TITLE 79 -- POLICE STANDARDS ADVISORY COUNCIL

CHAPTER 18 –CERTIFICATION OF POLICE SERVICE DOG TEAMS

001 Purpose: To establish procedures to implement a State standard for certification of Police Service Dog Teams.

002 Scope : Applicable to all Police Service Dog Teams employed by law enforcement agencies within the State of Nebraska commencing on January 15, 2015.

003 Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-1401, §81-1403, and Title 79 NAC Chapter 1.

004 General: Police service dogs serve as a valuable tool and supplement an agency's resources. The Police Standards Advisory Council wants to ensure that law enforcement agencies utilizing police service dog teams use only qualified personnel and dogs that meet state-certification standards as approved by the Council. Therefore, the Police Standards Advisory Council has adopted these standards. Law enforcement agencies shall only utilize police service dog teams that meet the State certification standards.

005 Definitions

005.01 Certification: A document issued to the police service dog handler by the Council attesting that the law enforcement officer who is the handler and his or her dog have met mandated certification standards as approved by the Council. Certification shall be effective for one year and must be renewed annually before the end of that calendar year.

005.02 Police Service Dog Handler (PSD Handler): A PSD Handler is a full-time certified law enforcement officer who handles, maintains and is responsible for the deployment of a police service dog that is part of a PSD team.

005.03 Police Service Dog Team (PSD Team): A PSD Team shall consist of one dog and one law enforcement officer who is assigned as a PSD Handler for that dog. The team shall be actively serving in a law enforcement agency as defined by law.

005.04 Police Service Dog Evaluator, (PSD Evaluator): A PSD Evaluator is a full-time certified law enforcement officer who is a police service dog handler and has his or her employing agency's consent to serve as an evaluator. A PSD Evaluator must successfully complete Council-approved training and required update training that qualifies him or her to conduct evaluations of PSD Teams for certification purposes. A PSD Evaluator may serve as an evaluator only in the area of expertise as a handler. A PSD Evaluator must perform a minimum of one PSD Team evaluation per year. A PSD Evaluator must pass periodic audits by the PSD Judge in order to maintain evaluator status.

005.05 Police Service Dog Judge (PSD Judge): A PSD Judge is a full-time certified law enforcement officer who conducts PSD Evaluator training, conducts periodic audits of PSD Evaluator performance and recommends to the Council those PSD Evaluators who should continue to possess PSD Evaluator credentials. The PSD Judge must meet Council-approved requirements which shall include, but not be limited, to those standards as established by the International Congress of Police Service Dog Standards.

006 Procedure

006.01 **PSD Team Certification.**

006.01A Law enforcement agencies desiring a PSD Team to receive State certification may make a request to any Council-approved PSD Evaluator or to the Training Center. The Training Center will provide the agency a list of Council-approved PSD Evaluators. The scheduling of evaluations shall be arranged between the law enforcement agency and the PSD Evaluator. All PSD Team evaluations shall be conducted in accordance with Council-approved standards.

006.01B PSD Evaluators shall submit a PSD Team Request for Certification form to the Training Center within ten days of completing an evaluation of a PSD Team that has met standards for certification. The Training Center shall issue a State Certification to the PSD Team within ten days of receipt of the certification request. The PSD Team Certification shall be directed to the employing agency administrator. The certification shall be effective for one calendar year from the date of the completed evaluation. At the end of that calendar year, the PSD Team must repeat the certification process.

006.01C PSD Evaluators shall conduct evaluations of PSD Teams and complete evaluation forms as required by the Council. The PSD Evaluator shall maintain a copy of all evaluations conducted and shall forward a copy of the same to the PSD Judge within five working days of conducting the evaluation.

006.01D When practicable, the Training Center shall offer the use of the Center facilities as a site for PSD Team training, evaluations and PSD Evaluator training as scheduling permits.

006.01E Law enforcement agencies should notify the Training Center of the change in status of any State certified PSD Team in order to facilitate maintenance of certification files.

006.02 PSD Evaluator Training.

006.02A The PSD Judge shall conduct PSD Evaluator training and refresher training in accordance with the standards as established by the Council.

006.02B Upon completion of PSD Evaluator training, the PSD Judge shall provide a list of those individuals who have completed such training to the Training Center.

006.03 Record Maintenance

006.03A The Training Center shall maintain a record of state certified PSD Teams during the active service of the team and/or until there is no activity in the team's file for three calendar years.

006.03B The following documents shall be maintained by the Training Center:

(1) Copies of PSD Team certifications which shall be kept in the handler's law enforcement file.

(2) Copies of PSD Evaluator certifications issued by the PSD Judge.

(3) An active list of those PSD Evaluators and PSD Judges who have successfully completed the required training for that position.

(4) A copy of the Council-approved Police Service Dog Standards.

(5) Sample forms used by the PSD Judge and PSD Evaluators in their duties.

(6) The curriculum, lesson plan, and handouts used by the PSD Judge for PSD Evaluator training.

006.04 Every three years commencing in 2015, the director of the Training Center, after consultation with PSD Evaluators and PSD Judges in the State of Nebraska, shall make recommendations to the Council regarding standards for PSD Team certifications and the requirements for PSD Evaluator and PSD Judge Credentials. This section should not be construed to prevent earlier revision as necessitated by judicial decision, revisions required by the International Congress of Police Service Dogs or as otherwise required by law.