

I am Lyle Sinclair.

The certifications for patrol and detection being recommended, are by industry standards at the entry level basic.

For the detection portion, the K9 is being tested in its ability to recognize the odors and the handler can recognize the K9's response to odor. For the patrol certification it is again industry standard **entry level** to work the street.

If the handler **cannot** do this, do we want them working their K9 on the street?

I DON'T

I don't care who the departments use now to certify their teams. I suggest that the teams still do their current certifications and ALSO and a state standard. IF the current certification they use is valid, this will be easy. Currently there are numerous vendors that sell K9's, offer certifications around the country. It would be difficult at best to list all that are approved.

I would think it would be easier to have several certifications in the state, ran by a State approved entity of current/former K9 handlers from the state. This entity could then send a list to the Attorney Generals office quarterly.

This bill will not only help protect the citizens of North Dakota but also K9 teams of North Dakota will be better protected from bad case law.

What started this for me was I was contacted by a BCI agent I went to Law Enforcement Basic with. He was looking at an in-custody death where the subject was found by a police K9 who tracked the subject to his location then allegedly bit the subject. I should add this was in April between Devils Lake, Rugby and the Canadian border and the subject was hiding in a road ditch with freshly thawed snow water for two plus hours.

The BCI Agent was less than impressed with the reports to include not getting a Patrol Certificate from the handler, only a detection certificate. I had previously talked to this handler. The handler has asked how to get a "recall" on his dog as he wasn't trained on that where he went to school. He also wanted to come certify his dog with me. Long story short, it didn't work out with his schedule and mine and then he stopped reaching out to me. So, I was confident the handler didn't have a patrol certification while working the street with his K9.

When asked by the BCI agent what the state standard is for a K9 team, I swallowed hard and said there is no STATE standard. Each department sets their own standards on use, breed, vendor, etc. SO this is when I thought a State Standard would be a good idea.

I know several states have state standards for their K9 teams to include South Dakota, Ohio.

When I was at K9 instructor school in Pennsylvania there were numerous Ohio teams. Before the students left, they all were certified through NAPWDA (North American Police Work Dog Association). The Ohio teams also certified through OPWDA (Ohio Police Work Dog Association). The certifications were the same, so the judge was able to certify the teams for both entities.

Again, this is entry level certifications only.

I do not want to tell departments where to buy their K9's, what equipment they will need to buy, how much training time they need every month, which other certifications they need

ONLY THAT THEY PASS A STATE STANDARD

A PASS/FAIL TEST