

Initial Canine Training Minimum Requirements

Disclaimer: Below are the **minimum** training requirements set forth by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB). Agencies/officers interested in enrolling in a canine training academy should review these requirements with the academy BEFORE enrollment, to ensure the requirements are met, in full, for canine team training.

Definitions:

“Canine Handler” means a law enforcement officer of an Employing Agency that has successfully completed a canine training program in accordance with these Administrative Rules.

“Canine Team” means a Canine Handler and a Drug Detection Canine that have been certified collectively by the Board.

“Canine Trainer” means any individual who conducts canine team training and offers a certificate of completion upon satisfactory demonstration of proficiency by a canine handler and drug enforcement canine.

“Initial Drug Detection Canine Training Course” means a course of instruction conducted for Canine Teams that meets the requirements of Section 1745.112.

SECTION 1745.112 - Initial Drug Detection Canine Training Course

- a) The Employing Agency may choose any canine training provider that conducts a course of training which includes all of the following:
 - 1) Instruction on the role and use of Drug Detection Canines, including:
 - A) Address details regarding the various functions that the police canine can and will encounter during the active use of the Canine Team for drug detection.

- B) Address the difference between reactionary and proactive-based operations while utilizing the Drug Detection Canine.
 - C) Address reactionary operations and the support roles that Drug Detection Canine conduct for other officers, while proactive-based operations should cover the utilization of the canine to self-initiate criminal investigations regarding drug offenses.
- 2) Drug odor imprinting, including:
- A) Discuss that Imprinting options are agency driven.
 - B) Ensure that the Handler and instructor(s) are aware of the drug types the Employing Agency will be using to imprint the Drug Detection Canine.
- 3) Veterinary care, including:
- A) Introduction to the Canine Team relationship.
 - B) How to handle his/her canine partner in a veterinary environment.
 - C) Address the challenges the Handler might encounter when taking his/her canine partner into a veterinary setting, including, but not limited to interactions with other animals, civilians, and medical staff.
 - D) Address the concept of muzzle exposure and bite risks within the veterinary setting.
 - E) Risks to heat exposure
- 4) Policies, procedures, and legal issues, including:
- A) Address policies, procedures, and legal considerations in each sub-discipline of training.
 - B) Provide current case law and directives that are unique to the Canine Team at their various respective judicial sectors; including but not limited to Trial Court, District Court, Appellate Court, Illinois State Supreme Court, United States Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Supreme of Court of the United States.
 - C) Address the need for continued Maintenance Training for the Canine Team in respect to legally substantiated searches.
- 5) Sniffs and searches of automobiles, including:

- A) Discuss and reinforce the conditions that constitute a “free air sniff.”
 - B) Address the difference between an “exterior sniff” and an “interior search.”
 - C) Address the safety considerations of interior searches including interactions with potential objects/substances that the police canine might encounter while searching the automobile.
 - D) Address deployment considerations prior to the sniff of an automobile, including but not limited to, occupied vs. unoccupied automobiles.
 - E) Address tactical and safety considerations if the automobile is occupied by passengers.
 - F) Address officer safety components.
 - G) Address the use of lead/ leash control when conducting sniffs and searches of automobiles.
 - H) At least 7 exercises of this training must expose the team to scenario-based traffic stops of blank (no drug odor) automobiles and target present (drug odor) automobiles during their initial training. These traffic stops must involve automobiles that have engines running, be occupied by passengers, and must include simulated deployments by the Canine Team from their respective patrol vehicle.
- 6) Sniffs and searches of interior buildings, including:
- A) Introduction to court authorized search warrants, consent search’s and general patrol.
 - B) Address the process for conducting detection deployments in or around buildings and/or residential structures including search patterns and lead/leash control when conducting these types of operations.
 - C) Address tactical/safety considerations for these types of deployments, including but not limited to, the presence of people and other officers inside of the structure, the presence of additional animals, and the presence of any dangerous or harmful substances.
 - D) At least 7 exercises of this training must expose the team to scenario-based interior searches of blank (no drug odor) locations and target present (drug odor) locations during their initial training. These searches must involve locations that have other substances, other animals, and pedestrians present and must include simulated deployments by the Canine Team from their respective patrol vehicle.

7) Sniffs and searches of open areas, including:

- A) Address the process of conducting detection deployments in or around open fields and areas, lead/leash control when conducting these types of operations.
- B) Address search warrants and consent searches in areas that could be constituted as “curtilage.”
- C) Discuss the tactical/safety considerations for these types of deployments, including but not limited to, the presence of people, animals, and other substances in open areas.
- D) At least 5 exercises of this training must expose the team to scenario-based open area searches of blank (no drug odor) locations and target present (drug odor) locations during their initial training. These searches must involve locations that have other substances, other animals, and pedestrians present and must include simulated deployments by the Canine Team from their respective patrol vehicle.

8) Sniffs and searches of lockers, parcels, suitcases and containers, including:

- A) Address detection deployments at a variety of locations where lockers are present, including businesses, schools, and public facilities.
- B) Address parcel/shipping facilities where boxes and or packages are present,
- C) Address mass transportation facilities where suitcases/luggage are prevalent.
- D) Address the tactical and safety considerations for these types of deployments, including but not limited to, the presence of people (of various ages) and animals at these facilities.
- E) Address search patterns and lead/leash control when conducting these types of operations.
- F) Address odor sourcing techniques when the police canine is exposed to multiple lockers, parcels, and suitcases.
- G) At least 5 exercises of this training must expose the team to scenario-based locker, parcel and suitcase searches of blank (no drug odor) locations and target present (drug odor) containers during their initial training. These searches must involve lockers, parcels, and suitcases that have other substances, other animals, and pedestrians

present and must include simulated deployments by the Canine Team from their respective patrol vehicle.

9) Report writing, including:

- A) Address the importance of completing a quality police report.
- B) Address clarity and organization pertaining to incident reports.
- C) Address the liability factors that stem from not adequately documenting the reason(s) why a Drug Detection Canine was utilized in a field operation.
- D) Discuss the importance of consistent report writing techniques when documenting Drug Detection Canine sniffs/searches in each respective sub-discipline.
- E) At least 3 exercise of this training must require each Canine Handler to prepare a sample report that is reviewed and critiqued by the instructor with feedback, notes, and advice provided to the Canine Handler.

10) Maintenance training and record keeping, including:

- A) Discuss the significance of maintaining proper records.
- B) Discuss the role of records in criminal and civil cases involving the use of a Drug Detection Canine.
- C) Discuss the importance of establishing the reliability factors for the Drug Detection Canine as the foundation for the initial training itself and that diligent in-service record keeping is just as important.
- D) Address the importance of clarity and organization when documenting training operations and promote a glossary of terms and definitions that Canine Handler and Employing Agency will utilize to describe the performance of the Drug Detection Canine.

- b) This course must consist of at least 160 hours of training conducted in consecutive weeks and must be presented to the Canine Handler and the Drug Detection Canine as a team.

- c) The Canine Team must identify to trainers which drugs the canine will be trained to detect. Canine Handlers must present documentation from the administrator of the Employing Agency administrator addressing which drugs the canine will be authorized to detect, and which statutes the Drug Detection Canine Team will be trained to enforce. The trainers must accommodate these selections and ensure that inadequate and/or inadvertent imprinting does not occur.

- d) The Canine Handler must maintain daily records of training content and activity. Upon conclusion, these records shall be provided to the administrator of the Initial Drug Detection Canine Training Course and the trainers shall verify the accuracy of the records to the best of their knowledge and ability.