



K9 SEARCH
OKLAHOMA

K9 SEARCH OK

Standard Operating Procedures

Updated September 2019

I. Introduction

All K9 Search OK's members are expected to comply with the procedures in this manual. Those found not to be in compliance with this manual may face disciplinary actions.

II. Operationally Available Personnel

The following deployment statuses shall be used to define personnel participating with K9 Search OK.

- A. Deployable status persons are those who are in compliance with the General Discipline Task Book and any additional chosen Task books and are in good standing with the organization as active members and are in compliance with the policies of the organization.
- B. Apprentice status persons may accompany the team on callouts if a Deployable member is willing to sponsor them and they have met and are maintaining compliance with the General Discipline Task Book. Additionally, those under the age of eighteen (18) years, written permission for the specific callout has been given in the form of a signed agreement by and between the legal guardian and the sponsoring member. When an Apprentice is in compliance with the General Discipline Task book and is voted in as an Active Member of the organization, they become Deployable, as defined below.
- C. Voluntary Non-Deployable status persons are not permitted on a callout. They are permitted and encouraged to participate in training events and are permitted to attend PR events. Any person may ask to be placed into this status, and to become Deployable, must meet the Deployable status criteria, and simply advise the Mission Initiation Team that they are returning to Deployable status.
- D. Involuntary Non-Deployable status persons are not permitted on a callout. They are permitted and encouraged to participate in training events. Any person may be placed into this status or moved back to Deployable status, by a simple majority vote of the Active Members of the team.

III. Canine and Handler Standards

A. General

- 1. The canine must be physically sound and be well socialized. Must have a propensity toward being trainable for SAR work. Canine must be current on all vaccinations and must be in good health.
- 2. A canine used in a mission, training session, or attending a public meeting or demonstration shall be free of injuries, wounds and/or diseases that limit the movement or abilities of the canine, or otherwise pose a threat or compromise the canine's health or that of other team canines or the general public.
- 3. Canine must be over one year of age, before engaging in any missions.

4. Canines must achieve an AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certification within one year of age, or within six months of joining the team.
5. The Organization recognizes the following statuses for canines and/or canine handler teams. Unless stated in the following definitions, movement from one status to another shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the Active Members.
 - 1) Initial Training: A canine having this status is in the initial phases of training. Generally used for canines still in "puppy" stage, this status may be used for an older canine that may be starting a career in search work.
 - 2) Mission Ready (Discipline Specific): A canine having this status is a part of a canine handler team, where the handler has met the requirements of the Canine Handler Task Book with the canine. The canine handler team are to be defined Mission Ready with a specific discipline defined. For example, and canine handler team defined as "Mission Ready – Trailing", may be considered mission ready for trailing work.
 - 3) General Probation: A canine having this status has, through actions defined elsewhere in the Standard Operating Procedures, been deemed unfit to participate in callouts and public relation events. However, the canine may participate in training under strict supervision of the Training Coordination Team.

B. Crating and Confinement

1. When not actively working on a search mission or in a training session, each canine shall be on leash and under the handler's control, or otherwise confined to the handler's vehicle or crate.
2. There shall be no loose, non-working canines in the staging area or defined training areas at any time.

C. Females in Season

1. For a one (1) month period while an intact or un-spayed female canine remains in season (preestrus, during and post-estrus), and/or if the female is causing a distraction to other canines due to the same, the female is NOT to attend training sessions or search missions. The handler is expected to maintain attendance requirements, without regard to the status of the canine

D. Behavior

1. Aggressive behavior is defined as biting, lunging at people or controlled animals. Aggressive behavior is also defined as continuous growling at people or controlled animals that cannot be corrected by the handler.



2. Canine must be non-aggressive and controllable in a variety of situations, including crowds, noise, other canines and a variety of distractions.
3. Any canine that demonstrates aggression toward other canines, to the extent that it becomes a problem at training sessions, missions or other related events, shall be placed on temporary suspension from all team activities, until the Active Members shall determine the next course of action. If no course of action is decided by the Active Members within forty-five (45) days of the incident, the suspension shall be lifted and the canine may return to team activities as normal.
4. While aggressive behaviors may be "normal," when they result in human or animal injury the behavior is dangerous and unacceptable. Human safety must always be the primary consideration when discussing aggression.
5. Unprovoked acts of aggression toward a human or another canine may result in suspension and/or dismissal of the canine.

E. Incidents

1. If an incident of aggression occurs toward a human, witnessed by a credible witness, the canine will be placed on immediate probation until an investigation can take place. If the incident includes a bite to a human, and the investigation reveals that the bite was unprovoked, it will result in the canine being permanently removed from the team.

F. Investigations

1. Investigations shall be conducted by the Training Coordination Team. They will gather information from credible witnesses, victim(s) and the handler.
2. After the investigation of an incident of aggression occurs, the investigation team will report on their findings and it will be determined by the Active Members of the team whether the canine can stay on the team. If the decision is that the canine can stay on the team in a probationary status, suggestions can/will be made to help the handler address the issues. Once those areas of concern have been addressed, they must pass the age appropriate Suitability Evaluation before the canine can be removed from probationary status and be involved in team activities.
3. Upon or up to two weeks before the conclusion of the investigation, a meeting may be called, in compliance with the Bylaws, to discuss the findings and to allow for voting regarding the investigation.

G. Suitability Evaluations

1. The Training Coordination Team will perform an age appropriate SAR Suitability Evaluation on the canine to see if they have the drive, nerve strength and

temperament needed for SAR work. The evaluation will be performed by at least two active class members. If the canine does not pass, the Training Coordination Team will meet with the handler to let them know what the concerns are. If the problem area is one which can be addressed through training, the candidate will be given input from the Training Coordination Team on how to train. This individual will be given sufficient time to address the issue. The handler can request the canine be reevaluated for inclusion in the team when they feel the areas of concern have been addressed.

2. Any member of the Training Coordination Team can recommend that a canine be reevaluated at any time.
3. Handlers desiring to include their canines in team activities, to include training, that have had any amount of protection training, Schutzhund, Koninklijke Nederlandse Politehond Vereniging (KNPV), training for meeting Internationale Prüfungsordnung (IPO), or subject apprehension type training will be evaluated by the Training Coordination Team and, if needed, with additional assistance from within or outside the Team's membership. If the Training Coordination Team determines that a specific canine should not participate in team activities, the handler may appeal to the Active Members by making such appeal in writing (electronic forms also acceptable) and presenting to the President for consideration by the Active Members.

H. Miscellaneous

1. Due to a limited time for training at each session, it will be at the discretion of the Training Coordination Team whether or not there are sufficient human resources available to accept any new handler/canine candidates and/or canine's at any particular time. If there are too many new handlers and canine's wanting to join the unit then they will be placed on a waiting list. They will be given guidance on what areas they can work with their canine until a slot is available within the unit.
2. Proof of Personal liability insurance coverage must be shown to the team. This can be through your renters or homeowner's insurance. Verification must include what breeds your insurance covers and that your breed is covered. Some policies exclude certain breeds.

IV. Radio Communications Standards, Policies, and Procedures

K9 Search OK will predominately use Amateur Radio bands during training. On call outs Amateur Radio will be used, unless the requesting agency provides an alternative means of communication.

Transmitting on any Amateur Radio frequency without a license is a violation of federal law and the procedures of K9 Search OK. The one exception will be the use in times of emergencies. An emergency as defined by the FCC is immediate impending threat to life, limb, or property.

The following represents the standard triage codes used by K9 Search OK. The AHJ, IC, or other official on scene, may use a separate code set. It is the duty of all responding members to know the code set in use for a given incident.

- Echo Alpha = Subject is uninjured
 - Echo Bravo = Subject has minor injuries
 - Echo Charlie = Subject has serious injuries
 - Echo Delta = Subject is deceased
 - Echo Zulu = Will wait for direct communications to transmit full status.
1. An alternate death code may be assigned during a briefing. It is the responsibility of the member to know which death code is being used.
 2. Triage codes should be transmitted by themselves so as not to confuse or alert others in the vicinity of other receiving radios.

Training

V. Definitions and Expectations

- A. Internal Training: Training sessions that are scheduled by and for the team, though non-team members may be permitted to attend.
 1. Unified Team Training: Training that takes place at one location where the entire team is expected to train in that location. This type of training session can include any specific discipline that may need to be worked. While fellow teammates may guide and assist where appropriate, each member is expected to maintain logs that will help them guide their personal training plan. This personal training plan should be used to determine the items to be worked on at these training sessions.
 2. Regional Training: Training that is set up for members in a certain geographical region, such as Tulsa or Oklahoma City. The expectations for this type of training session are the same as those for Unified Team Training. The difference being that this training is geographically centric.
 3. Functional Group Training: Training that is set up to exercise a specific function or work on a specific problem. While this type of training may be geographically based, the intent will be more functionally centric. Where other types of training should be open to all team members, it is acceptable that Functional Group Training be closed to a specific list of members. Examples of this may be a specific trailing problem that a handler wants to work on with one specific trail layer, or a technology issue that base camp support personnel want to address without being distracted by other work going on at regular training events.
 4. Exercise: A training session used to test a full-scale deployment.

- B. External Training: Training that is coordinated by third parties not under the oversight of the team.

VI. Training Oversight

- A. Unified Team Training, Regional Training, and Exercises must be approved by the Training Coordination Team and will be listed on the team events calendar. Functional Group Training that will be listed on the team events calendar must be approved by the Training Coordination Team.
- B. All training events shall be documented to include the following information, which shall be provided to the Training Coordination Team 6 days prior to the planned date for all events that will be listed on the team calendar. The same information shall be provided to the Training Coordination Team at least 2 days prior to the planned date for closed Functional Group Training that will not be listed on the team training calendar.

1.A Date and Begin Time

2.A Point of Contact who will serve as the leader of the training event. If no Point of Contact is defined, the Training Coordination Team will serve as the Point of Contact and Leader of the training event, unless the Training Coordination Team designates another individual to fill this role. For an Exercise, the Exercise Designer will serve as the Point of Contact and Event Leader.

3.A location as defined on the location list. The location given is assumed to approximate the staging/muster point, unless otherwise stated. The latitude and longitude, the UTM, or the street address may only provide a general location near or on the property. It may not provide an exact meeting location. If the location chosen is not currently on the location list, information regarding the location must be provided to the Training Coordination Team prior to the training event being approved.

4.Within two days after the planned date for any training event, a check-in list (ICS-211) denoting all in attendance shall be provided to the Training Coordination Team.

VII. Suggested Monthly Training Plan

While this is expected to be the regular monthly calendar, training should be flexible to meet the needs of the team. This is merely a guide to be used in the development of a training calendar.

5.First Weekend: Unified Team Training in Tulsa Region

6.Second Weekend: Unified Team Training

7.Third Weekend: Unified Team Training in Oklahoma City Region

8.Fourth Weekend: Exercise to take place at the Exercise Designer's chosen location.

9. Mid-Week: Regional Training as chosen by those in the region.