

# Alabama Department of Corrections Canine Specifications

## **SECTION I: Purpose**

ADOC requires canines to be trained with handlers for the purpose of detection of illegal narcotics. The outcome of this procurement will *be* a department-wide contract that meets the needs of ADOC Components while reducing costs, streamlining processes, eliminating duplication, and improving customer service.

## **SECTION II: Background**

ADOC has a mission: to secure the State of Alabama Correctional Facilities from the delivery, possession and use of illegal narcotics in or on State of Alabama Correctional Facilities.

## **SECTION III: Requirements**

ADOC requires canines that meet the specifications in "Statement of Work". ADOC primary need is for trained canines along with training of handlers.

### **Quality Assurance/Warranty**

The minimum quality assurance/warranty required by ADOC Components is as follows:

If within six (6) months after ADOC acceptance, it is discovered that the canine has a pre-existing medical problem, chronic disease, or heredity deficiency that could render the canine unacceptable for work, the vendor shall retrieve the canine within seven (7) working days and replace the canine within 60 days after receipt of notice that the canine needs to be replaced. Both the retrieval and the replacement shall be done at no expense to the ADOC

Provide x-rays of hips which indicate soundness of detector canine

## Statement of Work

1.0 This Statement of Work describes requirements for canines required by DOC. The awarded company shall insure the canines have been evaluated on their ability to meet the standards set forth in this statement of work. However, in addition to acceptable performance during testing, all canines must be generally alert, active, outgoing, and confident. They must display good socialization and be extremely tolerant of people. Any of the following defects in behavior displayed at any point during training or during the six month warranty period may be cause for rejection.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- \_ Unwillingness to comply or cooperate with handlers.
- \_ Fear, shyness or nervousness in response to people.
- \_ Inability to work in proximity to people or other canines because of aggressiveness.
- \_ Handler-aggressiveness.
- \_ Sensitivity or fear in response to environmental stimuli such as interiors of buildings, slick surfaces, elevated surfaces, stairs, noisy objects, crowds of people, and other stressors/distracters.
- \_ Pronounced or uncontrollable leash-biting.

## SECTION 2: BREED, SEX, WEIGHT AND HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS

The paragraphs below detail acceptable breeds, physical appearance, size and weight requirements for canines.

2.1. **Breed.** The canines shall be one of the following breeds: Labrador retriever, Golden Retriever, German Shepherd, Dutch Shepherd, and Belgian Malinois

2.2. **Age.** Canines must be at least 24 months, but not more than 36 months of age, at time of the purchase

2.2 Sex. Males and females are acceptable.

## SECTION 3: DOC SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Before ADOC completes purchase of detector canines, the canine which enters into training and deployment into correctional facilities must pass to the satisfaction of ADOC the tests below. These tests are designed to show the suitability of the canine in correctional environment.

3.1.1. **Behavior.** A detector canine is one that has been trained to detect specific odors. A detection canine candidate shall exhibit an obsession to play with objects, have stable character, gun-sure and willing to surmount difficult obstacles. The canine should prefer to play with objects more than having food, water, or the attention of the handler.

3.1.2. **Stable Character Test.** The canine will be brought around several people to judge how it responds. It should not be afraid or act aggressively toward anyone who approaches it; a happy, social attitude should be seen in its behavior. The canine will be walked on smooth tile floors to see if it is sure-footed. The canine should display no fear or discomfort. While the canine is standing or walking on leash in a passive state, an umbrella will be opened suddenly in its face. The canine may show a slight startled reaction but should recover quickly. The canine will be tested for gun sureness with several unusually loud gunshots fired from about 50 feet behind it in which the canine should show little or no reaction. The canine will be taken into tight places to see how it responds. It should confidently enter and investigate these areas without hesitation.

3.1.3. **Retrieval Prey Drive Test.** The canine will be evaluated to see if it will pursue not only objects it is familiar with, but also strange, hard and soft objects. This test will be conducted in a ravine or on a hill. The canine will be judged on its alertness, speed, hunt and grab of each object. The purpose is to determine if the canine will hunt for and play with strange objects while being physically stressed. Objects are: a piece of PVC pipe, a block of wood, a piece of metal pipe, and rubber hose. ADOC does not require metal pipe to be used as a reward object during the training course but awarded company may choose to utilize metal pipe during testing.

3.1.4. **Perseverance Test.** The canine will be pre-stimulated with an object that will then be placed under a heavy object (cement block, tire, etc.). The canine will then be released. The canine will be evaluated on its drive and desire to work out the problem and obtain the object. The purpose is to determine whether the canine possesses a sufficient desire to work to obtain the object and to determine the canine's natural indication behavior (passive/aggressive). Ideal behavior for this test is, upon reaching the location of the object, the canine immediately engages in frantic biting and scratching behavior in an effort to dig and obtain the object, or a frozen stare at the location of the object.

3.1.5. **Hunt Drive Test.** The canine will be brought to a location where there will be a high degree of grass or brush. The canine will be pre-stimulated with an object, which will be thrown deep (over 40 yards) into the grass or brush. The purpose is to determine the level of the canine's hardness in pushing through the brush and if the canine will search for an extended period of time without losing interest. The ideal behavior for this test is that the canine crashes through the brush with maximum physical effort. Once in the brush, the canine must exhibit concentrated and frantic hunting behavior utilizing its olfactory senses. The canine is expected to maintain this behavior for an extended period without any assistance from the handler until such time as it locates the object. Upon locating the object, the canine should immediately grab the object in its mouth and demonstrate satisfaction in playing with it.

3.1.6. **On-line Search Test.** The canine will be brought to a search area (shelves, vehicles, building, etc.). The canine will then be pre-stimulated with an object that will be placed out of sight in the search area at a location above ground level. The canine will then be directed through a systematic search of the area on a leash. Included in this search will be several areas above waist level. The purpose is to determine the degree of trainability and handler sensitivity in the canine. Ideal behavior for this test is that the canine will follow all directional commands and signals made by the handler. The canine must demonstrate effective use of its olfactory senses in searching the area where it is directed. Upon reaching the hidden object, the canine should show quick recognition of the object's odor and display an undistracted desire to follow this odor and obtain the object.

## Section 4: Training of Canine Team Requirements

4.0 Training course for ADOC canine and handler shall consist of a minimum of four (4) weeks which totals 160 hours.

4.1 Training course shall include both classroom and field application which is directed to the working environment of the ADOC locations.

4.2 All canines shall be trained to passively respond to the trained odors. Passive response is inclusive of pointing, sitting, and downing upon recognition of the trained odor.

## Section 5: Documentation Requirements

5.0. All companies bidding on this ADOC solicitation shall provide copies of current DEA license or exemption of required license to possess handler narcotics.

5.1 Vendor will provide written evaluations on each ADOC handler on a weekly basis for signature. Any handler who is below the awarded company's standard may be dismissed by the Warden of the ADOC facility providing the handler.

5.2 Companies bidding on ADOC solicitation must include a copy of lecture material covered which must at minimum include material on the following:

### **Four Week Handler Course Lecture Materials**

- Detector Dog Handler Performance Evaluation Standards
- Canine Physiology, Instincts, Drives, Traits, First Aid, Health Care, Physical and Mental Stress
- Training: Records, Concepts, Theory, Practice, Objectives, Essentials, Conditioning, Commands, Obedience, Preventing Incorrect Responses, Correction, Terminology
- Reward System, Positive and Negative Reinforcement, Punishment
- Search: Patterns, Luggage, Buildings, Vehicles, On/Off Leash, Acclimation to Gunfire
- Laws and Liabilities
- Testing Procedures, Protocols

5.3 At completion of the training course, the ADOC handler and detector canine must be certified as having successfully completing training. Certification must be conducted by a certifying official from a nationally recognized certification body.