**Working Dogs of America Police Dog Track**

**Police Dog Tracking Generally**

These titles are designed to determine if a dog can track the scent of a specific person in an unfamiliar place and locate items of evidence left by that person. These titles are intended to simulate real working situations.

1. **General Rules**

To be eligible to exhibit a dog in Police Dog Tracking tests, a dog must be:

• Registered with WDA

• 9 months of age or older for the PDT-1, 12 months of age or older for the PDT-2 & 15 months of age or older for PDT-3

Judges are solely in charge of the tracking field and their decisions are final in all matters.

1. All tracking titles are sequential. The sequence is:

Police Dog Tracking Level 1 (PDT-1) Police Dog Tracking Level 2 (PDT-2) Police Dog Tracking Level 3 (PDT-3) ***Active certified K-9 teams are exempt from having to title their dog at Level 1 or 2 and can start with the PDT-3 title.***

1. All tracking must be done on lead. Acceptable tracking line length is minimum 15’ feet and maximum 30’ feet. The judge may request line length check to ensure that the lead is of correct length. A line touching the ground is not faulty if it does not result in substantial shorting of the length or interfere with or influence the dog. As line handling is a skill, having to stop and untangle a leash is faulty.
2. Handlers shall use the appropriate equipment while tracking. Dogs can track wearing harness, flat collar, fur saver or pinch collar with a backup collar also attached and K-9 teams are allowed to wear a dummy or non-operational electric collar.
3. If the handler elects to keep an electric collar on the dog the handler will hand the remote to the judge as they report. These collars or harnesses are acceptable on all three title levels.
4. Handlers are allowed to use both verbal and hand signals. The handler may encourage his/her dog with commands and praise but excessive input and lack of response by the dog is faulty. The judge will evaluate the responsiveness of the dog to obvious commands given. The handler is allowed to give a down command to the dog if a perceived danger is occurring (such as an approaching vehicle, loose dog). A command to restart tracking after each article indication has been performed is allowed.
5. Judging begins when you report to the judge to receive instructions. Any commands given to the dog will be judged as the dog responds to the command. Any dog determined to be un-controllable and/or aggressive to the judge or spectators will be dismissed.
6. All three of the Police Dog Tracking titles have time limits for locating the track and for completing the track. Major points will be deducted for a dog not able to locate the track within the required time limit. A dog will not receive a passing score if it cannot complete the track within the time limit for that level.
7. The faster the dog completes the track is of more value, in cases where teams were scored equally the advantage would go to the team that completed the track the fastest.
8. Any extreme or abusive correction or treatment of a dog will result in disqualification. Any loss of temper or display of poor sportsmanship by the handler will result in disqualification.
9. If the dog temporally loses track the handler can bring dog back to where they knew the dog was on the track, the judge will back track and stay a safe distance away. The judge will give approx. two minutes for the dog to find the track but if the dog continues to circle behind the handler the judge can end the tracking attempt.
10. **Judges**

Only certified judges that have been appointed by the WDA Officers are qualified to judge Police Dog Tracking titles.

Judges will have a mental picture of a theoretically perfect performance in each exercise and score each dog/handler against this visualized standard. Aspects under assessment will include, but are not limited to control, responsiveness to commands, desire to work, intensity of indications, smoothness of the handler, and the time it takes the dog to locate and work out the track.

Judges are not required to explain their scoring and should not enter any discussions with a handler who appears dissatisfied. Scores are considered unofficial until the trial secretary has performed a double check of the judge’s score and signed off on the score sheet.

1. **Track Layer**

The track layer for a PDT-1 will preferably be unknown to the dog, but a known person is allowed. It must however be a stranger for PDT-2 & PDT-3 titles. The judge will tell the track layer the direction of track, what articles are to be dropped on the track and the distance between articles. At the end of the track a piece of clothing (ball cap, shirt, glove, shoe, etc.) will be left and will take 20 more paces in same direction.

Next to the judge, the tracklayers are the most important members of the test. They must:

1. Follow the directions of the judge.
2. Be sure to drop the articles where the judge had instructed, articles are to be dropped on the track while tracklayer is in motion.
3. Articles should be in the tracklayer’s possession at least 30 minutes before laying track.
4. The track layer, after laying the track, must stay away from the starting point and the K9 team prior to test.
5. The track layer must map their tracks as they are being laid, with appropriate landmarks, number of paces per leg, obstacles, location / type of articles. The map of the track will be drawn on the official score sheet.
6. Popular man trailing apps, such as Dog Tracker, may be used but it must be approved by the judge prior to the start of the trial.
7. The track layer will wear clothing appropriate for the location and weather conditions while laying tracks.
8. Length of tracks are as follow below:

Quarter (1/4) of mile = 440 yards for Level 1 (PDT-1) Half (1/2) of mile = 880 yards for Level 2 (PDT-2) One (1) mile = 1,760 yards for Level 3 (PDT-3)

1. **Point Deductions**

Non-Qualifying Score: Not completing track in the allotted time limit, not finding last article, if it takes more than five extra minutes to locate track.

Major Deductions: Urinating or defecating while tracking, false indicating of articles, failure to acknowledge locating track, not able to locate start of track or complete track within the time limit.

Minor Deductions: Frequently circling turns, aimless wandering, and faulty starting, or missing articles.

Example Guideline for Deductions: - There will be no deduction less than half a point.

- .5 to 2 points deduction for slow response to commands. - 1 to 2 point deduction for every 15 seconds over the allotted time for locating track.

- .5 to 3 points deduction for missing article.

* 10 points for failing to acknowledge start of track.
* 2 to 5 points for urinating or defecating while tracking.
* 2 to 5 points for false indicating.

1. **Articles**

Articles that may be used are leather wallets, metal objects such as screw drivers, latex gloves, plastic credit card, wood sticks and clothing. Size can be as small as 3” long metal unloaded magazine or as large as a shirt.

1. **Indication**

The articles must be found by the dog, the manner of indication is left to the discretion of the handler, but it must be declared to the judge prior to the start of the track. The indication of articles may be done by standing, sitting, lying down or by change of behavior that is noticeable by the judge and called by handler. If a dog picks up an article it is considered faulty. Articles found with heavy handler help will be considered overrun and all points for that article will be lost. A command to continue tracking after finding an article is allowed, this can be done both verbally and/or hand signal. Mild verbal praise is allowed.

1. **Rewarding**

Handlers are allowed to reward their dog at the end of track with a reward item such as a tug, ball or food but must maintain control of the dog. The reward item may be carried by the handler during the track but shall not be used until track is complete. Once the track is complete, the handler will take the dog to their vehicle and put them away. No formal critique is given by the judge at the end of track.

1. **Hosting Police Dog Tracking Titles**
2. The hosting group/club must make sure that the property that the tracking is going to be performed at is permitted and permission has been given.
3. The hosting group/club must be conscious that civilians should not be in the area where tracks will be laid, and dogs will be tracked.
4. The hosting group/club should make sure the appropriate terrain is available, these tracks must have access to several types of terrain surfaces (examples: dirt, grass, concrete, asphalt, woods, gravel).
5. The hosting group/club must be aware that the judge has complete control of setting up the tracks. When possible, bring the judge in a day before the trial to allow him/her the opportunity to view the location.
6. If any PDT titles are offered outside of a dedicated PDT-only trial, the trial host must coordinate in advance with the chosen judge to assess time requirements. PDT titles are very time intensive and will invariably delay or extend the length of a standard trial. Depending on the number of dogs entered for other titles, running only one or two PDT titles would likely be a realistic limit.