

Section 1.0 – Use of Force	Page 1 of 6
Sub Section 1.4 – Police Service Dogs	Effective: September 1, 2015
Subject 1.4.4 – Performance Testing and Maintenance	Revised: n/a

Definitions

“Director” – the director of police services, Ministry of Justice.

“Handler-dog team” – a police officer who is trained to handle police dogs and the police dog assigned to that officer.

“Police dog handler” – a police officer who is trained to handle police dogs.

Standards

The chief constable, chief officer, or commissioner must:

Annual testing

- (1) Ensure that every police dog in use by the police force is tested in accordance with the following schedule:
 - (a) Prior to a dog entering service; and
 - (b) Annually thereafter.
- (2) Ensure that testing of police dogs, other than sniffer/detector dogs trained and used only for the purposes of locating drugs or explosives/firearms, is conducted in accordance with the protocols described in the *BC Police Dog (General Duty) Testing Requirements* attached to this Standard as Appendix “A”.
- (3) Ensure that a record of testing is maintained showing:
 - (a) The dates testing occurred; and
 - (b) The results of the testing.

Performance maintenance

- (4) Ensure that weekly practice is conducted by every handler-dog team, except for police dog handlers on leave.
- (5) Ensure that every handler-dog team continues to maintain the standard of performance required by the testing referred to in Standard (2) above, except for police dog handlers on leave.

- (6) Ensure detailed records of weekly practice sessions are kept and maintained, in a form and manner approved by the director, including:
- (a) The date;
 - (b) The identity of the dog and handler;
 - (c) The training exercises conducted;
 - (d) The performance and behavior of the dog; and
 - (e) Any aspects of performance that require attention.

Policies and procedures

- (7) Ensure all policies and procedures are consistent with these *BC Provincial Policing Standards*.

Annotations

Weekly maintenance – does not require that it is always conducted under the organization and supervision of agency instructors/supervisors. Weekly practice includes the handler practicing on their own with their dog.

Appendix “A” for *BCPPS 1.4.4 – Performance Testing and Maintenance*

BC Police Dog (General Duty) Testing Requirements

Version 1.0

Effective: September 1, 2015

BC Police Dog (General Duty) Testing Requirements

General Duty Police Dogs

In order to be deployed for duty in B.C., a police dog must successfully complete the testing for all the skills outlined below.

Testing is to be conducted by a person authorized by the chief constable, chief officer or commissioner. The tester must possess the necessary knowledge and skills and the ability to apply these objectively, as determined by the chief constable, chief officer or commissioner.

All skills modules must be successfully completed in order for a dog to become operational. If a dog fails to successfully complete any aspect of a module, the entire test for that module must be repeated (e.g., if one exercise in the obedience module is failed, the entire obedience module must be repeated successfully).

All testing results (successful and unsuccessful) must be documented, along with names of handlers and dogs, dates, times, location and comments.

During testing the dog must wear exactly the same equipment that the dog will be deployed with.

Skills Modules

Gun test

- (1) Gun sure: At any time during the testing, a minimum of two gun shots are fired. The dog must demonstrate that they are under control (continue to obey commands of the handler) and not fearful (e.g., cowering; running away).

Obedience

- (2) Heeling off leash, at various turns and speeds: The dog must follow and stay with the police dog handler without repeated commands or any physical assistance from the police dog handler. The dog must not interfere with the police dog handler.
- (3) Down from running on hand signal: While the police dog handler is running with their heeling dog, the police dog handler gives a command—by hand signal only—for the dog to down and stay while the handler keeps running.
- (4) Recall to police dog handler: From at least 20 metres away, the dog is recalled by the police dog handler.

- (5) Down on recall: The dog is recalled from a minimum from 20 metres away. As the dog is running towards the police dog handler, and approximately halfway, the police dog handler commands the dog to down.
- (6) Long down: The dog is left in a down for approximately five minutes. The police dog handler must be at least 10 metres away.

Note: The exercises must be conducted with a variety of distractions to test the dog's obedience in a variety of circumstances (e.g., other dogs and handlers training; balls being thrown; traffic; crowds).

All obedience exercises are to be conducted off-leash. The exercises can be conducted in any order.

Criminal apprehension

- (7) Bite under pressure and 'out': The dog is sent off lead to bite a person who is holding a weapon (minimum 20 metres away), and is behaving aggressively. The dog must, without hesitation, bite the person. The person then fights aggressively with the dog including using stick threats. The dog must confidently maintain its grip. After the person stops fighting, the police dog handler verbally commands the dog to 'out' (let go or release) the bite without physical influence. The dog must promptly let go. The police dog handler can determine whether to leave their dog guarding the person after the 'out', or whether to recall the dog.
- (8) Call off: The dog is sent off lead to bite a person (minimum 20 metres away) who has agitated/stimulated the dog before being released. The dog must immediately run to apprehend the person. The dog is called off when it is at least half way to the person (either by recall or down). The dog must not bite the person.
- (9) Bite and subsequent 'out' while person not completely passive: The dog is sent off lead to bite a person (minimum 20 metres away). The dog should, without hesitation, bite the person. The person fights with the dog. The person then stops fighting the dog, but is not completely passive. There must be some movement by the person (e.g., the movement could be a simulation of what may reasonably occur in real life where a dog bites someone and, through fear or pain, the person cannot completely follow directions from the police dog handler to remain still). The police dog handler verbally commands the dog to 'out' (let go or release) the bite. The dog must promptly let go. The police dog handler can determine whether to leave their dog guarding the person after the 'out,' or whether to recall the dog.
- (10) Escort: The police dog handler approaches and takes control of the situation, searches the person and with the dog, escorts the person away. The escort is to be conducted on lead.

Note: Dogs that do not release on command without physical influence cannot pass testing. Dogs that bite the suspect in the call-off exercise cannot pass testing.

Tracking

- (11) Urban/suburban track: The dog must complete a practical track in daylight or darkness by successfully working a six-block unknown, unmarked track, at least 15 minutes old (depending on weather conditions), laid by one quarry in an urban/suburban environment. The track will include a minimum of:
- (a) One cross track;
 - (b) Two turns (approximately 90 degrees);
 - (c) Short grass;
 - (d) Approximately 20 metres on hard surface (gravel or pavement);
 - (e) Two street crossings;
 - (f) Animal scent distraction; and
 - (g) Location of one track-related article.

Note: In order to pass, the dog must complete the entire track, as well as find and indicate one track-related article.

Evidence search

- (12) Evidence search: The dog must search for, and locate, items of simulated evidence. This exercise is to be conducted in an urban or suburban environment of a reasonably large area (e.g., approximately 20 by 20 metres). A number of articles of different types and sizes (to be determined by the tester) are to be placed or hidden. After locating one article, the dog is directed to search again and find another article. After the dog has located and indicated at least three articles, the exercise can be terminated. The dog must search intensely, consistently and independently.

Building search/ area search

- (13) Building search: The dog must search for, and locate, a person who is hiding in a building. The handler-dog team is evaluated on the following: The dog must search intensely and independently, yet under direction from the handler. The dog must give a clear alert. The police dog handler must be able to direct the dog while maintaining relevant tactical principles.
- (14) Area search: The dog must search for and locate a person who is hiding in an outside area (approximately 100 by 100 metres). The handler-dog team is evaluated on the following: The dog must search intensely and independently, yet under direction from the police dog handler. The dog must give a clear alert. The police dog handler must be able to direct the dog while maintaining relevant tactical principles.

Note: The dog must successfully complete both exercise 13 and 14 prior to or at initial testing, before entering service (performance must be documented). At annual re-testing only one of these two exercises (either 13-Building search OR 14-Area search) is required to be conducted.