



115577

Hill Country Dog Center  
2859 Bear Creek Rd  
Pipe Creek, TX 78063  
830-510-4700

## Williamson County Sheriff's Office

In Response to:  
Request for quote for  
Law Enforcement Canine  
22 March 2018

### Prepared for:

Detective Brian Dirner  
Williamson County Sheriff's Office

### Prepared by:

Hill Country Dog Center  
2859 Bear Creek Road  
Pipe Creek TX 78063  
Tel. 830-510-4700  
E-Mail: [policedogs@hcdogcenter.com](mailto:policedogs@hcdogcenter.com)



Hill Country Dog Center  
2859 Bear Creek Rd  
Pipe Creek, TX 78063  
830-510-4700

## 1 Introduction

Hill Country Dog Center (HCDC) is an established canine training center owned and staffed with prior military and law enforcement canine trainers with extensive real world experience. HCDC has contracted with multiple entities for the past 19 years to provide Working Canines including but not limited to numerous Federal Agencies, Private Security Firms, and Law Enforcement Departments and agencies nationwide, as well as multiple companies servicing overseas contracts. We have provided over 3,000 dogs to the Middle East that have been trained as Explosives Detection Dogs (EDD's), Narcotic Detection Dogs (NDD's) or combination Patrol / Explosive – Patrol / Narcotic Dogs. HCDC has U.S. Government contracts, to deliver the handler training and provide procurement and logistics support to prepare and ship the canines and acquire equipment and supplies needed to facilitate the training around the world.

## 2 HCDC Training Center

Our team training facility main campus is located at Hill Country Dog Center (HCDC), near San Antonio, TX., on a 40 acre site with over 50,000 square feet in classrooms, training buildings, and office space. This facility offers the following infrastructure and training areas to the contract:

A main office with six offices, all with internet and advanced communication systems; three classrooms that can handle approximately 50, 20, and 20 students respectively, all with updated teaching aids and equipment; and a dedicated Conference Room with overhead projectors and conference call capability.



60 state of the art kennels





Hill Country Dog Center  
2859 Bear Creek Rd  
Pipe Creek, TX 78063  
830-510-4700



One 8,000 square foot two-story training building with additional classrooms and areas where multiple EDD training scenarios can be replicated, including groups of personnel.

A large obstacle course where dogs are both trained and conditioned.



Vehicle training area that contains over 25 different types of vehicles for detection searches.



In addition to the enclosed training areas and large tracts of land for training scenarios at our training facility, we have sufficient space to accommodate more than 60 canine teams training simultaneously within our facilities. For surge training, we have immediate access to an additional



Hill Country Dog Center  
2859 Bear Creek Rd  
Pipe Creek, TX 78063  
830-510-4700

200 acres adjacent to their center, which provides a variety of physical and environmental scenarios conducive to EDD and Explosive Ordnance Disposal training, evidence recovery, and scent discrimination. Further, within a ten to fifteen mile radius of our training facility, there are numerous venues that can be used for training purposes. These include theaters, conference centers, sports arenas, aircraft, single and multiple family housing facilities, schools, and warehouses. We have arrangements in place and currently utilize these venues for training off-site.

HCDC includes on-site student lodging in an approximately 1960 square foot double-wide with fully equipped kitchen, five individual bedrooms/bathrooms, two common living areas, washer, dryer and satellite.



### 3 Canine Screening and Selection

The HCDC team has years of experience in conducting buy trips around the world, during which the team has performed extensive pre-selection testing on vendors, their canine products, and on their kennels and training sites. As a result, the HCDC team has established excellent business relationships with premier canine vendors domestically and abroad, and we are afforded preferential treatment based on our insistence on quality, the volume of canines purchased, our payment history, and our willingness to work with vendors to resolve canine performance or health issues.



Typically, less than 25% of canines screened meet our standards for purchase. The canines are acquired as “green” canines and are “finished” at our Texas-based kennels and training facility. The breeds that we prefer to work with are the Labrador, Belgian Malinois, German Shepherd, and Dutch Shepherd. Prior to acceptance, we pre-screen our canines to ensure that they are trainable, healthy, athletic, sociable, possess the drive and nerve strength to work long hours in physically demanding environments. We only purchase canines from vendors that offer health and workability guarantees for a minimum of one year, and only select canines that are between 12 and 24 months old. In addition, we require our vendors to implant subcutaneous 15 digit ISO-compatible microchips for positive identification and tracking purposes.

### **3.1 Behavior Screening**

The HCDC Team follows a thorough pre-selection regimen while screening canines for the disposition, character, and medical fitness required for the training and intended mission of the canines. The screening includes, but is not limited to:

**Socialization** – Given the potential of interchanging of handlers and exposure to people throughout its working life, the HCDC Team looks for well-socialized canines that possess a good demeanor. The HCDC Team checks to ensure the animal is well disciplined in and around humans, is not aggressive to the handler or other people with whom the canine may come in contact with, and has the ability to obey basic commands.

**Hunt Drive/Ball Drive** – The HCDC Team screens the canines for high ‘ball drive.’ Specifically, the HCDC Team looks for canines that show intense interest in a ball or valued reward and hunt for a prolonged period to locate and retrieve the object if hidden or in an area away from its immediate vicinity.

**Possession** – Another characteristic of good ‘ball drive’ is the desire of the canine to hold the ball or valued reward. This characteristic provides the HCDC Team with an indication of how effective the ball or valued reward will be when used as an incentive during training. As such, when screening the canine the HCDC Team looks for a balance of possession and socialization whereby the canine will desire the ball or valued reward but will not be overly possessive or aggressive in its possession and will yield to the handler if so ordered.

**Obedience/Trainability** – The HCDC Team evaluates canines for basic obedience and discipline using drills such as ‘sit,’ ‘stay’ and ‘down,’ and other commands as applicable. Although most canines have received only limited obedience training from the vendor, these drills allow the HCDC Team to evaluate the canine’s disposition to determine if the canine is cooperative or unruly. This allows the HCDC Team to determine the trainability of the canine that it is screening.

**Environmental Drills** – The HCDC Team assess the canine’s reaction when it is in an enclosure, dark room, slick floor, traveling up and down stairs, in noisy conditions, and around vehicles, to



determine if the canine is comfortable and trainable. By evaluating the reaction of the canine in these situations the HCDC Team can ascertain the ability of the canine to be trained for, and function in, a variety of real life environmental conditions

### **3.2 Medical Pre-Screening**

Once the HCDC Team has identified the canines that possess the desired demeanor, drive and trainability, through the use of the above prescreening assessments and drills, a medical prescreening by a licensed veterinarian is performed on each canine to ensure that each canine selected meets or exceeds the medical standards required. The medical prescreening includes a review of the canine's health records and x-rays, and a physical examination of the canine for:

**Gait** – Screen to see if the canine's basic walking and running postures appear normal.

**Eyes** – Examine the general appearance and ability to track an object.

**Ears** – A physical check is conducted to check for visible problems and/or touch sensitivity which could indicate internal infection.

**Teeth and Jaws** – The teeth are checked for damage such as breakage or excess wear. Jaws are checked for proper alignment.

**Feet** – A physical check of the pads and toes of the canine is conducted to check for abnormalities or deformities that could indicate a prior injury or genetic abnormality.

**Skin and Coat** – The skin and coat is checked to identify any lesions, tumors, or areas that may conceal a hernia. The skin and coat examination also allows for the identification of external parasites. Selected canines should have a full, bright coat, free of baldness.

**Male Canines** – Genitals are checked to ensure that both testicles have extended into the scrotum.

**Limbs and Joints** – X-Rays are conducted on each of the canine's hips, spine, and elbows and are then evaluated by the veterinarian to ensure there is nothing prohibiting the canine from performing its functions.

**Heartworms** – Blood is drawn from each canine and a veterinary approved snap test is performed to ensure that the canine is negative for heartworm infection. Once the canines are cleared and found negative for heartworm infection, a treatment of heartworm preventative is administered each month perpetually thereafter.

**Internal Parasites** – All canines undergo a three (3) day course of veterinary approved parasitic treatment upon consideration for selection. The parasitic treatment course is repeated ten (10) days following the initial treatment.



## 4 Explosive and Narcotics Training

The following are a sample of what will be available to construct training aids and support the explosive and narcotics programs.

### Explosive Training Aids:

- C4 (Trinitro-triazacyclohexane + plasticizers)
- TNT (Trinitrotoluene)
- AN (Ammonium nitrate)
- Smokeless Powder (Trinitroglycerin + Nitrocellulose)
- Detonating Cord (Pentaerythritol tetranitrate)
- Semtex (Pentaerythritol tetranitrate + Trinitro-triazacyclohexane + plasticizers)
- RDX (Trinitro-triazacyclohexane)

### Narcotic Training Aids:

- Marijuana
- Cocaine
- Heroin
- Meth
- Additional odors may be added or excluded upon request

### 4.1 Canine Basic Training

Once selected, all of our newly acquired canines are entered into an extensive and aggressive training program to prepare them for bonding, training, and certification with a handler. This training is approximately six to eight weeks prior to handler training. The first week consists of quarantine, medical evaluation, and acclimation to the kennels. The next several weeks consists of increasing proficiency in obedience, behavior skills, drive, and explosive and/or narcotic odor recognition. The following highlights the methods we use to develop the canine skills in each of these critical tasks.

### 4.2 Obedience

Although most of the K-9s purchased from our vendors have some degree of obedience training, our trainers will instill all of the basic obedience commands in the canine. The K-9 will be properly taught to respond to the full range of commands such as "sit," "stay," and "down", and operate on a leash in a variety of environments (indoors, outdoors, in and around various types of vehicles). During this process we also develop the canine's ability



Hill Country Dog Center  
2859 Bear Creek Rd  
Pipe Creek, TX 78063  
830-510-4700

to socialize and operate in a working dog environment, introducing him to non-familiar surroundings and people. The canines will also be introduced to the routine life support cycle at a working dog kennel (feeding routines, bathing) and will participate in physical training and other conditioning drills to best prepare them for their assignments.

#### **4.3 Basic Odor Recognition / Imprinting**

Initially, this training is conducted with a “variable box” or “4-hole” method of associating individual explosive or narcotic odors with the reward (ball or “Kong”). This will produce the desired detection behavior in the canine. Our fundamental training methodology is based on the toy reward and positive reinforcement. The canine will progress in this manner until they have been imprinted with the odors that are standard for the industry.

Once the canines show consistent detection behavior with individual odors, they will transition from variable box training to “open area” training. They will also be taught to search rooms, buildings (internal and external), and other enclosed spaces.

#### **4.4 Handler Training**

Handler training courses consist of a three (3) week single purpose course and a four (4) week dual purpose course. The class will cover K9 health and welfare, record keeping, principles of conditioning, detector dog handling and search technique, obedience, controlled aggression and legal considerations.

### **5 Patrol**

Each patrol dog trained by the Hill Country Dog Center is prepared for rigorous duty in law enforcement. We expose our patrol dogs to various situations and training such as hidden sleeve work, bite suit training, obedience, building search, scouting, tracking, and officer protection. The level and training of our patrol dog is tailored to your standards. We offer every level of adeptness from untrained patrol dogs to fully trained dogs ready for service on the street.

### **6 Documentation**

HCDC will provide all required canine documentation at time of delivery. Documentation that will be provided includes, but is not limited, to:

- 1 Year Health Warranty against congenital diseases for each canine.
- 1 Year Workability Guarantee with completion of the Handler course.



Hill Country Dog Center  
2859 Bear Creek Rd  
Pipe Creek, TX 78063  
830-510-4700

## PRICING

Trained Dual-Purpose Patrol / Explosives Canine  
(Includes four-week handler's course)

Price per dog: \$13,000

Lodging per week \$420 for four weeks

Price per student: \$ 1,680

**Total**

**\$14,680**

*[Handwritten signature]*