

SEARCH AND RESCUE INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicant must have been a certified handler in all SAR specialties for which he/she is applying for.
2. Applicant must be an associate member in good standing of the IPWDA for at least three (3) years.
3. Applicant must be a trainer of Search and Rescue dogs, and his/her job description is as a trainer for his/her or Search and Rescue group.
4. Applicant must be sponsored, in writing, by two (2) IPWDA Master Trainers that hold accreditation in the areas he/she seeks to obtain.
5. Applicant must have assisted and tested with an accredited IPWDA Master Trainer in at least six (6) accreditation tests where all phases that the applicant is applying for have been tested.
6. Dogs trained must be to these Association's testing standards.
7. The applicant must submit their packets electronically to the association at least sixty (60) days before the next meeting of the Accreditation Committee. The Chairperson along with the Master Trainers will check these packages for completeness. If the package is not complete the applicant will not be considered at the next accreditation committee meeting.
 - A. Their current resume accounting for his/her practical experience with Search and Rescue dogs, their length of time as a handler and trainer, copies of applicable certificates, signed waiver and critique sheets.
 - B. His/her reasons for applying for the accreditation.
 - C. A copy of their training course (curriculum) he/she offers or assists within the training of work dogs. Plus, a list of all K-9 teams trained by him/her, or at least of all K-9 teams, which they have assisted in training, whichever is applicable.
 - D. Three (3) current photos of applicant. (1 with each resume)
 - E. Instructor applicants must submit one essay (minimum 500 words) regarding canine training, deployment, health, tactics, etc.
 - F. A completed IPWDA background questionnaire.
8. Incomplete packages and packages not received by the deadline, will not be considered at the next meeting of the Accreditation Committee. These packages will be returned by the Accreditation Committee Chairperson with an explanation as to why they could not be considered. They will then have to be sent back at a later date, after they have been completed.
9. Applicants must pass a written online test that is proctored by a Master Trainer.
10. Applicants must pass an oral interview before the Accreditation Committee.
11. Applicant must have attended two IPWDA sanctioned training events over the previous four years prior to applying.
12. Applicant must have dog they currently work or a dog they have trained available for the accreditation board to inspect.
13. Applicant must have trained or significantly assisted in training at least two dogs.
14. Applicant must bring one supporting Master Trainer to the accreditation board

interview.

15. An accredited IPWDA Search and Rescue instructor may not certify a dog for IPWDA accreditation.

16. Upon initial accreditation as an instructor, the applicant will serve a two (2) year probationary period.

17. The Accreditation Committee has the authority to order an instructor to appear before the Accreditation Committee in response to any formal or informal complaint(s). The Accreditation Committee also has the authority to temporarily suspend the instructor's privileges and rights until the instructor appears before the committee or until a formal grievance is filed and the respective procedures followed.

18. Said accreditation may be removed and revoked at any time by this Association for "just cause" after a full investigation and hearing is held by the IPWDA Accreditation Committee.

19. Accreditation will be valid for two (2) years from the date of issue and must be renewed by the applicant in writing, prior to the expiration date. Normally, the instructor will not have to appear before the Accreditation Committee in person to renew his/her status. But if for any reason, the Accreditation Committee wishes to have the instructor appear in person to discuss his/her renewal it can be requested. The Accreditation Committee Chairperson will have the authority to require the instructor to appear before the committee in order to renew his/her status. If the instructor fails to appear, his/her status will not be renewed, and can be grounds to suspend or revoke his/her accreditation.

20. A current resume update will be submitted electronically to the IPWDA website, no later than January 31st of each year. The resume shall include activity performed for the organization, including seminars attended and teams in which the trainer assisted in testing. The resume shall also include a disclosure about activity performed in any capacity with any other work dog association. Failure to do so may result in suspension of his/her accreditation.

21. It shall be the responsibility of the instructor/applicant to keep records of credibility.

22. Classification of Instructors:

- A. Search and Rescue/ Trailing
- B. Search and Rescue/ Air Scent
- C. Search and Rescue/ Cadaver
- D. Search and Rescue/ Disaster
- E. Search and Rescue/ Underwater Detection

23. Accreditation will be valid as long as the member remains in good standing and remains active. Active is defined as assisting in the certification of three (3) dog teams to IPWDA standards and/or one (1) IPWDA sanctioned workshop yearly.

24. Any current IPWDA Instructor applying for an additional instructor accreditation must meet all of the above requirements.

25. If applying for college credit for the Instructor accreditation you must also attend three IPWDA national workshops and provide proof of instruction during those events.

TRAINER ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicant must have been a certified handler in the discipline for which he/she is applying for.
2. Applicant must be a regular member in good standing of the IPWDA for at least three (3) years.
3. Applicant must be a trainer of police work dogs, and his/her job description is as a trainer for his/her or other police department or who is training work dogs for police departments for at least three (3) years, and his primary employment is a law enforcement officer with full police powers.
4. Applicant must have letters of recommendation and training critique sheets from at least two (2) IPWDA Master Trainers that hold accreditation in the areas that he/she seeks to obtain. At least one of the recommending Master Trainers must appear with the applicant at the Accreditation Board Interview.
5. Applicant must have assisted and tested with an accredited IPWDA Master Trainer in at least six (6) accreditation tests where all phases that the applicant is applying for, have been tested.
6. Dogs trained must be to these Associations testing standards.
7. The applicant must submit their packets electronically to the association at least sixty (60) days before the next meeting of the Accreditation Committee. The Chairperson along with the Master Trainers will check these packages for completeness. If the package is not complete the applicant will not be considered at the next accreditation committee meeting.
 - A. Their current resume accounting for his/her practical experience with working police dogs, their length of time as a handler and trainer, copies of applicable certificates, signed waiver and critique sheets.
 - B. His/her reasons for applying for the accreditation.
 - C. A copy of their training course (curriculum) he/she offers or assists within the training of police work dogs. Plus, a list of all K-9 teams trained by him/her, or at least of all K-9 teams, which they have assisted in training, whichever is applicable.
 - D. Three (3) current photos of applicant. (1 with each resume)
 - E. Trainer applicants must submit one essay (minimum 500 words) regarding canine training, deployment, health, tactics, etc.
 - F. A completed IPWDA background questionnaire. (additionally, SAR applicants will need to provide documentation of training for at least three green dogs in each scent discipline applied for.)
8. Incomplete packages and packages not received by the deadline, will not be considered at the next meeting of the Accreditation Committee. These packages will be returned by the Accreditation Committee Chairperson with an explanation as to why they could not be considered. They will then have to be sent back at a later date, after they have been completed.
9. Applicants must pass an online written test proctored by a Master Trainer.
10. Applicants must pass an oral interview with the Accreditation Committee.

11. Applicant must have attended two IPWDA sanctioned training events over the previous four years prior to applying.
12. Applicant must have dog they currently work or a dog they have trained available for the accreditation board to inspect.
13. Applicant must have trained or significantly assisted in training at least two dogs.
14. Applicant must bring one supporting Master Trainer to the accreditation board interview.
15. An accredited IPWDA trainer may not certify a police work dog for accreditation.

Upon initial accreditation as a trainer, the applicant will serve a two (2) year probationary period.

16. The Accreditation Committee has the authority to order a trainer to appear before the Accreditation Committee in response to any formal or informal complaint(s). The Accreditation Committee also has the authority to temporarily suspend the trainer privileges and rights until the trainer appears before the committee or until a formal grievance is filed and the respective procedures followed.

17. Said accreditation may be removed and revoked at any time by this Association for "just cause" after a full investigation and hearing is held by the IPWDA Accreditation Committee.

18. Accreditation will be valid for two (2) years from the date of issue and must be renewed by the applicant in writing, prior to the expiration date. Normally, the trainer will not have to appear before the Accreditation Committee in person to renew his/her status. But if for any reason, the Accreditation Committee wishes to have the trainer to appear in person to discuss his/her renewal. The Accreditation Committee Chairperson will have the authority to require the trainer to appear before the committee in order to renew his/her status. If the trainer fails to appear, his/her status will not be renewed, and can be grounds to suspend or revoke his/her accreditation.

19. A current resume update will be submitted electronically to the website, no later than January 31st of each year. The resume shall include activity performed for the organization, including seminars attended and teams in which the trainer assisted in testing. The resume shall also include a disclosure about activity performed in any capacity with another work dog association. Failure to do so may result in suspension of his/her accreditation.

20. It shall be the responsibility of the trainer/applicant to keep records of credibility.

21. Classification of trainers:

- A. Police Utility Work Dogs
- B. Police Narcotics Detection Dogs
- C. Police Explosive Detection Dogs
- D. Police Tracking/Trailing Dogs
- E. Search and Rescue/ Trailing
- F. Search and Rescue/ Air Scent
- G. Search and Rescue/ Cadaver
- H. Search and Rescue/ Disaster
- I. Search and Rescue/ Underwater Detection

J. Accelerant Detector Dog

K. Correctional Facility Service Dog

22. Accreditation will be valid as long as the member remains in good standing and remains active. Active is defined as assisting in the certification of three (3) dog teams to IPWDA standards and/or one (1) IPWDA sanctioned workshop yearly.

23. Note: "Police Work Dog" has been used generically in the above requirements, and can be modified accordingly for other classifications of Trainers (Search and Rescue, Accelerant, etc.).

24. Any current IPWDA Trainer applying for an additional Trainer accreditation must meet all of the above requirements.

25. If applying for college credit for the Instructor accreditation you must also attend three IPWDA national workshops and provide proof of instruction during those events.

MASTER TRAINER ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Master Trainer must have been a certified handler in the discipline for which he/she is applying for.

2. Applicant must be a regular member of the IPWDA in good standing. Applicant must have trained police work dogs for a minimum of six (6) years. Applicant must have been an accredited trainer with IPWDA for a minimum of three (3) years.

3. Dogs trained must be to this Association's testing standards.

4. The Master Trainer standards must meet all local or area requirements and conform to the standards set forth by this Association.

5. Applicant must be capable and experienced in training for any phase for which he/she is applying.

6. The applicant must have letters of recommendation and training critique sheets from at least two (2) IPWDA Master Trainers that hold accreditation in the areas that he/she seeks to obtain. At least one of the recommending Master Trainers must appear with the applicant at the Accreditation Board Interview.

7. The applicant must submit their accreditation packets electronically to the association at least sixty (60) days before the next meeting of the Accreditation Committee. The Chairperson, along with the Master Trainers, will check the packets to see that the requirements have been met. If the package is not complete the applicant will not be considered at the next accreditation committee meeting.

A. Their current resume accounting for his/her practical experience with working police dogs, their length of time as a handler and trainer, copies of applicable certificates, signed waiver and critique sheets.

B. His/her reasons for applying for the accreditation.

C. A copy of their training course (curriculum) he/she offers for the training of police work dogs, it must consist of a minimum of four hundred (400) hours.

D. A list of all the K-9 teams trained by him/her, to the Association standards.

E. Three (3) current photos of applicant (1 with each resume).

F. Master Trainer applicants must submit two essays (minimum 500 words) regarding canine training, deployment, health, tactics, etc.

G. A completed IPWDA background questionnaire. (additionally, SAR applicants will need to provide documentation of training for at least six green dogs in each scent discipline applied for.)

H. Incomplete packages and packages not received by the deadline, will not be considered at the next meeting of the Accreditation Committee. The Accreditation Committee Chairperson will return these packages, with an explanation as to why they could not be considered. They will then have to be resubmitted at a later date, after they have been completed.

8. Applicants must pass a written test proctored by a Master Trainer.
9. Applicants must pass an oral interview with the Accreditation Committee.
10. Applicant must have attended three IPWDA sanctioned training events over the previous five years prior to applying.
11. Applicant must have dog they currently work or a dog they have trained available for the accreditation board to inspect.
12. Applicant must have trained or significantly assisted in training at least four dogs.
13. Applicant must bring one supporting Master Trainer to the accreditation board interview.
14. An accredited Master Trainer will have the responsibility of testing and certifying, for this Association.
15. Upon initial accreditation as a Master Trainer, applicant will serve a two (2) year probationary period.
16. The Accreditation Committee has the authority to order a Master Trainer to appear before the Accreditation Committee in response to any formal or informal complaint(s). The Accreditation Committee also has the authority to temporarily suspend the Master Trainer privileges and the rights until the Master Trainer appears before the Accreditation Committee or until a formal grievance is filed and the respective procedures is followed.
17. Said accreditation may be removed or revoked at any time by this Association for "just cause" after a full investigation and hearing is held by the IPWDA accreditation committee.
18. Accreditation will be valid as long as the member remains in good standing and remains active. Active is defined as certification of three (3) dog teams to IPWDA standards and/or one (1) IPWDA sanctioned workshop yearly.
19. A current resume update will be submitted electronically to the IPWDA website no later than January 31st of each year. The resume shall include activity performed for the organization, including seminars attended and teams in which the trainer assisted in testing. The resume shall also include a disclosure about activity performed in any capacity with another work dog association. Failure to do so may result in suspension of his/her accreditation.
20. It shall be the responsibility of the Master Trainer to keep all records of all testing and other assistance rendered.
21. Classifications of Master Trainers:
 - A. Police Patrol Work Dogs

- B. Police Narcotic Detector Dogs
- C. Police Explosive Detector Dogs
- D. Police Tracking/Trailing Dogs
- E. Search and Rescue/ Trailing
- F. Search and Rescue/ Air Scent
- G. Search and Rescue/ Cadaver
- H. Search and Rescue/ Disaster
- I. Search and Rescue/ Underwater Detection
- J. Accelerant Detector Dog
- K. Correctional Facility Service Dog

22. A Master Trainer may only certify Canine Teams in specialties that the Master Trainer is accredited in.

23. A Police Utility Master Trainer may evaluate the following tests or parts thereof, for the Search and Rescue canines:

- Obedience - SAR (Prerequisite)
- Agility - SAR (Disaster)
- Building Search - SAR (Disaster)
- Bark/Refind Alert – SAR (Disaster)
- Air Scent – SAR (Wilderness 40 – 80 – 160 acre)

24. A Police Trailing Dog Master Trainer may evaluate search and rescue canines in Trailing.

25. A Search and Rescue Evaluator may test Search and Rescue Dogs during certification events hosted by IPWDA under the direct supervision of an IPWDA SAR DOG Master Trainer.

26. Note: “Police Work Dog” has been used generically in the above requirements, and can be modified accordingly for other classifications of Trainers (Search and Rescue, Accelerant, etc.).

27. Any current IPWDA Master Trainer applying for an additional Master Trainer accreditation must meet all of the above requirements.

28. If applying for college credit for the Instructor accreditation you must also attend three IPWDA national workshops and provide proof of instruction during those events.

INSTRUCTOR, TRAINER, MASTER TRAINER WAIVER OF REQUIRED ITEMS

Upon consideration of all items the Accreditation Board has discretion to recommend a waiver of a required item(s) for Instructor, Trainer, and Master Trainer applicants. Potential waivers shall be carefully considered by the Accreditation Committee. Candidates that require a waiver shall be reported, along with the recommendation of the Accreditation Chairperson, to the Executive Committee for final determination.

ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

The International Police Work Dog Association reserves the right to adopt Accreditation, Training, and Certification Standards which are set forth by a Country outside of the United States. The adopted standards shall be recognized only as part of the International Police Work Dog Association for the specific country for which they are applicable.

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