



FLORIDA SHERIFFS SELF-INSURANCE FUND

GUIDELINES FOR K-9 COVERAGE

1. All K-9's must be owned by the Sheriff's Office or must be leased in writing to the Sheriff's Office.
 2. All K-9's must have approved certification, Police Standards Training, or its equivalent in obedience and all phases of apprehension work prior to being used in any actual street work. Certification may be obtained through one of the following:
 - a. A Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) approved training center;
 - b. United States Police Canine Association (USPCA); or
 - c. National Police Canine Association (NPCA); or
 - d. Florida Law Enforcement Canine Association (FLECA); or
 - e. A local test using three (3) state, USPCA or NPCA certified judges (not associated with your office) and following USPCA, NPCA or state certification guidelines.
- NOTE:** Training certificates are not acceptable as approved certification.
3. K-9's failing to certify must not be used in any apprehension related work until certification has been attained and a copy of the certification is filed with Hunt Insurance Group, LLC, the Administrator of the FSSIF. K-9's may be used for narcotics/explosives detection work without certification provided there is no apprehension work involved; this does not apply to K-9's trained for aggressive narcotics alerts.
 4. A six (6) month grace period (from date of acquisition) is provided for training and/or certification of newly acquired K-9's, but coverage during this period will only apply while the K-9's are worked on lead. If certification is not attained at the end of this period, coverage ceases until certification is attained and a copy of the certification is filed with the Administrator.
 5. Appropriate warning signs must be posted on all sides of the premises/kennels where the K-9's are kept.
 6. All Sheriffs' Offices employing K-9s must have a written K-9 policies and procedures manual. All handlers must read the K-9 policies and procedures manual and sign a statement that he/she has read the manual, understands it, and will abide by the policies and procedures as well as the FSSIF Guidelines for K-9 Coverage at all times.
 7. All K-9's must be declared on the FSSIF Law Enforcement Liability Application at the beginning of each agreement period. There is no charge for K-9's used only for narcotics/explosives detection work. The annual contribution for K-9's used for 1) apprehension; or 2) narcotics/explosives detection and apprehension is the High Hazard rate.

8. A signed copy of these guidelines for each handler must be on file with the FSSIF Administrator.