

**Board of Trustees**  
**MAINE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY**

**CANINE (K-9) TEAM TRAINER CERTIFICATION**

**Specification S-19**

The following requirements are specified for the certification of K-9 Team Trainers K-9 Team Trainers will be utilized for the training and evaluation of K-9 Teams, as specified in Specification S-17 and Specification S-18.

**Certification:**

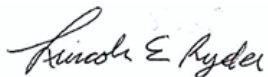
- A-1. Be employed as one of the following: a law enforcement officer, a corrections officer, a staff member of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; or
- A-2. Be a former certified MCJA K-9 Team Trainer who held active status in good standing as a MCJA certified K-9 Team Trainer for a minimum of 2 years at the time of separation or has attained equivalent law enforcement certification as approved by the Academy, and;
- B. Be designated by the Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee of a criminal justice agency as a K-9 Team Trainer.
- C. Have been certified by the Board as a K-9 Handler Team for a period of at least five (5) years. A waiver of this requirement may be granted by the Board in cases of documented equivalent training and experience.
- D. Provide to the MCJA Board documentation of continuing and progressive experience in K-9 training.
- E. Have completed the appropriate Methods of Instruction course or its equivalent.
- F. A Patrol K-9 Trainer applicant must assist in a minimum of five hundred (500) hours in a Patrol K-9 Team training capacity under the supervision of a MCJA Certified K-9 Team Trainer with experience in Patrol K-9 training. Four hundred (400) hours must be attained in the classroom and practical phases of the basic training of Patrol K-9 Teams. The remaining one hundred (100) hours may be in the planning and conducting of in-service training. The Patrol K-9 Team Trainer applicant must assist in the training of three (3) active Patrol K-9 Teams that have successfully met Patrol K-9 certification.
- G. Detector K-9 Trainer applicant must assist in a minimum of three hundred (300) hours in a Detector K-9 Team training capacity under the supervision of a MCJA Certified K-9 Team Trainer with experience in Detector K-9 Training. Two hundred (200) hours must be attained in the classroom and practical phases of the basic training of Detector K-9 Teams. The remaining one hundred (100) hours may be in the planning and conducting of in-service training. The Detector K-9 Team Trainer applicant must assist in the training of two (2) active Detector K-9 Teams that have successfully met Detection K-9 Team certification.
- H. For the purposes of 5 and 6 above, the term “K-9 Team” will not include the applicant and the applicant’s K-9.

- I. K-9 Team Trainer applicants who receive their training or certification other than in a MCJA program will be reviewed for acceptance by the Academy K-9 Advisory Committee for equivalency.

**Recertification:**

- A-1. Be employed as one of the following: a law enforcement officer, a corrections officer, a staff member of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; or
- A-2. Be a former certified MCJA K-9 Team Trainer who held active status in good standing as a MCJA certified K-9 Team Trainer for a minimum of 2 years at the time of separation or has attained equivalent law enforcement certification as approved by the Academy, and;
- B. Be designated by the Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee of a criminal justice agency as a K-9 Team Trainer.
- C. Annual recertification requirements shall be met by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year.
- D. The K-9 Trainer shall annually provide documentation on the appropriate MCJA forms of continuous education and experience in K-9 training. The K-9 Trainer shall provide documentation on the appropriate MCJA forms that the K-9 Trainer has conducted at least two hundred (200) hours of training for individual K-9s and/or K-9 teams annually. If the K-9 Trainer is also K-9 Handler, up to one hundred (100) hours of the Trainer's K-9 Team in-service training can be used towards this requirement.
- E. The Academy Training Coordinator will review the documentation at the end of the calendar year and make appropriate recommendations to the Academy Director, as outlined in Specification S-19.
- F. The Academy Director will forward all certification recommendations to the Board.

Adopted: 12/05/2008  
Revised: 09/12/2025  
Review Date: 09/12/2027



Lincoln E. Ryder, Director  
Maine Criminal Justice Academy



Charles Rumsey, Chair  
MCJA Board of Trustees