

PSARC Canine Evaluator Criteria

Guidelines for all Canine Evaluators Candidates:

1. The Candidate must complete the Canine Evaluator criteria listed below.
2. The Evaluator Candidate will forward the completed Application and additional documentation to the PA Search and Rescue Council Canine Education & Certification Committee Chairman, PSARC-CECCC.
3. The PSARC-CECCC will verify the Candidates submission is complete and meets all requirements listed below.
4. The PSARC-CECCC will present the application to the Canine Education & Certification Committee for full committee review.
5. The PSARC-CECCC and his/her committee will approve or disapprove the application based on application content, resume/experience, background check, and demand/need for additional evaluators in the discipline and physical area in which the applicant is located.
6. The PSARC-CECCC will send written confirmation to the Candidate advising him/her that they have been approved, disapproved for the apprenticeship program.
7. Once approved the Candidate will be given contact information for current Canine Evaluators to complete the required Evaluator Apprenticeship.
8. To be an evaluator the Candidate must attend/conduct a minimum of (4) four evaluations as an observer/evaluator covering the specific certification procedures and paperwork related to the specific search discipline in which the Candidate is seeking Evaluator Status. This may be conducted during the same testing session as the Candidate's apprenticeship. A minimum of (3) three of these apprenticeship evaluations must have the Candidate serving as the lead Evaluator under the supervision of a current Canine Evaluator.
9. The Candidate must receive a favorable recommendation from the Canine Evaluator(s) with which the Candidate has worked to complete his/her apprenticeship. Successfully and accurately performing three (3) canine team evaluations while under the supervision of a current PSARC Canine Evaluator as an apprentice and be recommended by the PSARC Evaluator(s) as acceptable to the PSARC-CECCC.
10. When the Apprenticeship is completed, the Candidate will receive his/her full Canine Evaluator appointment listing the effective date of the appointment.
11. Appointed Canine Evaluators must make a reasonable attempt to be available for requested canine team evaluations. Failure to do so will cause the PA Search and Rescue Council Canine Education & Certification Committee to review the Canine Evaluator's appointment.
12. Appointed Canine Evaluators will conduct themselves ethically and fairly, with impartiality; and concern for only the quality of service any potential canine team adds to Search and Rescue in Pennsylvania. Failure to do so will cause the PA Search and Rescue Council Canine Education & Certification Committee to review the Canine Evaluator's appointment.

Canine Evaluator Candidates must:

- Be a member of PSARC in good standing and meet all the requirements within this document.
- Complete a Canine Evaluator Candidate Application. (Content to developed by the canine committee)

- Submit a resume of Candidate indicating experience in search and rescue or related field
- Submit a signed background check form with fees
- Hold a PA state certification within discipline the candidate is seeking to evaluate (to be verified by PSARC-CECCC). In-house evaluations are not acceptable as recognized certification.
- Provide verifiable documentation that the applicant has responded as a field operative K-9 handler on at least ten (10) documented missions.
- Have a minimum of five (5) years K-9 search and rescue experience.
- Provide a written letter from his/her team leader (president, board member, etc.) that the applicant served as the team's evaluator during in-house testing; or currently or previously, with success, served as the lead trainer or canine coordinator for their team.
- Provide K-9 resume documenting at least five (5) years of continuous training.

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