

American Working Dog Association Live Bug Detection Standards

ACCEPTABLE STRUCTURE TYPES:

Residential dwellings.

Warehouse, office buildings, and multi-room interiors.

Schools, hotels, and motels.

Hides:

- Set at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of a certification.
- Hidden in a place of concealment which is not visible to the dog or handler.
- K-9 must alert at source.
- Pseudo scents are not allowed for use in any certification.
- 2 distracters (balls, soiled clothing, food, etc.) will be put out at each certification. The Chief Evaluator will decide what distracters will be used. Distracters will not be placed in the same room as live hides.
- Will be provided by the team certifying in two separate containers. They must also be approved by the certifying officials for content, packaging, and safety.
- Must meet all standards set forth by AWDA and approval of the certifier or the evaluation will not be conducted.

Certifiers:

- Will designate the area of the structure to be used for the test.
- Will designate the area in which the team is to begin their search. (Usually at the front door)
- Will accompany the team into the structure and must be able to observe the test.
- If it is obvious to the evaluator that the dog is not working, the evaluator will inform the handler and the handler will remove the dog from the test area and have no more than 30 minutes to return to the test area to repeat the test.
- Failure of the dog to work a second time constitutes a failure for the test.

Handlers:

- This test may be done on/off lead. Equipment normally used, collars, harness, etc., may be used.
- The handler will accompany the dog throughout the test. The dog's indication of the find must be obvious to the evaluator.

******The safety of the detection dog will be the sole responsibility of the handler******

All tests given to the K9 team will be on a pass/fail basis.

- The Main Evaluator will determine if the team will be certified upon the completion of the test.
- **The handler and dog will be considered as a team, and it is the team who will be certified. If the dog changes handlers, a new team exists and the team will need to be re-certified.**

American Working Dog Association Certification Requirements

It is the Evaluators decision on the quantity each of the hides will contain, as long as he or she remains within the minimum and maximum amounts set in the certification standards.

SECTION 1

ALERTS:

Each Handler is responsible for notifying the Evaluators of the type of alert (aggressive or passive), the Evaluators can expect. There will be only one (1) negative response allowed and it cannot be on a placed distracter which constitutes an automatic failure.

SECTION 2

TIME:

A time limit of 20 minutes shall be placed on the search. The Evaluator can adjust this time limit to varying size rooms. The time limit will be set, the Handler advised, and is final once the search begins. The Handler certifying will initial next to the time set before the search begins in agreeing with the adjusted time limit set.

SECTION 3

SEARCH AREA:

The scent exercise will consist of a structure (requiring 4 rooms and may vary in size, location, and environment designated/approved by the Evaluators. The Handler and the Canine will start at a point determined by the Evaluators. Both live hides will not be placed in the same room.

SECTION 4

FAILURE OF CERTIFICATION:

There will be a fifteen (15) day waiting period before attempting to certify again, unless circumstances at the time of the certification has been determined by the Certifiers to

warrant another attempt. Within that fifteen (15) day period the team cannot represent themselves as AWDA Certified. A maximum of 6 months is acceptable for retesting.

SECTION 5

CERTIFYING OFFICIALS:

Only AWDA Certifiers may certify a K-9 team. No certifier may certify a dog that he or she has trained unless a second, independent certifier is also available.

SECTION 6

QUALIFICATION OF A K-9 TEAM TO CERTIFY:

The handler must be certifying with the dog they will be working with for scent detection.

The handler must also be an AWDA member in good standing when attempting to certify scent detection.

SECTION 7

CERTIFICATION ISSUANCE BY AWDA

Upon successful completion of the certification, a certificate will be sent to the team stating what the team is certified to find (Live Termites, Bed Bugs, etc). The certification will be valid for one year and must be recertified after that time if it wishes to continue using the AWDA credentials.

Scent Detection Certifications

TERMITE SCENT DETECTION CERTIFICATION

K-9's must find LIVE TERMITES ONLY to certify. Dead bugs will be placed during the testing as a distracter.

There will be 4 hides, 2 of live termites and 2 distracters, placed in the search area.

QUANTITIES OF Termites TO BE USED FOR CERTIFICATION

Minimum amount to be used 1 per hide

Maximum amount to be used 1500 per hide

BED BUG SCENT DETECTION CERTIFICATION

K-9's must find LIVE BED BUGS ONLY to certify. Dead bugs will be placed during the testing as a distracter.

There will be 4 hides, 2 of live bed bugs and 2 distracters, placed in the search area.

QUANTITIES OF Bed Bugs TO BE USED FOR CERTIFICATION

Minimum amount to be used 5 eggs per hide

Maximum amount to be used 25 adults per hide

CARPENTER ANT SCENT DETECTION CERTIFICATION

K-9's must find LIVE CARPENTER ANTS ONLY to certify. Dead bugs will be placed during the testing as a distracter

There will be 4 hides, 2 of live carpenter ants and 2 distracters, placed in the search area.

QUANTITIES OF Carpenter Ants TO BE USED FOR CERTIFICATION

Minimum amount to be used 5 per hide

Maximum amount to be used 25 per hide

BOTH LIVE HIDES MUST BE LOCATED TO PASS. ONE FALSE INDICATION IS ALLOWED BUT CANNOT BE ON A PLACED DISTRACTOR.