**UNITED K9s**

**Therapy K9 Certification**

**Purpose:**

This standard will evaluate handler/K9 to receive a certification from United K9s to be a Court Therapy K9/Therapy K9. Court Therapy K9s to help with children with behavioral and emotional disabilities. Therapy K9 for Veterans/First Responders with anxiety in public places, reduce symptoms of PTSD, increase undisturbed sleeping, produce social interaction, and stimulate cognitive response.

**Objectives:**

To provide services for handler/K9 to obtain certification for Court Therapy K9 for children with behavioral and emotional disabilities and/or Therapy K9 for Veterans/First Responders with PTSD, anxiety in public places or sleeping disorders.

**Children with behavioral & emotional disabilities:**

1. Reduces anxiety & anger
2. Increase communication
3. Produces social interactions
4. Positive mood stabilizer
5. Helps with teaching responsibility
6. Stimulates cognitive response

**Veterans/First Responder:**

1. Decreases anxiety in public place
2. Reduces symptoms of PTSD
3. Increase in undisturbed sleeping
4. Produces social interactions
5. Stimulates cognitive response
6. Higher test scores
7. More likely to graduate

This certification will focus on evaluating handler/K9 to work as a therapy K9 in the areas of child victimization and recovery. Helping with a recovering child victim, helping veterans and first responders suffering with anxiety disorders, or a citizen of our community in need of animal-assisted therapy.

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**General Pre-Requisites:**

**Handler/K9 Training:**

1. K9 receive basic obedience training - (CGC or equivalent certification)
2. K9 Specialist screening K9 for temperament & behavioral characteristics.
3. Handler/K9 should complete a forty (40) hour training course.

* Learn the Do’s & Don’t of deploying a Therapy dog for child victims.
* Behavioral Observations
* Investigative Interview Technique
* Work Place adjustments
* Advance obedience training
* K9 current medical vaccinations records.

**Certification Fees:**

* $50.00 – Membership to United K9s (2 year certification)
* $25.00 – Certification Fee
* $25.00 – Evaluator Fee

Total: $100.00

(This certification recognizes Handler/K9 teams have completed the necessary requirements of becoming a United K9s as a Certified Therapy Dog Team)

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**Certification Guidelines:**

This certification recognizes handler/K9 teams have completed the necessary requirements of becoming a United K9s certified Therapy Dog Team.

Handler/K9 will be tested by United K9s evaluator only. Two (2) or more evaluators maybe used at anyone evaluation. Handler/K9 will be tested as a team in two (2) public areas on thirty (30) items in each area (shopping center, grocery store, court house, conveniences store, police station, retail business, etc.)

1. Did the K9 heel while on lead? Y/N
2. Is the handler relaxed while walking K9? Y/N
3. Did the K9 react to passing individuals? Y/N
4. Did the handler have to continually correct K9 during evaluation? Y/N
5. Did the K9 interact to individuals as approached? Y/N
6. Did the K9 react to loud noises? Y/N
7. Did the handler reinforce the K9 positively during evaluation? Y/N
8. Did the K9 react to moving vehicles? Y/N
9. Did the K9 greet individuals appropriately? Y/N
10. Will the K9 stay with someone else if the handler walks off? Y/N
11. Did the handler greet individuals? Y/N
12. Did the K9 jump up on anyone? Y/N
13. Did the K9 pull on the leash while walking? Y/N
14. Will the K9 stay in a stay if handler walks off, if so how long? Y/N
15. Will the K9 come to handler after being in a stay position? Y/N
16. Did the K9 bark or growl at other K9s? Y/N
17. Did the K9 obey all commands? Y/N
18. Did the K9 sit when handler stops? Y/N
19. Is the K9 obedient during evaluation (sit, down, stay, come, etc.)? Y/N
20. Is the handler/K9 a good working team? Y/N
21. Did the K9 respond to unexpected touching or petting? Y/N
22. Did the K9 respond to shopping carts, crutches, canes or wheel chairs? Y/N
23. Did the K9 respond during individuals showing affection? Y/N
24. Did the handler respond to individuals and the K9 during individuals showing affection? Y/N
25. Did the K9 approach individuals without having to be encouraged? Y/N
26. Did the K9 show signs of affection while being touched or petted? Y/N
27. Is the handler nervous and affecting the K9? Y/N
28. Did the K9 handle the change of surfaces and change of elevations (step, stairs, and curbs)? Y/N
29. Did the K9 get distracted easily? Y/N
30. Did the K9 make eye contact with individuals during the interacting with K9? Y/N

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**Certification**

 This is a two (2) year certification. But to maintain the full two (2) year certification, handler must send documentation of twenty four (24) hrs. CEU to United K9s or attend an update class at Paws & Strips of Brevard County.

1. Twenty four (24) hrs. of CEU:
* Visits to court with K9 for Court Therapy
* Visits to schools with K9
* Responding Law Enforcement business
* Presentation to any public group (Church’s, Boy/Girl Scouts, Clubs, etc.)
* K9 First Aid
* First Responder First Aid
* Blood Borne Pathogens
* Crime Scene Preservation
* Any recognized college CEU

**Handler/K9**

 Each Handler must certify with the K9 separately. Each K9 can have multiply handler, but each handler must certify with that K9.

 **Retesting:**

Handler/K9 must be tested in two (2) different locations, if they fail either location they must be retested in another location of equal value. If handler/K9 fails any more than five (5) testing items handler/K9 must complete the testing location over again at new location of same type, Aggression of any type will result in and immediate failure and stopping of the remainder of certification. All retesting or failures are at the discretion of the United K9s Evaluator.

**Documentation:**

Documentation for CEU can be sent:

United K9s

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