



CANINE COGNITION TESTING SEMINAR INFORMATION

With Cameron Ford

**Medical Mutts Service Dogs training facility
6120 Allisonville Rd. Indianapolis IN 46220**

March 18- March 20th 2022

Learn how cognition testing can enhance your knowledge of the dog in front of you. This seminar is for everyone: whether you are a professional dog trainer in scent detection looking to enhance how you select dogs, or a nose/scent work handler or trainer trying to understand the dog you have.



SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

This seminar is based on the research Cameron Ford has conducted with Duke University. This class is for everyone, and all dogs 6 months and up regardless of if you do detection or some other dog sport or if you are a professional looking to enhance how you select dogs for Police or Security work. A handler or trainer learning cognition testing enhances your knowledge about the dog in front of you, making you better at communicating and understanding your dog.

These Cognition tests (Brain Games) help you learn crucial information such as, is your dog strong in memory, is the dog a problem solver, how quick does it make inferences? Additional things these tests show are: does the dog easily follow gestural communication and what is your dog's laterality? If you are a Law Enforcement Agency or Security Firm, these tests help you select a better, more trainable dog. In conjunction with the normal K9 selection and evaluation steps agencies use, adding these K9 Brain games to your evaluation raises the percentage of dogs successfully picked to be working K9's. Using these tests have proven to increase selection percentages of the right dogs for your program and it has also proven to reduce training time needed to get dogs ready and on the road.

If you do Agility, Mondio Ring, PSA, Nose/Scent work, or anything else, the information from these games help you understand your dog better and how to set up training sessions that get the most out of your dog. Just knowing if your dog is right or left-brain dominant can make a big difference on how you have your dog perform a skill or search.

COST

Working spot (with 1 dog): \$400
Auditor spot: \$300

Registration ends at 5:00pm EST on March 4th, 2022, or when the limit has been reached.
Registration acceptance is subject to approval by the staff.
Payment in full is required at the time of registration.

The seminar is limited to 12 working spots and 12 auditor spots.

SEMINAR HOURS

The seminar starts at 9:30 and ends at 5:00 every day with a 1.5-hour lunch break.

TEACHING TOOLS

All necessary gear is provided by Ford K-9. You will be given course material via thumb drive or Google Drive link. You are encouraged to bring your computers or tablets.

REFUND POLICY

All fees are payable in full when you register for the seminar. Payments will be reimbursed in full when you cancel by February 18th. Payments will be reimbursed up to 50% if you cancel by March 4th. No Payment will be refunded after March 5th.

MEALS

You are responsible for all your own meals and will be given 1.5 hours for lunch each day.

IF YOU HAVE A WORKING SPOT

We have a few crates available to house the dogs when not working, but, if possible, you should bring your own crate. Dogs are worked one at a time while the other dogs are resting *in crates* outside the training area until it is their turn. Be prepared to have appropriate gear for your dog to stay in your car when you are not training.

Dogs must be healthy and free of contagious conditions including fleas. Dogs found with a contagious illness that may affect the rest of the dog population may be asked to leave without a refund. Proof of vaccination will be required prior to the seminar.

DOGS ON PREMISES

We all want to have a safe and pleasant experience, and that includes the dogs; the success of this event will rely on everyone being diligent in complying with all the canine rules of engagement.

- All dogs must be able to be safely and humanely physically controlled by their registered handler.
- All dogs must be kept on a leash unless in designated areas or working directly in a session.
- Dogs must be crate trained and able to be crated safely and quietly away from the handler.
- If you want to let your dog play in our fenced-in area, you will be responsible for any interaction with other dog and any injury. You will also be expected to pick up after your dog.
- Regardless of how friendly your dog may be, please respect that not every dog is comfortable with other dogs. Ask permission before you let your dog approach or get too close to other dogs. Managing your dog is your direct responsibility. Participants that must be repeatedly reminded of seminar rules about not allowing their dog to approach other dogs, or if their dog poses other safety concerns, may be dismissed without refund.

- If you work a dog that does not do well in close proximity to other dogs or humans, you will need to evaluate carefully the appropriateness of the seminar for your dog.
- Dogs that need space or react to dogs or are worried must wear a red bandana **and** have a bandana tied to their crate (or car) to help communicate the dog's needs.

COVID-19

We want to provide a safe environment where we can all feel comfortable, and risk is minimized while still enjoying the seminar, and that means taking a few precautions due to COVID-19.

1. Testing within 3 days prior to the seminar is strongly recommended and encouraged.
2. We will be making decisions based on CDC guidelines and will err on the side of caution. That means that depending on those guidelines, we could ask all participants to wear masks inside the premises and depending on the level of COVID-19 at the time, you may be asked to wear masks outdoors as well. If things keep getting better, we may not need masks at all.
3. By coming to the seminar, you agree to cooperate with the rules or regulations set in place with regards to mask wearing, hand sanitizing, food handling, and other protocols.
4. You will be asked to sign a COVID-19 waiver before coming to the seminar, indicating that you do not have COVID-19 and have not been in contact or exposed to any person with COVID-19.
5. Non-compliance may result in dismissal from the seminar without a refund.