 - 2. Catwalk

II. Patrol Functions

- A. Introduction to civil agitation
- B. Drives & drive development
- C. Prey drive development
- D. Defense drive development
- E. Drive channeling

IV. Tracking

- A. Perfecting line handling
- B. Corners
- C. Change of terrain

V. Power point presentation and related quizzes:

- A. Police Tracking
- B. Vehicle Searches
- C. Decoy
- D. Agitation basics

VI. Manual Discussions

VII. Effective problem solving

VIII. Overview of training

WEEK 4

I. Obedience

- A. Proper methods for off leash obedience
- B. Introduction to in-motion commands

II. Patrol Functions

- A. Bailouts
- B. Out and guard
- C. Transports
- D. Handler protection

IV. Tracking

- A. Split trails
- B. Hard surface tracking

V. Power point presentations and related quizzes

- A. Patrol K9 Law
- B. Electrical Application in K9 Training

- VI. Manual Discussions
- VII. Problem solving
- VIII. Overview of training

WEEK 5

- I. Obedience
 - A. Recalls
 - B. Introduction to tactical obedience
- II. Patrol functions
 - A. Multiple Suspects
 - B. Passive Apprehensions
 - C. Call backs & call off's
- III. Tracking
 - A. Scent articles
 - B. Contaminated tracks
- IV. Power points and related quizzes
 - A. Court Preparation
 - B. Drive Development and Interaction
- V. Final Review/Discussions relating to:
 - A. Administrative
 - B. Case Law: Apprehension
 - C. Importance of record keeping
 - D. Training Regimen
 - F. K9 Policy & Guidelines for Use of K9
 - G. Liability & Negligence Issues
 - H. Legal Issues & Testimony
- VII. Overview of training
- VIII. Certification and Dual Handler Final Exam