

# Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

OPERATING INSTRUCTION  
NUMBER 50-62

July 25, 1997

## CERTIFICATION OF POLICE SERVICE DOGS

**PURPOSE:** To establish procedures to implement State certification of Police Service Dog Teams that meet standards adopted by the Police Standards Advisory Council

1. **SCOPE:** Applicable to all Police Service Dog Teams and law enforcement agencies interested in meeting standards adopted for Nebraska. State certification is not required for a law enforcement agency to have police service dogs. State certification is a voluntary program that will grant certification to service dog teams that meet State standards.
2. **REFERENCE:** Nebraska Police Service Dog Standards Manual as adopted by the Police Standards Advisory Council.
3. **GENERAL:** Police service dogs can serve as a valuable tool and supplement an agency's resources. Law enforcement agencies and law enforcement officers involved in the use of police service dogs desire to ensure and enhance the professional use of dogs in law enforcement work. In order to assist agencies in this effort, the Police Standards Advisory Council has adopted Police Service Dog Standards for the State. Police service dog teams that meet the State standards shall be issued a certificate. Certification shall be effective for one year and can be renewed each year.
4. **DEFINITIONS:**
  - (a) Police Service Dog Team, (PSD, Team), A PSD Team shall consist of one dog and one law enforcement officer assigned as the dog's handler. The team shall be actively serving in a law enforcement agency as defined in the standards.
  - (b) Police Service Dog Evaluator, (PSD Evaluator), A PSD Evaluator is a police service dog handler who has his or her employing agency's consent to serve as an evaluator. A PSD Evaluator must successfully complete training and required update training that qualifies him or her to conduct evaluations of PSD Teams for certification purposes.

as a handler. A PSD Evaluator must complete required training and perform a minimum of one PSD Team evaluation per year. A PSD Evaluator must pass periodic audits by the PSD Judge to maintain evaluator status.

- (c) Police Service Dog Judge, (PSD Judge), A PSD Judge must meet the International Congress of Police Service Dog Standards as a PSD Judge. The duties of the PSD Judge are:
  - 1. to conduct PSD Evaluator training as needed to maintain adequate PSD Evaluators in the State.
  - 2. to conduct periodic audits of PSD Evaluator performance through review of written reports and on-site inspections.
  - 3. to remove PSD Evaluators from service who do not meet the standards and requirements of the position.

The PSD Judge shall be a certified law enforcement instructor in Nebraska.

## **5. PROCEDURE:**

- (a) Law enforcement agencies desiring a PSD Team to receive State certification may make a request to any State approved PSD Evaluator or to the NLETC. The NLETC will provide the agency a list of State approved PSD Evaluators. The scheduling of evaluations shall be arranged between the law enforcement agency and the PSD Evaluator.
- (b) All PSD Team evaluations shall be conducted in accordance with the adopted Nebraska Police Service Dog Standards.
- (c) The NLETC shall offer the use of the Center facilities as a site for PSD Team training, evaluations and PSD Evaluator training as scheduling permits.
- (d) The PSD Judge shall conduct PSD Evaluator training and refresher training in accordance with the International Congress of Police Service Dog Standards and as needed to maintain an adequate number of PSD Evaluators in the State.
- (e) PSD Evaluators shall conduct evaluations and complete evaluation forms as required in standards. The PSD Evaluator shall maintain a copy of all evaluations conducted and shall forward a copy of the same to the PSD Judge within five working days of conducting the evaluation.
- (f) PSD Evaluators shall submit a PSD Team Request for Certification form

to the NLETC within ten days of completing an evaluation of a PSD Team that has met standards for certification. The NLETC shall issue a State Certification to the PSD Team within ten days. The PSD Team Certification shall be directed to their employing agency administrator.

The certification shall be effective for one calendar year from the date of the completed evaluation.

- (g) The NLETC shall serve as the repository for PSD Team records. The following documents shall be maintained by the NLETC:

copies of PSD Evaluator certifications issued by the PSD Judge.

a copy of the Nebraska Police Service Dog Standards.

sample copies of all evaluation forms used by the PSD Judge and PSD Evaluators in their duties.

a copy of the curriculum, lesson plan, and handouts used by the PSD Judge for PSD Evaluator training.

- (h) The NLETC shall maintain a record of state certified PSD Teams during the active service of the team and or until there is no activity in the file for three calendar years.
- (i) Law enforcement agencies should notify the NLETC of the change in status of any State certified PSD Team to facilitate maintenance of certification files.

ALLEN L. CURTIS  
Executive Director

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Division: Training Center

**NEBRASKA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER**

**REQUEST FOR POLICE SERVICE DOG TEAM CERTIFICATION**

This form is to be completed and submitted to the Director of the NLETC when a Police Service Dog Team meets Nebraska standards for certification. The Police Service Dog Evaluator shall submit this form within ten (10) days of conducting the evaluation to:

**Director  
Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center  
3600 North Academy Road  
Grand Island, NE 68801**

-----Please Print Clearly-----

Name of PSD Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_  
First MI Last

Name of PSD Handler \_\_\_\_\_  
First MI Last

Name of PSD Dog \_\_\_\_\_

Name of law enforcement agency \_\_\_\_\_  
employing PSD Team

Date of PSD Evaluation \_\_\_\_\_ Site of PSD  
Evaluation\_\_\_\_\_

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The above PSD Team has demonstrated and [ MEET - FAILED TO MEET ]  
CIRCLE CORRECT CHOICE

the Nebraska Police Service Dog Standards in the area(s) of:

- CHECK ALL THAT APPLY** \_\_\_\_\_ Patrol Dog  
\_\_\_\_\_ Detector Dog - Narcotics  
\_\_\_\_\_ Detector Dog - Explosives

I verify I am qualified as a Police Service Dog Evaluator to assess Police Service Dog Teams in the Area(s) I have marked above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Written Signature Date