

## UTILITY COMPONENT OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Utility Component exam is to test the agility, coordination, basic olfactory sense, ability of K9 and handler working in difficult less than ideal environmental conditions. Physical and mental stress is a factor in any real life working situation for "**Counter Terrorism K9 Technician**" (CTKT) and "**Canine Counter Terrorism Specialist**" (CCTS) certification holders, testing their ability to function under such conditions keeps the best in the field and those less qualified safe on the sidelines.

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## BREAKDOWN

The exam is designed to test the working relationship between dog and handler, to test the dog's proficiency in executing commands and the handler's level of control over his/her K9 Partner in less than idea environments or during stressful events.

The Utility component must be successfully passed in a timely fashion before proceeding on to the Endorsement Component.

Each phase may be tested in any order and will be judged on a PASS/FAIL basis. All phases will be done under the direction of a licensed and certified K9 Intelligence Unit Testing Official. The first utility exercise, are agility exams. The second and third utility exercises are retrieval and scent discrimination.

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## GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL

As in the obedience exam, the dog and handler enter the testing area with no leash. Once the exam begins, the handler may not touch his/ her K9 partner to guide it into position. The dog may not show distress, aggression, fear or anxiety to do so will result in a "FAIL". The following will be grounds for immediate dismissal and applicants will be issued a "FAIL" on the session.

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1. Dogs that soil (relieve themselves) the testing field
  2. Dogs that exhibit unprovoked aggression toward any human or another dog.
  3. Dogs that break command who's handler cannot immediately re-establish control (within 30 seconds time frame).
  4. Handlers who issue or Dogs who require more than two (2) consecutive "same" commands before the required response.
  5. Handler who argues or debates ruling of the testing official or otherwise exhibits rude behavior.
  6. Abusive or cruel treatment of any dog.
  7. Failure to follow instructions given by The Testing Official.
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## TESTING PHASES

**Stairs, Retrieve, Scent, Narrow Beam, Water, Tunnel, Jumps, Distractors.**

**1. Stair negotiation phase:**

Phase objective, to test work effectiveness on footing, coordination and confidence on uneven, unusual or disorienting terrain or during stressful events. The handler will proceed when instructed by the testing official, along with his/ her K9 Partner (who is positioned at the handler's left side in a heel position), to move to the base of the stairs where the dog is given a stay command by the handler.

The handler will then proceed to the top of the stairs.

No less than 12 steps and not more than 15 steps will be in the staircase. Once the handler is at the top of the staircase. He/ She will turn and face his/ Her K9 companion, which must remain at the bottom of the stairs until the testing official gives the signal to the handler that they are to call their K9 companion. When the handler gives the command his K9 companion must move to the top of the stairs without hesitation and must do so in a coordinated, confident fashion. Any hesitation on the part of the dog will result in failure for the exercise. When the K9 partner reaches the handler the handler may not issue praise but will immediately give the stay command to the K9 partner, then the handler will proceed back to the bottom of the stairs, turn and face his/ her K9 partner. Once the handler is at the bottom and facing the stairs, s/he may then recall his/ her dog.

The K9 partner will proceed down the stairs in a coordinated, confident fashion without hesitation. Upon successful completion of this phase the handler may offer praise. This phase is finished.

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**2. Beam negotiation phase:** Phase objective, to test work effectiveness on footing, coordination and confidence on uneven, unusual or disorienting terrain or during stressful events. The handler will proceed when instructed by the testing official, along with his/ her K9 Partner (who is positioned at the handler's left side in a heel position), to move to the narrow beam. There the handler and his/ her K9 partner will stop. When instructed by the testing official, the handler will instruct his/ her dog to walk across the narrow beam lengthwise to the other side. (The beam will be no less than 10 feet (3.048 meters) and no longer than 12 feet (3.657 6 meters) in length and no wider than 8 inches (20.32 centimeters) and no less than 4 inches (10.16 centimeters) wide. The beam will be no higher than 24 inches (60.96 centimeters) from the level of the ground and no less than 15 inches (38.1 centimeters) from the level of ground.) The handler may walk along side of the beam parallel to his/ her K9 partner but may not use a leash, or physically aid the dog in any manner. The K9 partner will proceed down the length of the narrow beam in a coordinated, confident fashion without hesitation. The dog may not hesitate as it proceeds and must complete the length of the beam, it must not fall off or leave the surface of the beam before it has walked the length of the beam. Upon successful completion the handler may offer praise. The handler will then set the dog to return back across the beam to the beginning end. At approximately the half way point on the way back across the beam, the handler will instruct his/ her K9 partner to "STOP" and "SIT".

The dog is expected to stop and then sit on the beam. The handler will then proceed to the end of the beam where he/ she will recall his/ her K9 partner. The K9 partner will proceed down the length of the narrow beam in a coordinated, confident fashion without hesitation. The dog may not hesitate as it proceeds and must complete the length of the beam, it must not fall off or leave the surface of the beam before it has walked the length of the beam. Upon successful completion the handler may offer praise. This phase is finished.

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3. **Tunnel negotiation phase:** Phase objective, to test work effectiveness on footing, coordination and confidence on uneven, unusual or disorienting terrain or during stressful events. The handler will proceed when instructed by the testing official, along with his/ her K9 Partner (who is positioned at the handler's left side in a heel position), to move to the tunnel entrance. The handler will direct his/ her K9 partner to enter the tunnel and proceed to the other end. Where upon the dog will exit the tunnel. The dog will then go back into the tunnel and return to the handler. (The tunnel will be no less than 12 feet (3.657 6 meters) and no longer than 15 feet (4.572 meters) in length and no wider than 24 inches (60.96 centimeters) and no less than 20 inches (50.8 centimeters) wide. The K9 partner will proceed down the length of the narrow beam in a coordinated, confident fashion without hesitation. The dog must complete the length of the tunnel as laid out above. Upon successful completion of this exercise the handler may offer praise. This phase is finished.

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4. **Jumping phase:** Phase objective, to test work effectiveness on footing, coordination and confidence on uneven, unusual or disorienting terrain or during stressful events. The handler will proceed when instructed by the testing official, along with his/ her K9 Partner (who is positioned at the handler's left side in a heel position), to move to the jumping area. Jump set #1: When directed by the testing official the handler will direct his/ her K9 partner to jump over a water channel. The water channel will be at least than 36 inches (0.914 4 meters) in width and no more than 48 inches (1.219 2 meters) in width. The dog may not touch the water whatsoever when executing the jump. Jump set #2: When directed by the testing official the handler will direct his/ her K9 partner to jump over three (3) different board jumps set to height without knocking down or touching the jump station. The first board jump will be set to the height of 24 inches (60.96 centimeters). The second board jump to a height of 36 inches (0.914 4 meters). The third height will be set at two and a half (2.5) times the dog's height at the shoulders. The handler may not physically aid the dog in any jump. Failure to negotiate all jumps successfully will result in a "FAIL" on the Jumping phase. After successful completion of each jump the handler may offer praise. This phase is finished.

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5. **Water course phase:** Phase objective, to test work effectiveness on footing, coordination and confidence on uneven, unusual or disorienting terrain or during stressful events. The handler will proceed when instructed by the testing official, along with his/ her K9 Partner (who is positioned at the handler's left side in a heel position), to move to the water course phase. The water channel will be at least than 36 inches (0.914 4 meters) in width and no more than 48 inches (1.219 2 meters) in width. The length will be no less than 10 feet (3.048 meters) and no longer than 12 feet (3.657 6 meters). The water level in the channel will be no less than 3 inches (7.62 centimeters) or greater than 6 inches (15.24 centimeters) in depth. Upon instruction from the testing official the handler will direct his/ her K9 partner to walk in the water the full length of the water channel, turn at the far end and come back. Halfway back, the handler will give his/ her K9 partner a "STOP" / "DOWN" command. The dog is expected to execute the "down" command while in the water with its front legs outstretched and rear legs squarely under it thereby lowering the dog's body into the water. The handler will have his dog remain there until the handler is given instruction from the testing official to proceed (*approximately for a count of 10*), then proceed back to where the exercise began. The handler may walk parallel to his/ her K9 partner outside of the water channel with the dog heeling to accomplish this exercise. The handler may not physically assist or physically touch the dog whatsoever. The dog may not exit the water once it has entered until the exercise has been completed. The dog must execute the commands promptly, with enthusiasm and confidence. Upon successful completion the handler may offer praise. This phase is finished. (*Towels will be provided to handler and dog after the exercise.*)

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6. **Retrieving phase:** Phase objective, to test work effectiveness on footing, coordination and confidence on uneven, unusual or disorienting terrain or during stressful events. The handler will proceed when instructed by the testing official, along with his/ her K9 Partner (who is positioned at the handler's left side in a heel position), to move to the retrieval testing area. Upon direction from the testing official the Handler will give the appropriate "SIT/ STAY command to his/ her K9 Partner. The dog is expected to sit in an attentive alert fashion with its attention directed toward the handler. The handler then will simply throw a

ball or other approved article approximately 30 yards (27.432 meters) away from his K9 partner. The handler will wait for the testing official to give the word before sending his/ her dog to retrieve the object (*approximately the count of 15*). The dog will quickly and directly go to the object, pick it up and return with it to the handler where he will place it with the handler or drop the article at the handler's feet. The dog must not play keep away, tug of war or etc. but must place the article in the handler's hands or drop it at the handler's feet. To do otherwise will result in a "FAIL" on this phase. Upon successful completion the handler may offer praise. This phase is finished.

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7. **Scenting phase:** Phase objective, to test work effectiveness on footing, coordination and confidence on uneven, unusual or disorienting terrain or during stressful events. The handler will proceed when instructed by the testing official, along with his/ her K9 Partner (who is positioned at the handler's left side in a heel position), to move to the scent testing area. *Set up:* The handler must provide two numbered sets of articles, four leather, and four metal articles. These must be objects of everyday use. Scent retrieval set #1: The handler is given one leather and one metal article, selected by the testing official. The remaining 6 articles are rubbed by the testing official or an assistant, and arranged half way out into the testing field in a circled area approximately 8 feet (2.438 4 meters) in diameter. The handler and dog may watch the articles being placed, then they must turn and face the opposite direction. The handler chooses either the leather or metal article and rubs it to place his scent on it. The judge then takes the article and mixes it among the six (6) articles already placed on the ground or floor. Upon direction from the testing official to "Send your dog," handler and dog pivot to face the field of scattered articles. On command, the dog must go to the articles, and retrieve the one scented by his handler and return with it to the handler where he will place it with the handler or drop the article at the handler's feet. The dog must not play keep away, tug of war or etc. but must place the article in the handler's hands or drop it at the handler's feet. To do otherwise will result in a "FAIL" on this phase. After successful completion the handler may offer praise. This phase is finished.

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8. **Sound and other distractors phase:** Phase objective, to test work effectiveness on footing, coordination and confidence on uneven, unusual or disorienting terrain or during stressful events. This phase is under development and will be instituted after 9-1-2009.

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