

**MISSOURI POLICE CANINE  
ASSOCIATION**

**TRAINERS AND CERTIFICATION OF  
TRAINERS**

**Revised January 1, 2011**

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# MPCA Trainers and Certification as Trainers

## Definitions:

**Trainer:** A person who is a member of the Missouri Police Canine Association and is qualified in teaching and administering training in one or more of the following fields:

- A. Drug Detection – which includes building, area, and vehicle.
- B. Tracking – which includes urban and rural tracking.
- C. Explosive Detection – which includes building, area, and vehicle.
- D. Controlled Aggression – which includes area searches, building searches and handler protection.

The Trainer will also be qualified and responsible for certifying prospective K-9 Teams in his or her field. Upon successful completion of the testing (certification), the Trainer will submit a copy of the certification test sheet to the MPCA secretary, who will issue to the prospective K-9 Team a certificate which will be valid for a period of one (1) year.

**Apprentice Trainer:** A person who is a member of the Missouri Police Canine Association and is currently in the process of certifying to be a Trainer in Drug Detection, Tracking, Explosive Detection or Controlled Aggression.

## Qualifications on becoming a Trainer:

To become eligible for Trainer, the Apprentice Trainer must first be a member of the Missouri Police Canine Association for a minimum period of two (2) years. The Apprentice Trainer must have handled at least one canine and trained at least one canine team in the field they want to become a trainer. The Apprentice Trainer must next pass the following testing and certification process for each field:

1. The Apprentice Trainer will spend a minimum of eight (8) hours with three (3) different MPCA Trainers, totaling a minimum of (24) hours, conducting actual training in his or her particular field. This training can be done at seminars, annual workshops, training of new K-9 teams, maintenance training of working K-9 teams or assisting in annual certification.
2. Each of the three (3) Trainers shall submit a (written evaluation) critique sheet and recommendation of the Apprentice Trainer, including the total hours spent working with the Apprentice Trainer, to the President of the Missouri Police Canine Association or his/her designee. It shall be the responsibility of the Apprentice Trainer to supply the critique sheet to the Trainer.
3. Upon successful completion of the evaluation and/or field training phase, a Written Test will be administered to the Apprentice Trainer by the President of the Missouri Police Canine Association or his/her designee. The Apprentice Trainer must satisfactorily pass the written test.
4. Upon successful completion of the written test, the Apprentice Trainer will be administered an Oral Test by three (3) Certified MPCA Trainers, but not one of

the evaluating Trainers, if possible. A written recommendation of approval or disapproval shall be submitted by the Trainers involved in the Oral Test to the President of the Missouri Police Canine Association or his/her Designee.

The Written and Oral Tests will be administered only at the MPCA Annual Workshop. Upon successful completion of all phases, the President of the Missouri Police Canine Association or his/her designee will chair a board consisting of all MPCA Trainers attending the particular MPCA Annual Workshop no later than the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) day of the workshop. The letters of evaluation / recommendations regarding the Apprentice Trainer's field training, oral test, and written test will be reviewed and discussed if needed. Upon a majority "yes" vote of the votes cast, the Apprentice Trainer will be certified as Trainer for the Missouri Police Canine Association.

The letters of evaluation/recommendations regarding the Apprentice Trainer's field training, oral and written tests, and minutes from the board meeting will be kept in a file by the Secretary of the Missouri Police Canine Association.

The certification/testing of trainers does not apply to current MPCA Trainers (prior to January 1, 2006). However, for those current Trainers who train in one or two particular fields and decide he/she would like to become a Trainer in another field, the Trainer would be required to complete the testing and certification in the particular field as listed above as an Apprentice Trainer. An example would be a current MPCA Drug Detection Trainer who would like to become a MPCA Trainer for Controlled Aggression.