



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT



K-9 Unit

K-9 PATROL HANDLER COURSE

This course is a 400+ hour Basic Patrol K-9 Handler Course designed to fulfill Washington State minimum requirements for patrol dog handler certification (WAC 139-05-915). The course is also approved by Idaho POST and is open to all commissioned law enforcement Officers from any jurisdiction. Instruction is conducted by veteran WSPCA Master Trainers and Assistant Trainers.

Training will include, but is not limited to:

- Canine selection techniques & equipment use
- Dog care and first aid
- Obedience and control
- Scent theory & K-9 drives
- Public relations
- Quarry and decoy use
- Patrol related case law, liability, best practices & SOP/policy
- Building, area, vehicle, and evidence searches
- Tracking and handler protection
- Report writing, defensive tactics, & use of force
- K-9 maintenance training & performance documentation

Date: January 24th to March 31st, 2022

Location: Spokane Police Department Training Center
2302 N Waterworks Spokane, WA 99212

Cost: \$3500

Contact: Paul Buchmann
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This 10-week course is designed to meet each K-9 team's individual needs. Each team will progress at their own pace. However, it is expected that all teams continue to make progress throughout the course.

The course is physically demanding. The handler must be in good physical condition. There will be much running, climbing, jumping, and working of dogs while in bite suits and sleeves. Minor injuries are not uncommon. A large portion of the training is conducted outdoors. Handlers will provide their own meals and because of the nature of the course, there will be only short meal breaks.

Handlers will be required to keep a daily training log throughout the course. This will be inspected daily. Students will be assigned homework throughout the course. At the end of the course, a copy will be provided to the Spokane Police Dept K-9 Unit.

Unless otherwise requested, all K-9s will be trained to search and work away from the handler, under their control. Dogs will be trained to "bite and hold." If unable to do so, the dog will be trained to signal the handler of a find by barking. Tracking will be done "on-line." The dog will be trained to alert on evidence by indicating in the down position. The dogs will be trained to be neutral to gunfire.

At the end of the course, it is expected that each team will be able to meet the K-9 WAC standards. Written tests will be given each week, with a final written exam at the end of course. Upon completion of the course, each handler will:

- Be able to recognize when and how to properly apply their dog
- Have a working knowledge of K-9 drives
- Have a working knowledge of scent theory
- Have a working knowledge of dog care
- Have a working knowledge of K-9 first aid
- Be knowledgeable in K-9 officer safety and tactics
- Be knowledgeable in their department K-9 policy
- Be knowledgeable in K-9 and Use of Force law and case law
- Have a working knowledge on how to conduct maintenance training on their own

Upon the first day of class, each handler will have:

- Their assigned K-9
- A vehicle in which they can safely transport and contain the dog
- A 3 foot leash for obedience
- A 20-30 foot leash for tracking
- A tracking harness
- A muzzle (contact SPD K-9 for type)
- A grooming brush & nail clippers
- Agitation collar
- Note taking materials
- Proper clothing for the weather
- Duty gear
- A bite sleeve (contact SPD K-9 for type)
- A copy of their Department's K-9 and Use of Force Policy

Students may house their K-9 partners at our kennel facility at no cost.

A team may be dismissed from the course for the following documented reasons:

- Gross negligence which would compromise the safety of others
- Failure to reasonably progress
- Failure to participate
- Continual failure to follow instructor's directions
- Failure of three written tests or re-tests
- Abusive behavior towards the dog
- Failure to keep records

The weekly schedule is generally Monday through Thursday (four ten hour shifts). There will be some flexing of this schedule. Training start times will vary, but will usually begin in the later afternoon/evening.

The following is an example of the basic course outline. It will vary considerably depending on the progress of the teams and the scheduling of course instructors. Due to the unpredictable levels and progression of K-9 teams, students must be prepared to be very flexible throughout the course.

WEEK 1: Introduction and Orientation, Department Policy and Procedure, Introduction to K-9, K-9 Testing and Screening, Correction and Reward Class, Quarrying Class, Introduction to Scent Theory, Obedience, Obstacles and Confidence Building, Introduction to Drives, Drive Build-up, Tracking, Log-keeping and Notebooks, Introduction to Scent Work, Introduction to Bite Work.

WEEK 2: Obedience, Obstacles, Tracking, Building Searches, Area Searches, Article Searches, Man Work, K-9 Care, Scent, Test.

WEEK 3: Obedience, Tracking, Building Searches, Area Searches, Article Searches, Man Work, Scent, K-9 First Aid class, K-9 and Legal Issues, Test.

WEEK 4: Obedience, Tracking, Obstacles, Building Searches, Area Searches, Article Searches, Man Work, Scent, K-9 and Legal Issues, K-9 Contact Class, Test.

WEEK 5: Obedience, Blind Tracking, Obstacles, Tactical Building Searches, Tactical Area Searches, Article Searches, Demonstrations, Man Work, Scent Class, Test.

WEEK 6: Obedience, Blind Tracking, Obstacles, Building Searches, Area Searches, Article Searches, Man Work, K-9 and Legal Issues, K-9 Firearms, Test.

WEEK 7: Obedience, Tracking, Obstacles, Building Searches, Area Searches, Article searches, K-9 EVOG, Man Work, K-9 and Legal Issues, Test.

WEEK 8: Obedience, Tracking, Obstacles, Building Searches, Area Searches, Article Searches, Man Work, Demonstrations, K-9 Firearms, K-9 and Legal Issues, Department Policy and Procedure, Report Writing, Test.

WEEK 9: Obedience, Tactical Tracking, Obstacles, Building Searches, Area Searches, Article Searches, Man Work, K-9 Firearms, SWAT/K-9 Class, Defensive Tactics and K-9, Department Policy and Procedure, Report Writing, Test.

WEEK 10: Obedience, Tracking, Obstacles, Building Searches, Area Searches, Article Searches, Man Work, K-9 and Legal Issues, Records Keeping, K-9 Supervisor's Course, Final Written Test, Final Practical Test, Graduation.