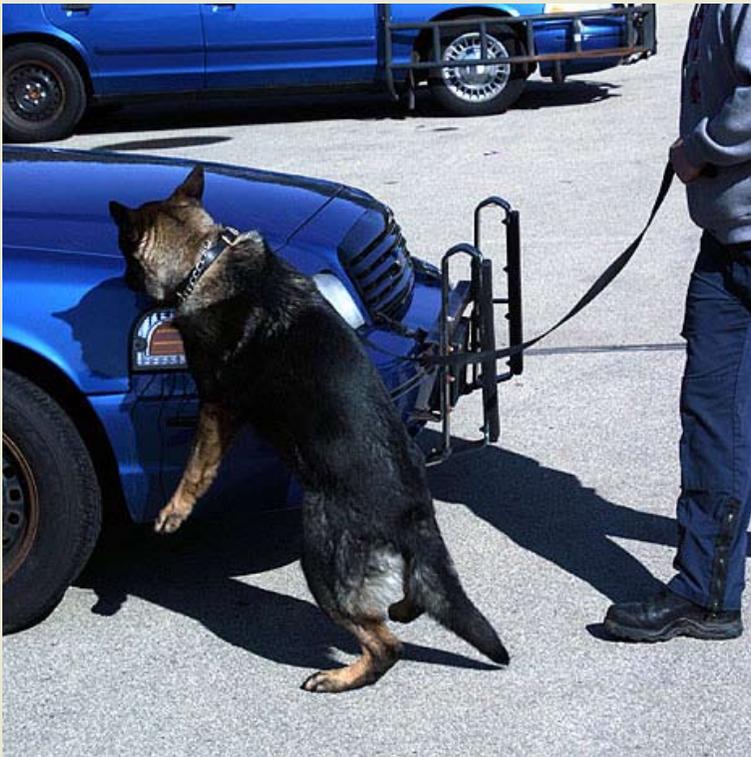


K9 Handler Selection Process



By: Ed Frawley



Leerburg Kennels

Foreword

When you view this eBook in PDF format. Click on **BOOKMARKS** on the top left side of your PDF reader, these bookmarks are eBook chapters.

[Leerburg Kennel](#) and Video is owned by Ed Frawley.

Ed has owned German Shepherds (GSD) for over 45 years. Since 1978 he has bred over 350 litters of German working bloodline GSDs. His dogs work in law enforcement, as S&R dogs, as competition Schutzhund dogs, and as family companions and protectors.

Since 1980 Ed has produced over 120 dog training videos and DVDs. He was a police K-9 handler for 10 years, competed in several dog sports, including AKC obedience and Schutzhund. In addition he has built one of the top dog training supply businesses in the world.

If you go to the web site **Leerburg.com** you will see that it has over 10,000 printed pages. The Leerburg Web Discussion board has over 10,000 registered members_ and over 120,000 posts in the archives. Learn to use our site search function.

K9 Handler Selection Process

The following is a sample of a selection process to pick a new K9 handler for a city police force. This is a pretty good starting point for any city or town that is adding a new K9 handler to their police force.

Ed Frawley



K-9 Interview Questions

1. Tell us about your experience and training background that prepares you for the K-9 position. (Please include any public speaking and dog training.)
2. What are the most important character traits of a K-9 handler? Why?
3. As a K-9 handler, you will be asked to by a supervisor to perform an assignment that you and your dog are not ready of qualified to compete. How might you handle this situation?

4. As a K-9 handler, you will be asked to speak publicly and give presentations about the dog. Describe how you will meet the needs of the different audiences you will encounter.
5. As a K-9 handler, you will be involved in some of the most dangerous situations our department encounters. Have you discussed this added danger you family and how do they feel about it?
6. What are the Organizational Core Values for the CITY PD and how do they fit into the position of K-9 handler? (Honesty/ Integrity, Dignity/Respect, Commitment, Service/Caring, Professionalism, and Lawful Behavior)
7. By policy, whose decision is it to utilize the dog in a given situation and why?
8. Do you understand the commitment, hours, training, and home care that are involved with being the K-9 handler, have you discussed these with your family?
9. How would you incorporate training into your schedule?
10. Why do you wish to be a K-9 Officer? Anything else we should consider as we go about making recommendations to the Chief?

K-9 INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the most important character traits of a K9 handler? Why?

Maturity, Patience, Initiative, Flexibility, Dependability, Emotionally Stable, and Communication Skills

2. As a K9 handler you may be asked by a supervisor to perform an assignment that you and your dog are not ready or

qualified to complete. How might you handle this situation?

3. What do you see as the purpose and duties of the K9 handler? (See Policy)

4. As a K9 handler you will be asked to speak publicly and give presentations about the dog. Describe how you will meet the needs of the different audiences you will encounter.

5. As a K9 handler you will be involved in some of the most dangerous situations our Department encounters. Have you discussed this added danger with your family and how do they feel about it?

6. Why is a K9 program important to the Department and Community?

7. Tell us the board about your experience and training background that prepares you for the K9 position. (Please include any public speaking and dog training.)

8. What are the Organizational Core Values for the CITY PD and how do they fit into the position of K9 handler? (Honesty/ Integrity, Dignity/Respect, Commitment, Service/Caring, professionalism, and Lawful Behavior)

9. By policy, whose decision is it to utilize the dog in a given situation and why?

10. A K9 handler becomes incapacitated or injured during a call, what should be done to handle/secure the dog?

11. In the Use of Force Continuum, where does the deployment of the K9 fall? Explain why.

12. Locker/school search question?

13. Beyond the six-week Basic Handler Course, K9 handlers must train their dogs nearly every day. How will you incorporate this training into your schedule?

14. Do you understand the commitment, hours, training and home care that are involved with being the K9 handler, have you discussed these with your family, and what was their response?



TO: All Police Personnel

SUBJECT: Selection Process for K-9 Officer

Our K-9 is scheduled for retirement in DATE. An opening has been reserved at the K-9 Services school in Albuquerque, New Mexico beginning in DATE for the training of an officer and new dog. The exact date has not been established, however, the school is anticipated to begin in the first or second week in DATE. Officers that have attained the rank of First Class Police Officer by DATE, and are interested in filling the K-9 vacancy, should submit a letter of interest along with a resume to the Chief's Secretary by DATE.

As this is a unique position with the CITY Police Department, the following should serve as basic information pertinent to any

officer considering applying for the K-9 Officer position. Officers should closely review the following information and consider all of the aspects listed prior to applying to the position.

1. Applicants should be in good physical condition. If selected for the position, the applicant will attend a 6-week school in Albuquerque, New Mexico that is physically demanding. Monthly training and adequate job performance requires above normal physical preparedness.
2. The officer must be willing to have the K-9 live in the officer's home. The conditions in the home must be conducive to a healthy environment for the K-9, as well as the family members. Consideration should be given for allergies, fears of other family members as they relate to animals, as well as enough space for the K-9 and the officer's family to interact appropriately. If there are other pets in the home, the officer must agree that if conflict occurs between the department's K-9 and the pet, the pet must be removed from the home.
3. Off-street parking must be readily available at the home for the department K-9 vehicle that will be assigned to the officer.
4. The officer should be prepared to consider the assignment to be a long-term assignment. The average length of service for a dual-purpose dog (drug and apprehension) is five to nine years.
5. The K-9 Officer will be a position assigned to the Night Overlap shift and will be supervised by a patrol sergeant. The K-9 Officer must be willing to work flexible hours and be on-call via pager when off-duty. Other contractual specifics are listed in "APPENDIX - C" of the Local 9 Union Collective Bargaining Agreement. Applicants should also review Policy 4-3200 regarding the K-9 program.
6. The position of K-9 Officer requires that the officer spend a considerable amount of time training with the K-9. This includes

both on-duty and off-duty training depending on the officer's schedule for a particular month. Officers applying for this position should be aware of the commitment to training no matter what their work schedule will be.

7. Public relations will be an extremely important part of the position of the K-9 Officer. The K-9 Officer and dog are one of the most requested units from the police department for public presentations. The K-9 Officer will be involved in public speaking and be responsible for developing presentations appropriate for different speaking engagements.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Receipt of Letter of Interest and Resume to the Chief's Secretary by DATE

2. Home Visit (To be scheduled with the officer prior to interview)

To interview affected family members

Observe living arrangements for the K-9

3. Oral Interview (Tentatively scheduled for DATE)

Interview panel will consist of the following people:

A member of the Chief's Staff

K-9 Patrol Supervisor

Previous/current K-9 Officer

An outside agency K-9 Officer

