

Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handler Association

P.O Box 136, Germantown, WI 53022

TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

SEPTEMBER 24-27, 2023

MANITOWOC, WI

The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handler Association is offering the following specialized training at the 2023 annual conference in Manitowoc: Scent Discrimination - Marijuana vs. Hemp. Please see the training curriculum summary that accompanies this announcement.

Next Level K9 Texas will be offering a 3-day workshop on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the conference, and is available for up to sixty (60) K9 teams. The workshop will include classroom presentation, practical exercises, testing, and certification. Upon completion, K9 teams will be provided certification in being able to discriminate between the odors of marijuana and hemp. K9 teams interested in this specialized training may be single or dual purpose and should be trained in the detection of marijuana.

Any K9 teams interested in registering for this specialized training can do so by clicking on the link [HERE](#). Registration for this specialized training opens on Monday, April 24th.

In 2018 the Federal Government passed the Farm Bill, which effectively changed the definition of marijuana and hemp. Marijuana is now defined as delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol with a concentration of 0.3% or higher, while Hemp is defined as delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol with a concentration of less than 0.3%. There are many legal challenges working through court systems, involving canine alerts being questioned due the presence of THC in legal hemp and marijuana.

Law Enforcement K9 units and prosecutors now need to grapple with the following:

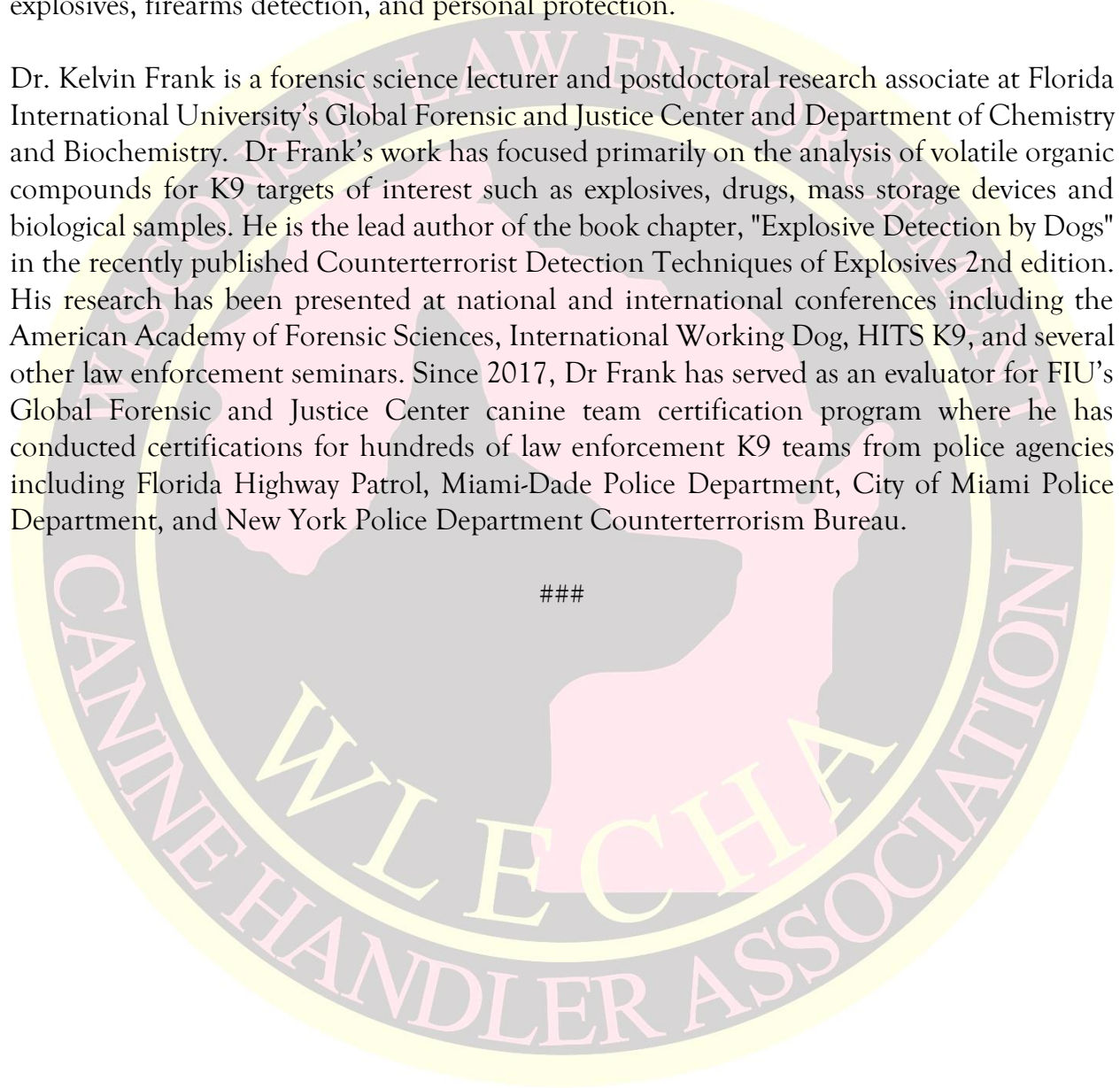
- Does a K9 trained in the detection of marijuana, also alert to hemp?
- Does a K9 generalize hemp as marijuana?
- Can a K9 be trained and certified to discriminate between marijuana and hemp?
- Does the level of THC determine whether a K9 can generalize or discriminate?
- If a K9 is trained to detect marijuana, but alerts to hemp, does that K9 need to be taken out of service?

K9 trainers from across the United States teamed up with the Florida International University's Forensic Research Institute to address these questions. Over twenty police K9s were used in this scientific study. The study found that a K9 trained in the detection of marijuana can indeed discriminate between marijuana and hemp products, with proper training and appropriate hemp samples. Some of the trainers and doctors involved in this study will be presenting this training at the conference.

Steven Antommarchi is a Police K9 Trainer and the owner of Next Level K9 Texas, a K9 Instructor for the Texas School Safety Center at Texas State University, and a K9 case study trainer for the International Forensic Research Institute. Antommarchi is a lead trainer and co-designer of the training methodology for Hemp vs Marijuana. Antommarchi has trained and certified several hundred K9 teams worldwide through workshops and seminars focusing on operational readiness, aggression instincts, and science of detection. He is also the Law Enforcement Secretary and Certifying Official for the American Working Dog Association for the disciplines of narcotics, patrol, electronic storage device detection, tracking, trailing, explosives, firearms detection, and personal protection.

Dr. Kelvin Frank is a forensic science lecturer and postdoctoral research associate at Florida International University's Global Forensic and Justice Center and Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Dr Frank's work has focused primarily on the analysis of volatile organic compounds for K9 targets of interest such as explosives, drugs, mass storage devices and biological samples. He is the lead author of the book chapter, "Explosive Detection by Dogs" in the recently published Counterterrorist Detection Techniques of Explosives 2nd edition. His research has been presented at national and international conferences including the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, International Working Dog, HITS K9, and several other law enforcement seminars. Since 2017, Dr Frank has served as an evaluator for FIU's Global Forensic and Justice Center canine team certification program where he has conducted certifications for hundreds of law enforcement K9 teams from police agencies including Florida Highway Patrol, Miami-Dade Police Department, City of Miami Police Department, and New York Police Department Counterterrorism Bureau.

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Lesson Plan Cover Sheet

Course Title Course Number:	Hemp V Marijuana. A canine's ability to discriminate between the two odors.	Time Allotted (Hours):	24
Instructor:	Steven Antommarchi and Dr. Kelvin Frank	Phone:	973-876-6193
Instructor Email:	Nextlevelk9texas@gmail.com		
Instructional Aids:	PowerPoint Presentation – C.O.R.T. system training boxes		
Student Materials:	List of hemp distractor odors, list of target odors (Marijuana)		
Prerequisite Experience/ Position of the Learners:	Peace Officer with Police Canine responsibilities		
Overall General Course Goal(s):	To have each canine team be able to pass a blind test, evaluating a narcotic detector dogs' ability to discriminate between the odors of hemp and marijuana.		
Learning Objectives: (List)	To have all the canine teams be able to: -Understand how the legalization of hemp in the United States created a unique situation for marijuana detection canines. -Recognize how research on a dog's ability to discriminate between the odors of hemp vs marijuana means for the police canine industry. -Apply teaching/learning methods that complement each type of canine instinct. -Understand the chemistry of odor and how this understanding can allow for improved canine training protocols.		
Target Population:	Commissioned Peace Officers and first responders.	Number of Students:	60+
Space Required:	Indoor/outdoor	Teaching Methodology:	Presentations and practical exercises
Required Equipment	Canine detection ground and fence boxes		
x	PowerPoint Projector	x	Laptop or Desk Top Computer
	VCR		Flip Chart Easel
	Overhead Projector		Flip Chart Pad(s) / markers
	Video Monitor (TV)		Video Camera
x	Dry-erase board / markers	x	Sample forms / documents
Assessment Method:	A test will be given on the last day of instruction.		

Date Prepared:	03/01/2023	Date Revised:	04/19/2023
Prepared By:	Steven Antommarchi and Dr. Kelvin Frank	Revised By:	Steven Antommarchi and Dr. Kelvin Frank
Notes/Comments:			

Instructor's Lesson Plan Core Presentation

I. Introduction/Preparation (Student Motivation/Opening Statement)

For over 100 years the use of canines has been instrumental to the safety and quality of life of humans. In this course you will learn the characteristics and instincts that play a vital role in your canines' ability to be successful at its job and making you and your canine the best team possible. Additionally, you will understand how the science of odor is critical for optimum canine performance.

II. Presentation (Implementation of Instruction and Course Details)

Day 1. Canine Aggression Instincts

- (1) Prey aggression instincts*
- (2) Defense aggression instincts*
- (3) Social aggression instincts*
- (4) Active aggression instincts*

How an Organism learns

- (1) Classical Conditioning (Ivan Pavlov)*
- (2) Operant Conditioning (B.F. Skinner)*
- (3) Hierarchy of Needs (Maslow)*
- (4) Fast mapping (Carey/Bartlett)*
- (5) Law of effect (Edward Thorndike)*
- (6) Association – Agreeable and Disagreeable experiences*

Three Psychological traits that make a police service dog

- (1) Soundness*
- (2) Hardness*
- (3) Irritability Threshold*

Chemistry of odor

- (1) How dogs perceive odor*
- (2) Generalization and discrimination of odors*

Day 2. Practical application of learning objectives

Day 3. Testing and certification

III. Application: (Detailed explanation of how instructor will assess student knowledge and planning for student to practice or apply new knowledge.)

Each student will be asked to evaluate their canines on the topics of Aggression Instincts, Prey Aggression Instincts, and the canines' psychological traits. The student will give the evaluation on a scale of zero to ten, zero representing that the canine does not show any of that instinct or characteristic, and ten representing that the canine has an overwhelming amount of that instinct or characteristic.

On day 3 a test and certification will be completed to determine the canine's ability to discriminate between the odors of hemp and marijuana.

IV. References: (List references used to develop and instruct the course, if any.)

*"Training Dogs a manual" by Colonel Konrad Most 1910
The findings of Ivan Pavlov
"The behavior of organisms" by B.F. Skinner*

V. Summary/Closing (Closing comments and summary review of course.)

After over 100 years of using canines to assist in the safety and quality of living of humans, we have learned better ways to communicate to our canines. With the correct application of science our ability as handlers and trainers to shape canine behavior has improved exponentially. It is our responsibility to our canine partners to understand and apply this science appropriately.

VI. Assessment/Test: (Final check of student's comprehension of material presented.)

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On day 3 a test and certification will be completed to determine the canines ability to discriminate between the odors of hemp and marijuana.
