**1028. LAW ENFORCEMENT CANINES & LAW ENFORCEMENT CANINE QUALIFYING OFFICIALS**

(1) CANINE QUALIFICATION

(a) A canine used in law enforcement in the State of Arkansas may be qualified by a law enforcement canine qualifying official

(b) Law enforcement agencies that choose to use the CLEST canine qualification program shall meet or exceed the minimum standards approved by CLEST for the type of canine being qualified.

(c) Law enforcement canine qualifying official certificates issued by the Division remain the property of CLEST and the Division shall have the power to revoke or recall any certificate.

(2) LAW ENFORCEMENT CANINE QUALIFYING OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

(a) A person desiring to qualify law enforcement canines in the State of Arkansas may be certified by the Division as a law enforcement canine qualifying official.

(b) A person desiring to obtain a law enforcement canine qualifying official certificate must:

(i) Submit an application to the Division;

(ii) Submit a letter confirming compliance with 1028(2)(c); and

(iii) Submit proof of completion of the Arkansas Qualifying Official course.

(c) Applicants must have five (5) years of experience as a canine officer, or be actively serving as a qualifying official with a nationally recognized police canine organization, to be eligible for a law enforcement canine qualifying official certificate.