

Initial Questionnaire

Specific Oil Detection Canine Project

Potential Handler Application

Introduction

1. Firstly, we suggest you do some research. Research and read articles about working dog training to see if it sounds like something you want to pursue.
2. Discuss your thoughts with your family. Ask them if they support your desire to become a dog handler? This is very important. You will probably not be successful without their support. A trained working dog requires a significant amount of time commitment, daily care and welfare, routine training to maintain standards, the ability to attend monthly training sessions and surveys, and to respond to oil spill incidents.
3. Have you discussed your employer's desire to be a working dog handler? Have you discussed your ability to respond to incidents during the workday? A lot of time and effort will be invested into you and the working dog to ensure you are an operationally proficient team. But if you cannot respond to incidents, you are not an asset. No one can respond to every incident, but you should have flexibility in your schedule to allow you to support as much as possible.
4. Do you have the financial resources for the dog's care and welfare? Especially if there is an emergency or the dog is sick. Veterinary costs can be expensive, so have you considered insurance?
5. Do you enjoy working outdoors? Do you have reliable transportation? Are you physically fit? Do you possess the determination and motivation to be a dog handler? Can you maintain motivation in adverse weather conditions? Field surveys may last many hours and require you to walk several miles while carrying a pack. You will also be working the dog, which can be mentally and physically tiring. Remember that you must place the dog first, and at the end of a long tiring day, you need to feed and care for the dog before yourself.
6. You must be motivated to maintain the dogs' training and care and offer a loving home. As working dogs, they can have a high drive to play and, if not mentally and physically stimulated, can become frustrated and develop behavioral issues.
7. Initial training is a hybrid course of the theoretical and practical aspects of handling a Specific Oil Detection Canine. This will be conducted online and in the Corpus Christi area and involve handling the dog on local shorelines.
8. There will be a week set aside for certification assessments. You will be required to certify, as a team (dog and handler), to the standards of the International Canine

Spill & Leak Detection Association. The certification must be renewed annually.

9. Texas General Land Office is funding the initial training and ongoing research. There is a monthly one-day commitment to conduct shoreline surveys as part of the project. This project may last two years. This is in addition to any spill incident responses you may be requested to support.

10. An opportunity to be a working dog handler is one of the most rewarding experiences you will ever encounter. But it takes time and commitment. Please complete the questions below.

Potential handler details	
Name	
Address	
Cell Phone	
Email	

Employment
What is your current employment situation?
How will a working dog fit into your current job?

Your Background		
Do you have prior dog ownership experience?	Yes	No
If "yes," please provide details:		
Have you competed in any dog sports/competitions?	Yes	No
If "yes," please provide details:		
Do you have any oil spill response experience?		

Current Situation			
Do you currently have any pets at your home?		Yes	No
If "yes," please provide details:			
What type of home do you live in?		House	Apartment Other
Please provide details (size, neighbors, fenced-in yard?):			
What vehicle/s would you transport the dog in?			
Where would the dog live when at home?		Inside the home	Outside the home
Please provide details:			
What arrangements will you make for the dog's care when you take vacations or trips away?			

Fitting in with your life		
Have you discussed the new dog with the family (if applicable)?	Yes	No
Are they supportive?	Yes	No
Does the family understand that you and the dog may be called out at any time of day, interrupting family events, holiday celebrations, etc.?	Yes	No
Have you researched the veterinary preventative medicine requirements and anticipated the financial costs?	Yes	No
Have you considered the potential financial aspects of dog ownership, including emergency care or illness?	Yes	No
A Specific Oil Detection Canine is a working dog that needs regular training sessions to maintain proficiency. Do you have the time to commit at least 4 hours to train per week?	Yes	No
The dog will require daily care and exercise to include grooming. Do you have the time for daily commitments for the dog?	Yes	No
Would your employer support you deploying with the Specific Oil Detection Canine?	Yes	No
Do you enjoy the outdoors, even when conditions are adverse?	Yes	No
Will the dog be able to go to work with you?	Yes	No

Are you physically fit, in your opinion?	Yes	No
The dog is a long-term commitment of 7 or more years. Are you prepared to offer the dog a forever home?	Yes	No
Although the dog is primarily a working dog, it is also a companion in the home. Are you prepared to offer a retirement home when the time comes?	Yes	No

Additional comments	
Signature	Date