



K9 Certification Standards

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Standards of Operation & Qualification

Handler and K9

The failure of a dog team (consisting of one dog and handler) to make a find in their assigned area can result in the loss of life of the subject. These standards & certifications are designed to assure all K9 units will be professional, uniform and competent in their performance.

A search and rescue dog need not be of a specific breed, but be of sufficient size and strength to manage working in the many different terrains encountered in search operations. It is recommended that the dog will be double coated so that it will be well protected against the elements. The dog must be of suitable temperament, non-aggressive, and be able to be controlled by the handler at all times. The dog must pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen test (CGC) OR the Obedience and Control test conducted by any of the following: International Police Canine Association (IPWDA), North American Police Canine Association (NAPWDA), United States Police Canine Association (USPCA), Eastern Police Canine Association (EPCA) or Southern Tier Police Canine Association ,or a NY Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) evaluation. Full documentation of the evaluation with evaluator name and signature must be provided. Other standards that meet or exceed the CGC test protocol will be considered if presented to the K9 Committee for a review and vote of approval. The dog must be 18 months of age before testing for operational status (For Air Scent, Trailing and Crime Scene HRD certifications that would be the off –team tests.)

Each K9 team will be expected to train in order to be search-ready and available to respond to search calls. Each team will maintain a log of training and searches. Each handler must provide current vaccination certifications and carry a copy of these to be reviewed by Federation Officers at any and all trainings, meetings, searches, etc. All handlers must keep K9 in good health along with appearance that is suitable to that particular breed or said K9 will not be allowed at Federation functions unless permission is given by the K9 Liaison Officer. Each handler must fill out proper documentation for each training session. At testing time, the handler will make these forms available to the tester.

All K-9 handlers shall successfully complete the DEC Searcher I certification. In the event that course is unavailable, an on-team test equivalent to the field portion of the Searcher I evaluation along with completion of all of the other prerequisites for Searcher I may be temporarily substituted (See Appendix C). It is expected that the handler shall complete the DEC Searcher I course, passing both the written and field exercises prior to that team's first re-certification. Two supporting documents shall be added to be K9 standards: field exercises for K9 handlers, and Handlers Skills Verification.

The following team characteristics will be evaluated at all times:

1. The team shall show a mutual liking and respect for each other and enjoy playing together as well as working.
2. The handler will give appropriate praise and encouragement to the dog in a timely manner.
3. The handler will be able to recognize when the dog is alerting (natural and/or trained) on human scent. The handler will have to describe his/her dog's alerts (natural and trained) for human scent on land and/or water.
4. The handler must demonstrate an ability to work and control the dog effectively in all search activities.
5. The use of electric, prong or choke collars, or head halters during testing or while searching is prohibited.
6. The handler will demonstrate the ability to plan the search of an area for the best use of the wind for efficient coverage of the area (applies to Airscent dogs).
7. The handler will demonstrate the ability to judge sweeps in the area in accord with the prevailing conditions and subtle air flow conditions. (applies to Airscent dogs)
8. The handler will demonstrate the ability to recognize when either team member is working inefficiently and take action to remedy or compensate for the situation.
9. The dog must be willing to find and approach strangers.
10. The dog must be able to perform a refind on the subject (a bark and stay is NOT permitted). The dog must do the same indication for every test to certify and his indication must be communicated to tester. (applies to Airscent dogs)
11. The dog will not miss obvious scent even when tired.
12. The dog must be able to find the subject in a contaminated area.
13. The dog must be able to work effectively with an additional person with the team.

The handler should familiarize themselves with the fundamentals of K9 SAR and training working dogs during their training process. Many good resources are available including: *Search and Rescue Dogs - Training the K9 Hero* by ARDA, *Scent and the Scenting Dog* by William G. Syrotuck, *Ready!* by Susan Bulanda, *Cadaver Dog Handbook* by A. Rebmann. Trailing dog handlers should also read *The Silent Witness* by Bill Tolhurst and *The Straightest Path* by Jeff Schettler.

OPERATIONAL LEVELS AND CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Airscent Teams

All K9 teams must complete all five certifications (see below) for the Operational Airscent status. Teams must re-certify every 2 years.

The standard for Operational K9 Airscent teams is:

1. 30 feet off the trail (1/2- 3/4mile long)
2. Walking subject (20 acres)
3. 30 acres heavy brush
4. 40 acres night (Off-team)
5. 100 acres (Off-team)

Note: Regarding the two off-team tests (40 ac night and 100 ac multiple subject), the Federation will accept ONE field test from an outside agency that clearly meets or exceeds the NYSFEDSAR 100 ac Day or 40 ac. Night standards, provided the Evaluator of the outside agency is not a member of the handler's team. All other NYSFEDSAR Airscent certifications, including pre-requisites, on-team evaluations, and written test are also required.

Order of testing

The first three tests may be done in any order but shall be completed before proceeding to tests 4 and 5. To ensure a logical sequence of testing and adequate preparation the 40 acres night test should be administered BEFORE the 100 acre test. The use of a GPS is allowed on all tests EXCEPT the 30 acre heavy brush. New handlers shall complete Handler Skill Verification Form prior to taking the 100 acre off team test, passing both the written and field exercises of the DEC Searcher I class prior to that K9 unit's first re-certification. All K9 handlers shall complete the written exam (See Appendix B) prior to the 100 acre off team evaluation. The test will be reviewed by the off team evaluator.

Recertification

Recertification shall be done every two years. The recertification exercise shall be done during the day. The area will be 40 acres in moderate to heavy vegetation, with one or two subjects (number unknown to handler). The K9 team must effectively cover the 40 ac search area. Outside testing for recertification of wilderness area search teams is allowed by IPWDA, NAPWDA, NASAR Canine SARTECH I. Other outside tests may be use after prior approval by the K9 committee provided they meet or exceed NYSFEDSAR wilderness area recertification standards.

Additional certifications include:

1. Wilderness Recovery
2. Advanced (Crime Scene) Human Remains Detection
3. Human Remains Detection - Water
4. Trailing

NYSFEDSAR Trailing Certification (see page 35), OR IPWDA Trailing or NASAR Trailing II or I, or NSDA Trailing

Testing Procedures

The tester will be objective and fair when setting up, testing, and evaluating certifications. All certifications will be properly set up to qualify or pass a K9 Team candidate. The K9 team will pass or fail a certification on their own merit, not because the certification failed them.

Notification

The K9 Coordinator must be notified whenever a K9 handler is requesting to be tested off-team, and notified again when the test is scheduled.

Testers will complete a testing report within the time-frame mandated by the Standards. A copy of each such test, whether successful or a failure shall be sent/mailed to the K9 Standards Committee for follow up purposes. Handler will be notified of pass / fail within 5 days of certification by the tester.

On-team test reports shall be sent to the K9 Coordinator in a timely manner so that the coordinator can keep records, monitor progress and anticipate up-coming off team tests.

Test Administration

Tests 1-3 may be administered by the applicant's team or by another team. Testers shall be at least Operational handlers.

The following tests shall be administered by a Federation Tester (See Appendix A) from another team: 40 acre night, 100 acre area, Wilderness Recovery, Water Recovery, Advanced Human Remains Detection.

The water search certification shall be done by a Federation Tester from another team who is certified for water searches and has participated in two Federation water searches.

Safety

The tester will take reasonable precaution to ensure the safety of all individuals involved with the certifications. The safety observer will be responsible for alerting the handler and tester to changing traffic conditions.

Qualifications for NYSFEDSAR K9 Evaluators

A K9 handler may become accredited as an NYSFEDSAR K9 Evaluator in Airscent, Trailing, Wilderness Recovery, Crime Scene HRD, or Water Recovery. A member must apply for evaluator status in each discipline separately; an exception will be a member who successfully becomes a Crime Scene HRD evaluator will automatically qualify as a Wilderness Recovery evaluator. The following basic requirements must be met for evaluator status:

1. Must be an active member in good standing of a NYSFEDSAR team that is active and in good standing with the NYSFEDSAR (dues paid and agreement letter signed).
2. Must have certified and re-certified a K9 (or certified a second dog) in the discipline in which evaluator status is sought (Airscent or Trailing or Wilderness Recovery or Crime Scene HRD or Water Recovery). Certification standards must conform to the NYSFEDSAR K9 standards for certification. Certifications from other states or agencies may be submitted for review/approval by the K9 coordinators.
3. Must be or have been an operational K9 Handler for a minimum of three years in the discipline in which evaluator status is sought (Airscent or Trailing or Wilderness Recovery or Crime Scene HRD or Water Recovery).
4. Must have participated in a minimum of six searches with K9(s) where K9 is used in the discipline in which evaluator status is sought (Airscent or Trailing or Wilderness Recovery or Crime Scene HRD); or participation in a minimum of three searches for Water Recovery.
5. Must participate in observation of accredited NYSFEDSAR evaluators conducting tests AND conduct these tests under the supervision of an accredited NYSFEDSAR evaluator. The evaluator candidate in a given discipline shall observe each of the specific tests for that discipline twice and then conduct those tests twice under the supervision of an accredited NYSFEDSAR evaluator.
6. At the time accreditation is granted, must provide proof of attendance of 16 hours (over previous two years) of outside trainings and continuing education relevant to K9 SAR. This could include attendance at national and regional conferences, workshops, webinars, lectures, on-line courses. This would not include team trainings or joint trainings unless an outside expert/trainer is brought in to present an educational program. Once a handler becomes an evaluator they must maintain 16 hours of Continuing Education (CE) over a period of two years to retain evaluator status

[Refer to K9 Evaluator Application Checklist in APPENDIX A]

AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to follow a trail, 1/2 to 3/4 mile long, and locate a subject off the trail 30 feet.

The purpose of this certification is for the dog / handler team to demonstrate their ability to locate a missing / lost person who is off a trail using a hasty pattern, (a rapid, quick check), to locate the subject. The dog should show a willingness to leave the "beaten path" when human scent is present, (natural alert), and the handler must demonstrate his / her ability to read and encourage the dog to "work it out", (clear the immediate area), to find the subject. This is an air scent certification for a dog / handler team, not to be confused as a track / trail problem. The word trail is a descriptive as a form of confinement.

The subject is to remain down, (not moving) in a specific location, making the utmost effort not to be seen or heard. He / she is not to give the dog any recognition until told to do so by the handler and / or the tester. He / she is to enter the trail perpendicularly, cross it, and put him / herself down 30 feet from the trail. Do not walk down / up the trail. If there is a wind equal / greater than 8 mph, (leaves and small twigs in motion; wind extends surveyor's tape), the subject is to place themselves upwind of trail. If the wind is equal / less than 7 mph (wind felt on face; leaves rustle), subject can place himself on either side of the trail.

The tester is to provide an area that is suitable for the purpose of this certification which will consist of vegetation (brush, shrubs, trees) on both sides of the trail. The direction and mph of the wind must also be checked to insure that scent is present on the trail confinement, (this is a hasty, not a segment search, or clearing of area pattern). Remember, the purpose is for the dog to leave the "beaten path" once scent is detected from a trail, not to clear the area. Only after the dog alerts (natural alert) should the team clear that immediate area from which scent is present.

It is understood by the handler that this is only one of the certifications needed to be operational as stated in the Standards of Operations & Qualification for Canine Teams, and that all characteristics of page two will be evaluated at all times during the certification.

It is further understood by the handler that a **NO** in any of the following categories that are in **bold** print will result in an automatic failure of this certification. Any categories in *italic* marked **NO**, will be reviewed by the K9 Standards Committee from the evaluation of this certification and previous performances of documented training. It is understood that a decision not to reverse a **No**, will also result in a failure of this certification. The tester may not advise the handler with any information in relation to categories listed below at time of certification, but will advise handler on matters in the field when safety of the K9 team is in jeopardy. The tester will provide map, the location and boundary of area to be searched. The subject will have been placed in the area (location known to the tester), at least 1/2 hour prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.

AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to follow a trail, 1/2 to 3/4 mile long, and locate a subject off the trail 30 feet.

YES NO

- 1. () () **Dog works trail with / without direction and control from handler.**

- 2. () () **Handler recognizes alert (natural) on human scent, (will state that dog is alerting).
Note: If an article contaminated with human scent is located by the dog, the handler is to acknowledge it and restart the dog to find the subject.**

- 3. () () **Handler encourages dog to "work it out", (clear the area that the dog is alerting on).**

- 4. () () **Dog works scent cone to find subject, (i.e. a find by sight is unacceptable).
Note: Subject is to be hidden out of sight from trail.**

- 5. () () **Dog makes refind (it is understood that given the short distance from the trail to the subject, that a refind will / may not be well defined)**

DATE ___/___/___ **LOCATION** _____ **TIME IN** _____ **TIME OUT** _____

HANDLER _____ **K9** _____

TESTER _____ **OBSERVER** _____

TESTER SIGNATURE _____ **OBSERVER** _____

AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to find, and continue to lead handler to, a subject who is walking.

The purpose of this certification is for the dog / handler team to be able to find missing / lost person who is moving in an area that they are assigned, versus the subject or subjects who are usually down or motionless. This certification is not designed to clear the area, but to qualify the dog / handler for the find and re-find .

The subject is to remain in a specific location while moving (walking), the area not exceed 1 acre (208 x 208 feet). The subject is to make the utmost effort to remain unseen by the dog. When the subject is found by the dog, he / she is to walk in the opposite direction of that which the dog goes in when returning to the handler. The subject is to remain walking until the dog leads the handler to him / her, completing the re-find.

The tester is to provide an area that is suitable for the purpose of this certification by defining the boundaries to the handler in a manner that will provide a scent cone for the dog within 2 to 3 sweeps. The area shall be confined to approximately 20 acres, (933 x 933 feet).

It is understood by the handler that this is only one of the certifications needed to be operational as stated in the Standards of Operations & Qualification for Canine Teams, and that all characteristics of page two will be evaluated at all times during the certification.

It is further understood by the handler that a **NO** in any of the following categories that are in **bold** print will result in an automatic failure of this certification. Any categories in *italic* marked **NO**, will be reviewed by the K9 Standards Committee from the evaluation of this certification and previous performances of documented training. It is understood that a decision not to reverse a **No**, will also result in a failure of this certification. The tester may not advise the handler with any information in relation to categories listed below at time of certification, but will advise handler on matters in the field when safety of the K9 team is in jeopardy. The tester will provide map, the location and boundary of area to be searched. The subject will have been placed in the area (locations known to the tester), at least 1/2 hour prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.

AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to find, and continue to lead handler to, a subject who is walking.

YES **NO**

1. () () **Dog finds subject, (it is understood that the dog may alert on sight or sound before the scent cone). Note: Subject is to be moving (walking) before dog finds.**

2. () () **Dog makes re-find, (continuous to lead handler to the moving subject). Note: Subject is to be walking away from dog after find.**

3. () () **Handler recognizes the alert (natural and/or trained).**

4. () () **Handler recognizes the re-find.**

5. () () *Handler gives praise / encouragement to dog in a timely fashion.*

DATE ___/___/___ **LOCATION** _____ **TIME IN** _____ **TIME OUT** _____

HANDLER _____ **K9** _____

TESTER _____ **OBSERVER** _____

TESTER
SIGNATURE _____ **OBSERVER** _____

AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to find one subject hidden out of sight in an area of at least 30 acres (1,140 x 1,140 feet) of heavy brush.

The purpose of this certification is for the dog / handler team to be able to find missing / lost person who is down or motionless. The dog / handler team are to demonstrate their ability to enter, cover, and clear the area as one sector by using systematic sweeps. Hasty patterns (a rapid, quick check of overall search area) are not to be used during this certification. Use of a GPS is NOT allowed during this certification.

The subject is to remain down, (not moving) in a specific location, making the utmost effort not to be seen or heard. He / she is not to give the dog any recognition until told to do so by the handler and / or the tester.

The tester is to provide an area that has vegetation thick enough to, block any visual find, be at a height of over the dog's back, and be physically passable with moderate to difficult resistance without having to crawl. The area's boundaries will be defined and recognized by some form of confinement, either natural or manmade. The wind direction will determine which end of the area for the team to start.

It is understood by the handler that this is only one of the certifications needed to be operational as stated in the Standards of Operations & Qualification for Canine Teams, and that all characteristics of page two will be evaluated at all times during the certification.

It is further understood by the handler that a **NO** in any of the following categories that are in **bold** print will result in an automatic failure of this certification. Any categories in *italic* marked **NO**, will be reviewed by the K9 Standards Committee from the evaluation of this certification and previous performances of documented training. It is understood that a decision not to reverse a **No**, will also result in a failure of this certification. The tester may not advise the handler with any information in relation to categories listed below at time of certification, but will advise handler on matters in the field when safety of the K9 team is in jeopardy. The tester will provide map, the location and boundary of area to be searched. The subject will have been placed in the area (locations known to the tester), at least 1/2 hour prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.

AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to find one subject hidden out of sight in an area of at least 30 acres (1,140 x 1,140 feet) of heavy brush.

YES NO

1. () () **Dog is easily motivated to enter thick vegetation to search.**
2. () () **Dog can be recalled from any situation (i.e. wild game, etc.).**
3. () () **Dog ranges out in front of handler a distance suitable to the terrain and vegetation, (dog in sight but not under foot). Note: It is understood that while working, the dog is occasionally not in sight.**
4. () () *Dog's alert is the same as described to tester by the handler, (description of the dog's alert is to be known to tester before entering the field).*
5. () () **Dog works scent cone to find subject, (i.e. a find by sight is unacceptable).**
6. () () **Dog finds subject without re-sweeping same area.**
7. () () **Dog makes a refind, (handler may walk away to get refind).**

DATE ___/___/___ LOCATION _____ TIME IN _____ TIME OUT _____

HANDLER _____ K9 _____

TESTER _____ OBSERVER _____

TESTER
SIGNATURE _____ OBSERVER _____

AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to find one subject at night in an area of approximately 40 acres (1,320 x 1,320 feet), within reasonable time given the terrain, weather and scent conditions. Exact size of area will depend on terrain.

The purpose of this certification is for the dog / handler team to be able to find missing / lost person who is down in an area that they are assigned at night, versus daytime. The dog / handler team is to demonstrate their ability to systematically cover the area by using either, or both, a sector search, (systematic sweeps), and a hasty (a rapid quick check of overall search area), to locate the subject.

The subject is to remain down, (not moving) in a specific location, making the utmost effort not to be seen or heard. He / she is not to give the dog any recognition until told to do so by the handler and / or the tester.

The tester is to provide an area that is suitable for the purpose of this certification which will include a variety of vegetation, (forested with trees, grasses, bush, etc.), and some form of confinement, either natural or manmade to be recognizable as the area's boundaries.

It is understood by the handler that this is only one of the certifications needed to be operational as stated in the Standards of Operations & Qualification for Canine Teams, and that all characteristics of page two will be evaluated at all times during the certification.

It is further understood by the handler that a **NO** in any of the following categories will result in an automatic failure of this certification. The tester may not advise the handler with any information in relation to categories listed below at time of certification, but will advise handler on matters in the field when safety of the K9 team is in jeopardy. The tester will provide map, the location and boundary of area to be searched. The subject will have been placed in the area (location known to the tester), at least 1/2 hour prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.

AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to find one subject at night in an area of approximately 40 acres (1,320 x 1,320 feet), within reasonable time given the terrain, weather and scent conditions. Exact size of area will depend on terrain.

YES NO

1. () () **Handler is properly equipped, (i.e. flashlight and / or headlight with a spare and extra batteries).**

2. () () **Dog is properly identifiable at night, (vest to have a bright color, with a reflective search dog in print, or stripes, or light).**

3. () () **Dog can be recalled from any situation, (i.e. wild game, etc.).**

4. () () **Dog ranges out in front of handler a distance suitable to the terrain and vegetation, (dog in sight, with light source, but not under foot).**
 Note: It is understood that while working, the dog occasionally not in sight.

5. () () **Handler will state / note position in field and on map upon request, (not to interfere with handler / working).**

6. () () **Dog works scent cone to find subject, (i.e. a find by sight is unacceptable).**

7. () () **K9 team covers area systematically, (use of hasty or sector sweep patterns).**

8. () () **Dog makes refind, (handler may walk away to get refind).**

DATE ___/___/___ LOCATION _____ TIME IN _____ TIME OUT _____

HANDLER _____ K9 _____

TESTER _____ OBSERVER _____

TESTER
SIGNATURE _____ OBSERVER _____

AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to search an area of approximately 100 acres with light brush or trees interspersed with open areas. Two (2) or three (3) persons (number UNKNOWN to handler) will be hidden out of sight and found primarily by air scenting, within a reasonable time given the area, weather and scent conditions.

The purpose of this certification is for the dog / handler team to be able to find missing / lost person / persons who are down or motionless in a large area that they are assigned. The dog / handler team is to demonstrate their ability to plan a systematic search of the area by using both a hasty (a rapid, quick check of overall search area), and sector search (systematic sweeps) to locate the subject.

The subject is to remain down, (not moving) in a specific location making the utmost effort not to be seen or heard. He / she is not to give the dog any recognition until told to do so by the handler and / or the tester.

The tester is to provide an area that is suitable for the purpose of this certification which will include a variety of vegetation, (forested with trees, grasses, bush, etc. and terrain features (to include, hills, ridges, streams, ravines, trails and roads), and some form of confinement, either natural or manmade.

It is understood by the handler that this is only one of the certifications needed to be operational as stated in the Standards of Operations & Qualification for Canine Teams, and that all characteristics of page two will be evaluated at all times during the certification.

It is further understood by the handler that a **NO** in any of the following categories that are in **bold** print will result in an automatic failure of this certification. Any categories in *italic* marked **NO**, will be reviewed by the K9 Standards Committee from the evaluation of this certification and previous performances of documented training. It is understood that a decision not to reverse a **No**, will also result in a failure of this certification. The tester may not advise the handler with any information in relation to categories listed below at time of certification, but will advise handler on matters in the field when safety of the K9 team is in jeopardy. The tester will provide map, the location and boundary of area to be searched, and the subjects. All subjects will have been placed in the area (locations known to the tester), at least 1/2 hour prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.

AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to search an area of approximately 100 acres with light brush or trees interspersed with open areas. Two (2) or three (3) persons (number UNKNOWN to handler) will be hidden out of sight and found primarily by air scenting, within a reasonable time given the area, weather and scent conditions.

YES NO

- 1 () () **Handler identifies the assigned area from a topographical map to the field in which he/she will be working by stating the size, terrain, and location.**

2. () () *Handler is properly equipped, (i.e. daypack, clothing, SAR gear, etc.).*

3. () () *Handler prepares dog for search activity, (outfitted with proper identifying vest, etc., is watered, and is excited to go to work).*

4. () () **Handler checks and states / notes wind direction and mph.**

5. () () **Handler states / notes hasty patterns, (either manmade or natural boundaries / confinements), in the area that are symbolic on the map or are visible once at the area if any are present. Note: it will be up to the handler whether or not to work hasty patterns.**

6. () () *Handler properly starts dog, (find em or similar command given, with verbal excitement being transferred to the dog).*

7. () () **Dog eagerly leaves handler to search.**

8. () () **Dog ranges out in front of handler a distance suitable to the terrain and vegetation, (dog in sight but not under foot). Note: It is understood that while working, the dog is occasionally not in sight.**

9. () () **Dog works under handler's control, (dog will move & range in direction that handler directs).**

10. () () **Handler search patterns (sweeps, hasty patterns) are suitable to working / covering area; (wind shifts, terrain, and vegetation influencing scent are stated / noted).**

11. () () **Dog working with motivation to find throughout the period of problem.**

12. () () *Handler takes timely breaks to rest and water dog, (weather will influence handler's decision).*

13. () () **Handler will state / note area covered on map upon request, (not to interfere with handler / dog working).**

100 ACRES CERTIFICATION STANDARD CONT.

- 14. () () **Handler will state / note position in field and on map upon request, (not to interfere with handler / dog working).**
- 15. () () **Dog makes find and re-find, (handler may walk away to get re-find).**
- 16. () () *Handler gives praise / encouragement to dog in a timely fashion.*
- 17. () () **Handler recognizes the alert (natural and/or trained) on human scent.**
- 18. () () *Handler is physically capable of working search area.*

DATE ___/___/___ LOCATION _____ TIME IN _____ TIME OUT _____

HANDLER _____ K9 _____

TESTER _____ OBSERVER _____

TESTER SIGNATURE _____ OBSERVER _____

AIR SCENT RE-CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to search an area of approximately 40 acres with light brush or trees interspersed with open areas. One or two persons (number UNKNOWN to handler) will be hidden out of sight and found primarily by air scenting, within a reasonable time given the area, weather and scent conditions.

The purpose of this certification is for the dog / handler team to be able to find missing / lost person / persons who are down or motionless in a large area that they are assigned. The dog / handler team is to demonstrate their ability to plan a systematic search of the area by using both a hasty (a rapid, quick check of overall search area), and sector search (systematic sweeps) to locate the subject.

The subject is to remain down, (not moving) in a specific location making the utmost effort not to be seen or heard. He / she is not to give the dog any recognition until told to do so by the handler and / or the tester.

The tester is to provide an area that is suitable for the purpose of this certification which will include a variety of vegetation, (forested with trees, grasses, bush, etc. and terrain features (to include, hills, ridges, streams, ravines, trails and roads), and some form of confinement, either natural or manmade.

It is understood by the handler that this is only one of the certifications needed to be operational as stated in the Standards of Operations & Qualification for Canine Teams, and that all characteristics of page two will be evaluated at all times during the certification.

It is further understood by the handler that a **NO** in any of the following categories that are in **bold** print will result in an automatic failure of this certification. Any categories in *italic* marked **NO**, will be reviewed by the K9 Standards Committee from the evaluation of this certification and previous performances of documented training. It is understood that a decision not to reverse a **No**, will also result in a failure of this certification. The tester may not advise the handler with any information in relation to categories listed below at time of certification, but will advise handler on matters in the field when safety of the K9 team is in jeopardy. The tester will provide map, the location and boundary of area to be searched, and the subjects. All subjects will have been placed in the area (locations known to the tester), at least 1/2 hour prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.

AIR SCENT RE-CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to search an area of approximately 40 acres with light brush or trees interspersed with open areas. One or two persons (number UNKNOWN to handler) will be hidden out of sight and found primarily by air scenting, within a reasonable time given the area, weather and scent conditions.

YES NO

- 1 () () **Handler identifies the assigned area from a topographical map to the field in which he/she will be working by stating the size, terrain, and location.**

2. () () *Handler is properly equipped, (i.e. daypack, clothing, SAR gear, etc.).*

3. () () *Handler prepares dog for search activity, (outfitted with proper identifying vest, etc., is watered, and is excited to go to work).*

4. () () **Handler checks and states / notes wind direction and mph.**

5. () () **Handler states / notes hasty patterns, (either manmade or natural boundaries / confinements), in the area that are symbolic on the map or are visible once at the area if any are present. Note: it will be up to the handler whether or not to work hasty patterns.**

6. () () *Handler properly starts dog, (find em or similar command given, with verbal excitement being transferred to the dog).*

7. () () **Dog eagerly leaves handler to search.**

8. () () **Dog ranges out in front of handler a distance suitable to the terrain and vegetation, (dog in sight but not under foot). Note: It is understood that while working, the dog is occasionally not in sight.**

9. () () **Dog works under handler's control, (dog will move & range in direction that handler directs).**

10. () () **Handler search patterns (sweeps, hasty patterns) are suitable to working / covering area; (wind shifts, terrain, and vegetation influencing scent are stated / noted).**

11. () () **Dog working with motivation to find throughout the period of problem.**

12. () () *Handler takes timely breaks to rest and water dog, (weather will influence handler's decision).*

13. () () **Handler will state / note area covered on map upon request, (not to interfere with handler / dog working).**

40 ACRES RE-CERTIFICATION STANDARD CONT.

- 14. () () **Handler will state / note position in field and on map upon request, (not to interfere with handler / dog working).**
- 15. () () **Dog makes find and re-find, (handler may walk away to get re-find).**
- 16. () () *Handler gives praise / encouragement to dog in a timely fashion.*
- 17. () () **Handler recognizes the alert (natural and/or trained) on human scent.**
- 18. () () *Handler is physically capable of working search area.*

COMMENTS:

DATE ___/___/___ **LOCATION** _____ **TIME IN** _____ **TIME OUT** _____

HANDLER _____ **K9** _____

TESTER _____ **OBSERVER** _____

TESTER SIGNATURE _____ **OBSERVER** _____

WILDERNESS RECOVERY CERTIFICATION

Purpose: The Wilderness Recovery K9 resource is a wilderness K9 that may be used to search for a human who is recently missing, but presumed to be deceased. The K9 may be dual certified in live find or a single purpose HRD K9. K9 units that complete this certification will be fully Operational as Wilderness Recovery HRD dogs.

The certification standards for this resource conform to NIMS Canine SAR Team Land Cadaver Airscent, Type Other. This resource is to be differentiated from Advanced Human Remains Detector K9s that are certified to standards that conform to NIMS Canine SAR Team Land Cadaver, Type III or IV. This latter resource will be used in circumstance where the body will likely be disarticulated and scattered and/or when smaller amounts of odor need to be detected, or when the recovery is conducted in a time frame distant from the disappearance.

The following certifications may be used in lieu of the NYSFEDSAR **on-team** Recovery certifications tests as long as the standard meets or exceeds NYSFEDSAR standards:

Land HRD: Certified by IPWDA (Advanced or Basic), or NAPWDA, or NASAR, or NSDA, or EPCA.

The following certifications may be used in lieu of the NYSFEDSAR **off-team** Recovery certifications tests as long as the standard meets or exceeds NYSFEDSAR standards:

Wilderness Large Area Cadaver Field Test (IPWDA) or any bona fide agency certification whose standard meets or exceeds NYSFEDSAR standards.

Prerequisites:

1. The K9 unit must successfully pass the on-team Land HRD test (or an accepted "in lieu of" certification) and must be current (i.e. completed within 2 years) to challenge the off-team 20 ac test.
2. Handler Prerequisites: present evaluator with documentation showing completion of
 - a. IS 100, 700, 200
 - b. Crime Scene Preservation
 - c. current CPR and First Aid
 - d. Hazmat Awareness
 - e. Bloodborne Pathogens
3. The designated team training officer shall review the pre-requisites and the training logs to insure the candidate is prepared and inform the K-9 committee coordinator that the candidate is ready for testing.
4. Handler must submit to the evaluator for review and approval all HRD training logs from the previous 6 months. The logs must demonstrate sufficient training and preparation for the test, including multiple single-blind and a minimum of two (2) double blind problems.

On-Team Test:

1. There will be three (3) areas to search. Each area will be approximately 1.0 - 1.5 acres of woodland/field with moderate to heavy vegetation, (Thick enough to prevent visual finds, be at a height of over the K9's back and be passable with moderate resistance.) and one area may contain a manmade structure such as a small building such as a storage shed, small garage or playhouse or a vehicle. The search area of structures will only include the exterior areas. The placement of source also includes only the exterior of the structure or vehicle.
2. Scent sources of human tissue and/or bone will be placed at least one hour before the test. Each scent source will be a minimum of 30 grams. There will be 0-2 sources in each area, the number unknown to the handler, but only one of the three areas may be a "blank." Source placement will include buried simulating a recent clandestine burial covered in loose soil, leaf litter and naturally occurring substances: the target odor needs to be accessible to the dog., surface and hanging/elevated (in the range of 4-6 feet above the ground).
3. The areas to be searched may also contain distractors, including false holes and animal remains that are natural to the woodlands (e.g. dead bird, possum, squirrel, deer bones). A K9 may not perform its trained indication (ie. go to final response) on any distractor. This will constitute a failure.
4. Prior to the test starting, the handler will inform the evaluator how the dog will indicate (i.e. the trained alert behavior, also referred to as final response) on human remains. The K9 must perform an indication that does not destroy or damage the source. If the K9 urinates or defecates on the source, this will constitute a failure. The evaluator may use discretion on the distance from the source based on environmental conditions. Indication/final response for hanging hides will be within a radius of approximately the height of the hide (may vary based on conditions).
5. The handler must clear each area. The team will have 45 minutes to search each area.
6. The K9 must locate and indicate on all sources in the areas to pass the certification.
7. The handler must fill out a "HRD K9 Search Report" after completing the search. (see Appendix D, Cadaver Dog Search Report as an example. May use own agency form or ICS 214).

Off-Team Test:

Wilderness Recovery Large Area Field Test

This test shall demonstrate:

- The K-9 team's ability to successfully search a 20-acre wilderness area within a one (1) hour period.
- The K-9 team's ability to identify the location of at least one (1) and no more than two (2) surface or above surface human remains scent sources and offer a trained indication as close to the source(s) as possible without disturbing it.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

All canine teams shall demonstrate their proficiency in the search techniques used to locate:

- a. Human bodies or parts of bodies
- b. Body decomposition fluids
- c. Human blood

The human scent sources used may be:

- a. wet or dry bone with tissue on it
- b. clothing tainted or smeared with tissue and or body fluids
- c. aged or fresh blood wet or dry
- d. tissue, fat, organ or other suitable source as determined by the Evaluator

The scent sources may NOT be:

- a. pseudo scent sources
- b. grave dirt
- b. skeletal remains which do not contain skin or tissue

Scent source amounts and preparation:

- a. The intent is to use enough source material to create a scene with an odor pool that resembles a significant portion of a decomposing deceased body. A minimum of 24-30 oz of decomposing scent material is to be used for each source based on what material is available.
- b. The source(s) should be packaged or hidden in a manner to prevent the dog from making contact with it.

This test has been created by to assess the canine team's ability to search a large area for above surface deceased subjects and locate them with the use of a trained HRD dog.

1. The search will be conducted in an area approximately (20) acres in size containing moderate vegetation. The area does not have to be a rectangular or square in size.
2. There shall be a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of two (2) scent sources used. The number of sources will be unknown to handler.
3. The scent source(s) shall be placed above ground and concealed so as not to be visible to the dog or handler and camouflaged so visible ground disturbance is minimal.
4. If two (2) scent sources are used only one (1) of them may be hanging, and if so it shall not be hung more than 6' feet off the ground.
5. The Evaluator will provide the legally obtained scent sources.
6. The area shall contain animal remains. Animal remains naturally occurring in the area are preferred to planted remains.
7. The dog must locate all scent source(s) placed in the search area that contain human remains material.
8. The handler must successfully complete the test by locating all scent sources placed for testing with the dog offering no trained indications on distractions.

9. The scent sources shall be placed in the test area a minimum of one (1) hour prior to the beginning of testing.
10. This shall be a one (1) hour search test. The Evaluator may extend the time limit based on weather and terrain conditions.
11. Prior to the start of the search, the handler must develop a search plan for the area and advise the Evaluator how they intend to search it. The handler may deviate from their original plan but should explain to the evaluator what they are doing.
12. The handler must be able to control the dog and conduct a thorough search.
13. The handler will inform the Evaluator what their canine's trained indication behavior is.
14. The dog must offer the trained indication behavior as close as possible to the scent source(s). The handler cannot command the dog to perform the trained indication. The dog must do the indication independently.
15. After the canine performs the trained indication, the handler must advise the Evaluator of the indication and identify the source location.
16. Once the canine locates the scent source and offers the trained indication the canine may be rewarded at the handler's discretion.
17. The team automatically fails the test if the handler calls an indication on anything other than human remains.
18. The handler must complete a search report at the end of the test.

The dog may not compromise the scent source. Compromise is defined as eating, rolling in, urinating/defecating on or digging up the scent source in a manner which exposes it to plain sight. If at any time during the evaluation the canine compromises the scent source, the Evaluator may terminate the evaluation.

TEST SITE PREPARATION

- The optimum size of the search area shall be as close to 20 acres as possible.
- The boundaries of the search area may be either obvious natural features (streams, ridgelines, etc.), manmade boundaries like roads or trails and/or a GPS track outlining the boundaries must be provided to the handler.
- The handler will be provided with a topographical or aerial map of the area to be searched showing the boundaries of the area.

SAFETY

The Evaluator may terminate the test if, in his/her opinion:

1. It becomes hazardous to the health or safety of any of the participants including the K-9,

2. The handler is abusive to their K-9, including but not limited to, verbal abuse or lack of proper equipment.
3. The handler is unable to call the K-9 off of wildlife or livestock in or near the search area. In the example above, the K-9 must respond to the handler's command(s) and return to work.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- For this test, it is the responsibility of the handler to be adequately equipped and attired, including adequate first aid supplies and water for the handler/K-9 team.
- The use of a GPS by the handler is highly recommended; however, the use of GPS is not required. The handler may use another form of navigation such as map and compass.

BRIEFING

1. At the briefing, the Evaluator shall explain the area's known hazards.
2. Prior to beginning the search, the handler shall be responsible for formulating and articulating their search strategy as well as providing the evaluator with a description of their K-9's trained indication.

TEST TIMING

1. The one (1) hour time limit shall commence after the handler has advised the Evaluator of the search plan, reached their starting point and deployed their K-9 in the search area.
2. During that time the canine team may take breaks as needed to rest but the test time will continue.
3. One (1) to two (2) scent sources may be present in the area. After finding the first source the canine team is expected to continue to search the area either finding a second source, reaching the end of their time, or declaring the area cleared. If they find a second source the test is then concluded.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

The following requirements shall be successfully completed in order to pass this test.

1. The handler has demonstrated the ability to work and control the K-9 to effectively search the area.

2. The handler has demonstrated the ability to plan an efficient search utilizing wind, terrain, topography and existing environmental conditions to provide effective coverage of the terrain given the time constraints of the test.
3. The K-9 has located all human remains scent source(s) placed for testing and gives his/her trained indication as close to source as possible.
4. The handler has indicated on their map the location of each human remains scent source using GPS or map and compass technology. This may be completed at the conclusion of the test.

RECERTIFICATION:

Recertification of the off-team 20 ac area is required every two (2) years.

Wilderness Recovery On-Team Test

Evaluation Form

PRE-REQUISITES

YES NO

 Handler presents evaluator with documentation showing completion:

- a. IS 100, 700, 200
- b. Crime Scene Preservation
- c. current CPR and First Aid
- d. Hazmat Awareness
- e. Bloodborne Pathogens

 Training logs from the previous 6 months demonstrate sufficient preparation for the test including multiple single-blind and minimum of two (2) double blind problems.

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to clear three (3) areas, each approximately 1.0 - 1.5 acres containing 0-2 scent sources (of human tissue).

AREA 1

YES NO

1. **Dog located all sources within the area.**
2. **Team completed the area within 45 minutes.**
3. **K-9 does NOT indicate on false holes or distractors.**
4. **For each source in the area, K-9 performs an indication that does not damage the source.**

ON-TEAM TEST SET-UP SHEET

DATE: _____

EVALUATOR: _____

HANDLER: _____ K-9: _____

AREA 1

NUMBER OF SOURCES _____ DATE AND TIME PLACED _____

DESCRIBE EACH SOURCE:

PLACEMENT (HANGING, SURFACE, BURIED):

DESCRIBE DISTRACTORS (IF ANY):

AREA 2

NUMBER OF SOURCES _____ DATE AND TIME PLACED _____

DESCRIBE EACH SOURCE:

PLACEMENT (HANGING, SURFACE, BURIED):

DESCRIBE DISTRACTORS (IF ANY):

AREA 3

NUMBER OF SOURCES _____ DATE AND TIME PLACED _____

DESCRIBE EACH SOURCE:

PLACEMENT (HANGING, SURFACE, BURIED):

DESCRIBE DISTRACTORS (IF ANY):

OFF- TEAM TEST SET-UP SHEET

DATE: _____

EVALUATOR: _____

HANDLER: _____ K-9: _____

NUMBER OF SOURCES _____ DATE AND TIME PLACED _____

DESCRIBE EACH SOURCE:

PLACEMENT:

DESCRIBE DISTRACTORS:

:

NYFEDSAR ADVANCED HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION K9 STANDARDS

PURPOSE

The Advanced Human Remains Detector Certification is designed to evaluate the skill and performance required of an individual and their canine partner to perform during land search operations for human remains that may be disarticulated and scattered, buried, in all stages of decomposition, and/or when smaller amounts of odor need to be detected. NYSFEDSAR will recognize K9s as operational in this specialty area if they successfully complete the tests below, or have completed the following outside certifications:

NSDA Land HRD Field Test, IPWDA Human Remains Search Test – Crime Scene, NASAR Canine Human Remains Detection (HRD) Land Type III, NPWDA Cadaver Search Test, EPCA Human Remains Detector Dog.

This certification will be valid for two (2) years from date of test. K9 team must recertify every two years.

1. K9 PREREQUISITES

- a. K9 must be of suitable temperament, non-aggressive, and be able to be controlled by the handler at all times.
- b. K9 must graduate from a suitable obedience class and preferably obtain an AKC Canine Good Citizen test.
- c. Be 18 months of age before testing for operational status
- d. The K9 and handler team must successfully complete one of the following prerequisite field tests: IPWDA Land HRD, NASAR HRD type IV or “Other” cert or successfully complete the following **on team** test before being considered ready to test for the Advanced Human Remains Detector Certification. The evaluator for the on team test shall be a member of NYFEDSAR who has handled a certified HRD dog for a minimum of 2 years.

On Team Prerequisite Test:

1. There will be three (3) areas to search. Each area will be approximately 1.0 - 1.5 acres of woodland/field with moderate to heavy vegetation, (Thick enough to prevent visual finds, be at a height of over the k9's back and be passable with moderate resistance.) and one area may contain a manmade structure such as a small building such as a storage shed, small garage or playhouse or a vehicle. The search area of structures will only include the exterior areas. The placement of source also includes only the exterior of the structure or vehicle.
2. Scent sources of human tissue and/or bone will be placed at least one hour before the test. Each scent source will be a minimum of 30 grams. There will be 0-2 sources in each area, the number unknown to the handler, but only one of the three areas may be a "blank." Source placement will include buried simulating a recent clandestine burial covered in loose soil, leaf litter and naturally occurring substances: the target odor needs to be accessible to the dog, surface and hanging/elevated (in the range of 4-6 feet above the ground).
3. The areas to be searched may also contain distractors, including false holes and animal remains that are natural to the woodlands (e.g. dead bird, possum, squirrel, deer bones). A K9 may not perform its trained indication (ie. go to final response) on any distractor. This will constitute a failure.
4. Prior to the test starting, the handler will inform the evaluator how the dog will indicate (i.e. the trained alert behavior, also referred to as final response) on human remains. The K9 must perform an indication that does not destroy or damage the source. If the K9 urinates or defecates on the source, this will constitute a failure. The evaluator may use discretion on the distance from the source based on environmental conditions. Indication/final response for hanging hides will be within a radius of approximately the height of the hide (may vary based on conditions).

5. The handler must clear each area. The team will have 45 minutes to search each area.
 6. The K9 must locate and indicate on all sources in the areas to pass the certification.
 7. The handler must fill out a "HRD K9 Search Report" after completing the search. (see Appendix D, Cadaver Dog Search Report as an example. May use own agency form or ICS 214).
2. HANDLER PREREQUISITES: present evaluator with documentation showing completion of
 - a. NYS DEC Searcher I or NY FEDSAR equivalent
 - b. ICS 100, 700, 200
 - c. Crime Scene Preservation
 - d. Current CPR and First Aid (K9 and human)
 - e. Hazmat Awareness
 - f. Current Bloodborne Pathogens
 - g. Course in legal aspects and courtroom testimony is suggested but not required.
 3. The designated team training officer shall review the pre-requisites and the training logs to insure the candidate is prepared and inform the K-9 committee coordinator that the candidate is ready for testing.
 4. Handler must submit to the evaluator for review and approval all HRD training logs from the previous 6 months. The logs must demonstrate sufficient training and preparation for the test, including multiple single-blind and a minimum of two (2) double blind problems.
 5. Prior to the test starting, the handler will inform the evaluator how the dog will indicate (i.e. the trained alert behavior, also referred to as final response) on human remains. The K9 must perform an indication that does not destroy or damage the source.
 6. Prior to the test starting the handler will articulate a reasonable search strategy to the evaluator and will make changes to that strategy as needed.
 7. The handler must fill out a "HRD K9 Search Report" after completing the search. (see Appendix D, Cadaver Dog Search Report as an example). May use own agency form or ICS 214.

NYFEDSAR Advanced Human Remains Detection Field Test:

1. The test will be done in one day. One station after another. Handler must clear each area. Dog may be worked either on lead or off lead at the handler's discretion. All sources will be placed a minimum of 1 hour before the test begins. The dog must successfully locate all sources. Each of the 4 search areas listed below will contain 0-2 sources, number unknown to handler. In the building search, if sources are placed, a room will contain no more than one source. In the vehicle search, if sources are placed, a vehicle will have no more than one source (either inside or outside). At the discretion of the evaluator, in the event a team fails to successfully complete one component, they may retest that one component on the same day.
2. There will be 4 areas to search, **one of which will be blank.**
 - a. Wilderness – 2- 2.5 Acres of woodland/field with moderate to heavy vegetation. Area may include any of the following: buried, hanging, shore-line, surface. Indication/final response on hanging hides will be within a radius of approximately the height of the hide

(may vary based on conditions). The K9/handler team will be allowed one (1) hour to complete this test.

- b. Roadside -The roadway shall be no less than 2/10th of a mile in length and no more than twenty (20) yards in depth which shall total approximately 1.4 acres. Area may include any of the following, buried, hanging, surface. The K9/handler team will be allowed 30 minutes to complete this test.
- c. Building- 3-5 rooms totaling no more than 1000 sq ft. A building with a single room is not suitable for testing. Any source placed high will be no more than 6' above the floor. The K9/handler team will be allowed 15 minutes to complete this test
- d. Vehicles -There shall be three (3) vehicles with a minimum spacing of 8' between vehicles to be searched. Prior to setting source material, a certified HRD K9 will work the vehicles to make sure there are no residual odors. This is to prevent unknown sources in the vehicles being identified by the K9s testing.

The K9/handler team shall be given a total of ten (10) minutes to conduct a search of the exterior and interior of all three (3) vehicles. The handler must finish checking all three (3) vehicles and then tell the Evaluator, based upon their K9's final response, the location of the source. Example: wheel well, right side door, left front quarter panel, truck, etc.

3. Other essential components of the tests

- a. Full range of sources from small sources (such as a few cc's of blood, to large sources 1-1.5 lbs) and all stages of decomposition. Aged Blood, dry or wet bone, burned/charred remains (NO cremains) and tissue should be included. No pseudo scent is permitted.
- b. One area will contain a buried source; buried source will be no deeper than 12".
- c. Distractor scents realistic for the scenario will be present.

4. Automatic failures:

- a. Dog goes to final response and handler "calls it" when not in the presence of the target odor.
- b. Dog goes to final response on animal remains.
- c. Dog destroys, damages, ingests source or urinates or defecates on source.

The following team characteristics will be evaluated at all times:

- 1. The team shall show a mutual liking and respect for each other and enjoy playing together as well as working.
- 2. The handler will give appropriate praise and encouragement to the dog in a timely manner.
- 3. 3 .The handler will be able to recognize when the dog is alerting (natural and/or trained) on human remains scent. The handler will have to describe his/her dog's alerts (natural and trained) for human remains scent on land or on water
- 4. The handler must demonstrate an ability to work and control the dog effectively in all search activities.

5. The use of electric, prong or choke collars, or head halters during testing or while searching is prohibited.
6. The handler will demonstrate the ability to plan the search of an area for the best use of the wind for efficient coverage of the area.
7. The handler will demonstrate the ability to judge sweeps in the area in accord with the prevailing conditions and subtle air flow conditions.
8. The handler will demonstrate the ability to recognize when either team member is working inefficiently and take action to remedy or compensate for the situation.
9. The dog must be willing to find and approach source.
10. The dog must be able to perform a trained indication until the handler rewards the dog. The dog must do the same indication for every test to certify and his indication must be communicated to tester.
11. The dog will not miss obvious scent even when tired.
12. The dog must be able to find the source in a contaminated area.
13. The dog must be able to work effectively with an additional person with the team.

NYSFEDSAR ADVANCED HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION TEST SHEET

HANDLER: _____ K9: _____ TEAM _____

DATE: _____ LOCATION: _____

WEATHER/CONDITIONS: _____

WILDERNESS: TIME PLACED: _____ TIME START: _____ TIME FINISH: _____

NUMBER OF SOURCES PLACED: 0 1 2 DESCRIBE SOURCE(S):

K9 TEAM: PASSED FAILED

COMMENTS:

ROADSIDE: TIME PLACED: _____ TIME START: _____ TIME FINISH: _____

NUMBER OF SOURCES PLACED: 0 1 2 DESCRIBE SOURCE(S):

K9 TEAM: PASSED FAILED

COMMENTS:

BUILDING: TIME PLACED: _____ TIME START: _____ TIME FINISH: _____

NUMBER OF SOURCES PLACED: 0 1 2 DESCRIBE SOURCE(S):

K9 TEAM: PASSED FAILED

COMMENTS:

DATE: _____ HANDLER: _____ K9: _____

VEHICLES: TIME PLACED: _____ TIME START: _____ TIME FINISH: _____

NUMBER OF SOURCES PLACED: 0 1 2 DESCRIBE SOURCE(S):

K9 TEAM: PASSED FAILED

COMMENTS:

K9 EVALUATOR: PRINT: _____

SIGN: _____

OBSERVER/ASST: PRINT: _____

SIGN: _____

OBSERVER/ASST: PRINT: _____

SIGN: _____

AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for WATER SEARCH

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to alert (natural alert) and give an indication (trained alert) in an identifiable manner for human remains scent under water. Canine must be able locate human remains source from 1) shoreline of moving or still water extending 150-200' x 12', and 2) from a boat on an area of water approximately 250' X 250' (no greater than 1.5 ac).

This certification will be valid for two (2) years from test date. Re-certification is required every two (2) years.

The purpose of this certification is for the dog / handler team to locate human remains scent in water environments. The dog is to give an alert (natural) that is readable (head up and extended into the wind, nose / head pointed into wind toward surface of water, etc.) by the handler, to lead the boat to the source of scent, and give an indication (trained) in an identifiable manner (dog trying to get into the water, biting the water, pawing the water, barking, whining, putting nose or head into the water, etc.) where this scent surfaces from the water and becomes airborne.

The human remains source along the shoreline will be placed out in the water no farther than 12' and must be underwater. The human remains source in the boat search will be under water at a minimum depth of 6 feet. The amount of time for the training aid to remain underwater prior to the dog / handler team's arrival will be decided upon by the tester, but will be no less than 20 minutes. Source material must be 15 grams or more, and may not be pseudoscent or dry bones.

The tester is to provide an area and equipment that is suitable for the purpose of this certification, which will include a safe environment for all people involved who are near, on, or in the water. The watercraft will be a rescue type boat, stable and utilized primarily for water rescue. (Jon, Boston Whaler, Zodiac) The tester will have communications with the boat man, spotter, and the handler at all times.

It is understood that the handler/canine attempting this certification must have completed all the pre-requisites for operational status as outlined in the standards document and in the checklist in Appendix C of the NYSFEDSAR K9 Certification Standards.

It is further understood by the handler that a **NO** in any of the following categories will result in an automatic failure of this certification. The tester may not advise the handler with any information in relation to categories listed below at time of certification, but will advise handler on matters in the field when safety of the K9 team is in jeopardy. The tester will provide the location and boundary of area to be searched. The human remains aid will have been placed in the area (location known to the tester), prior to the K9 teams arrival to be tested.

AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for WATER SEARCH

CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Be able to alert (natural alert) and give an indication (trained) in an identifiable manner 1) along a shoreline and 2) from a boat to a known scent cone released below the surface by a human remains source.

YES NO

1. () () **The handler must wear a PFD.**

2. () () **Dog alerts in an identifiable manner on shoreline source and location of indication is within 10' of source (evaluator may add distance to compensate for wind and current conditions). Search time may not exceed 30 minutes.**

3. () () **Dog enters and rides in boat with confidence and direction from handler when needed.**

4. () () **Handler directs boat properly to follow dogs alert.**

5. () () **Dog alerts in an identifiable manner (natural) on scent released from a canine training aid.**

6. () () **Dog gives an identifiable indication (trained alert) of scent source at location within a distance of 20' from source (evaluator may add distance to compensate for wind or current conditions). Search time will not exceed 60 minutes.**

DATE __/__/__

SHORELINE LOCATION _____ TIME IN _____ TIME OUT _____

BOAT/AREA LOCATION _____ TIME IN _____ TIME OUT _____

HANDLER _____ K9 _____

TESTER _____ OBSERVER _____

TESTER SIGNATURE _____ OBSERVER _____

NYSFEDSAR K9 Trailing Standards

(Approved 10/28/17)



TRAILING TEAM CERTIFICATION

Prerequisites: To certify as an Operational K9 Trailing team,

1. the handler must meet the requirements of operational K9 handlers as outlined on page 3-5,
2. the dog must meet the requirements as outlined on page 3-5.

Trailing team certification shall consist of successful completion of three on-team tests, followed by an off-team test administered by an approved evaluator. The on-team tests will be:

Direction of Travel and Negative

Hot Trail

Night Trail.

The off-team test will be:

Off-Team Trail.

The off-team Trail requirement can also be met by successful completion of the following outside organization tests: IPWDA SAR Trailing, NASAR Trailing II or I, and NSDA

Trailing. Handlers may submit other trailing test standards from bona fide certifying organizations for review by the K9 Committee; such standards must meet or exceed the Off-Team Trail test. *All on-team tests must still be successfully completed regardless of what organization administers the Off-Team Trail Test.*

The handler must present adequate training logs to the evaluator for review prior to each of the above tests.

Required content for trailing logs can be found in the Appendix.

The trailing certification will be valid for two (2) years. Trailing teams must successfully complete the Off-Team Trail test to re-certify.

Direction of Travel and Negative

Purpose: To demonstrate that the K9 team can clearly scent discriminate. The team must determine a direction of travel from a contaminated start and correctly reject a start if the subject has not been there.

Age: The start locations will be set up 30-60 minutes prior to the test.

Set-up: Two areas in light vegetation will be used, separated by a reasonable distance to avoid transfer of scent by wind. The starting spots (PLS) will be marked by a flag or other appropriate marker. A minimum of two persons shall contaminate each PLS area by walking around for several minutes. One start will be a negative, i.e. the subject was never in the area. The subject will walk in a fairly straight direction for a minimum of 50 meters, the direction/bearing determined by the evaluator, from the "hot" PLS. The K9 team will work both areas and then inform the evaluator what they found. No feedback will be provided by the evaluator until after the handler provides their findings regarding both areas.

Time to complete: 30 minutes maximum

Scent Article: A scent article from the subject will be provided to the handler by the evaluator.

Team must be correct on both of the following to PASS:

1. Team correctly determines direction of travel from "hot" PLS: YES NO
(Team must identify direction of travel +/- 15 degrees of actually bearing)

2. Team correctly identifies negative area: YES NO

COMMENTS:

DATE ___/___/___ **LOCATION** _____ **START TIME** _____ **END TIME** _____

AGE OF TRAIL: _____ **LENGTH OF TRAIL:** _____

HANDLER _____ **K9** _____

TESTER _____ **OBSERVER** _____

TESTER SIGNATURE _____ **OBSERVER** _____

Hot Trail

Purpose: To demonstrate that the K9 team can follow a fairly fresh trail on a pathway, such as a hiking trail, logging road or street and make a 90-degree turn into a wilderness environment.

Age: 1 to 2 hours old from the time the subject starts the trail.

Length: 0.25 - 0.5 miles long

Set-up: The trail shall be run on a pathway for a minimum of one-half the distance before turning off the path. At some point there will be a 90-degree turn — left or right — off the pathway.

Subject: Location should be no less than 100 meters and no more than one-quarter mile from the pathway and remain at the end position after walking the trail until the exercise is concluded.

Time to complete: 1.0 hours maximum.

Scent article: The handler must collect a scent article from the subject's vehicle.

K9 Team must locate subject within time allowance to PASS.

Subject located within time allowance: YES NO

COMMENTS:

DATE __/__/__ LOCATION _____ START TIME _____ END TIME _____

AGE OF TRAIL: _____ LENGTH OF TRAIL: _____

HANDLER _____ K9 _____

TESTER _____ OBSERVER _____

TESTER SIGNATURE _____ OBSERVER _____

Off-Team Trail

Purpose: To demonstrate that the K9 team can work through scent movement on an aged trail in the given environment.

Age: 4-8 hours old from the time the subject starts the trail.

Length: 0.75 - 1.0 miles.

Set-up: Run over a minimum of three (3) surfaces (e.g.: grass, dirt, forest litter, swamp, gravel, concrete, asphalt), with a minimum of five (5) changes in direction. There will be a minimum of one cross trail and a water crossing.

Subject: The subject will be returned to the end of the trail 30 minutes prior to the K9 team running it.

Time to complete: 2 hours maximum.

Scent article: The handler will be given a bagged scent article.

TRAILING CHECK-LIST

SCENT ARTICLE:

1. Handler presents the scent article to the dog: **yes no**

CASTING:

1. The handler shows ability in casting to assist the dog when necessary: **yes no n/a**

LINE HANDLING:

1. The handler maintains consistent line tension throughout the trail: **yes no**

2. The handler is conscientious about preventing line entanglement: **yes no**

NEGATIVES:

1. The dog gives negatives at the time that it gets off-trail or out of scent: **yes no n/a**

2. The handler demonstrates the ability to read the dog's negatives and responds accordingly: **yes no**

RESTING THE K-9 ON THE TRAIL:

1. The handler adequately rests the dog as needed according to the weather and length of trailing time: **yes no n/a**

2. The handler offers the dog water while resting: **yes no n/a**

CONDITIONING:

1. The handler is in good physical condition to successfully complete the trail: **yes no**

2. The dog is in good physical condition to successfully complete the trail: **yes no**

SCENT BEHAVIOR KNOWLEDGE:

1. The handler shows the ability to identify scenting difficulties and the actions needed to work through it: **yes no n/a**

TEAM ATTITUDE:

1. The dog works with motivation throughout the trail: **yes no**

2. The handler offers encouragement to the dog when appropriate. **yes no**

CONTAMINATION AND DISTRACTIONS:

1. The dog demonstrates the ability to work through distractions: **yes no n/a**

2. The dog has demonstrated that it can work through/past contamination of other human scent: **yes no n/a**

SURFACES:

1. K-9 team successfully works on all required surfaces: **yes no**

REWARDING THE K-9:

1. Dog is properly rewarded at trails completion: **yes no**

LOCATED SUBJECT: YES NO

COMMENTS:

DATE ___/___/___ **LOCATION** _____ **START TIME** _____ **END TIME** _____

AGE OF TRAIL: _____ **LENGTH OF TRAIL:** _____

HANDLER _____ **K9** _____

TESTER _____ **OBSERVER** _____

TESTER SIGNATURE _____ **OBSERVER** _____

APPENDIX

Trailing Training Log Requirements

The training logs for a trailing team that shall be submitted to the trailing sub-committee for qualification and re-qualification must include ALL of the following:

1. Name of handler and K-9
2. Date and time set up
3. Date and time ran
4. Name of evaluator/spotter
5. Name of witness, if any
6. Name of subject
7. Description of weather components: at minimum, temperatures, precipitation, winds
8. Topographical map with GPS tracks of subject, planned cross trails, and the K-9 team
9. Description of terrain
10. Any comments on the trail
11. List of any known contamination
12. Type of scent article used
13. Distance of trail
14. Age of trail

This information should be formulated in a personalized training log made by the K-9 team that works best for their training purposes. While it is not mandatory, it is recommended that the team also print out the hourly forecast for the time the trail was aging. This can be done the following day from www.weather.com, www.accuweather.com or www.wunderground.com.

NYSFEDSAR K9 EVALUATOR CHECKLIST

Please complete and return to NYSFEDSAR K9 Coordinator

THIS APPLICATION IS FOR THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINE (Check one)

- AIRSCENT []
- TRAILING []
- WILDERNESS RECOVERY []
- CRIME SCENE HRD []
- WATER RECOVERY []

1. Currently an operational handler who has successfully re-certified at least once with current K9, or has certified a second K9, and has been operational for at least 3 years in the discipline in which evaluator status is being sought.

Handler Name: _____

K9 Name: _____

Date Operational: _____

Date of last Re-certification: _____ OR

2nd K9 certified in this discipline _____

Date Operational for 2nd K9 _____

2. Must have participated as a K9 handler in at least 6 searches (3 searches if applying for status as Water Recovery evaluator) in specific discipline for which evaluator status is being sought.
(Provide name of search, location, and assignment type, e.g. hasty, area, river shoreline etc.)

Search #1: _____ Date: _____

Search #2: _____ Date: _____

Search #3: _____ Date: _____

Search #4: _____ Date: _____

Search #5: _____ Date: _____

Search #6: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

WILDERNESS RECOVERY ONLY

1. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

2. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

CRIME SCENE HRD ONLY

1. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

2. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

WATER RECOVERY ONLY

1. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

2. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

4. Must act as **primary evaluator** for **off-team** tests TWICE under the supervision of an accredited NYSFEDSAR evaluator and complete the following skills to the satisfaction of the evaluator:
- a. Set up the area to be used for testing, including printing maps and making GPS tracks available to the handler
 - b. Coordinate placement of subjects or sources and be able to justify the choice of placement
 - c. Effectively and efficiently communicate the search area and what is expected to the handler being tested
 - d. Make appropriate judgments regarding the passing or failing of the K9 unit based on the NYSFEDSAR K9 testing guidelines.

AIRSCENT ONLY

40 acre Night:

1. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

2. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

100 acre Multiple Subject:

1. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

2. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

TRAILING ONLY:

Off-team 3/4 - 1 mile trail

1. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

2. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

Name: _____

WILDERNESS RECOVERY ONLY

1. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

2. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

CRIME SCENE HRD ONLY

1. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

2. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

WATER RECOVERY ONLY

1. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

2. Date: _____ Team Tested: _____ Evaluator: _____

7. Submit proof of completing 16 hours of continuing education (CE) in courses relevant to K9 search and rescue training over the past two (2) years. Provide the name of course, instructor or organization, location, dates of attendance and number of CE hours. Attach certificate or letter verifying attendance.

COURSE	LOCATION	DATE(S)	CE HRS
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Application submitted by:

Signature

Date

Application Reviewed by: _____

(Print name of K9 Coordinator or Asst K9 Coordinator)

Approved: _____ **YES** _____ **NO** **Date:** _____

Signature: _____

6. Describe a method for correctly collecting a scent article. (1 point)

32 points total. Passing = 26 (80%)

FIELD EXERCISES for K9 HANDLER CERTIFICATION

Instructions: To be completed and signed by the local team's designated training officer. Form and copies of all supporting documentation must be received and reviewed by the NYSFEDSAR K-9 coordinator prior to off-team testing.

Handler's Name _____

DEC Basic Wildlands Date ___/___/____

DEC Searcher I Date ___/___/___

or

NIMS 100	Date ___/___/___
and	
NIMS 200	Date ___/___/___
and	
NIMS700	Date ___/___/___
and	
CPR/FA	Date ___/___/___
and	
NYSFEDSAR administered field exercises	Date ___/___/___
and	
Participation in 3 searches	Date ___/___/___ Date ___/___/___ Date ___/___/___

and

Crime Scene Preservation Date ___/___/___

and

Canine First Aid Date ___/___/___

_____, _____, duly authorized by _____, have reviewed this form
(print name) (title) (team name)

and all attached documents. In addition, I certify that _____ has successfully completed all team
(name of candidate)
requirements and is approved for off-team testing.

(signature) (date)

Successful completion of these exercises may be substituted for the DEC Searcher I certification in the event that a Searcher I course is not available to the K-9 handler. This provision is intended to be a temporary measure. It is expected that the DEC will make Searcher I courses available often enough and in enough locations to meet the needs of the SAR K-9 community in New York State. It is further understood that the K-9 handler who passes this test is expected to successfully complete the DEC Searcher I course within two years of certification, or before their first recertification.

Objectives

1. Orient map to north using terrain or compass
2. Follow a compass bearing
3. Estimate distance travelled in the field
4. Obtain a bearing in the field and plot it correctly on a map
5. Obtain a bearing on a map and transfer to correctly to the field
6. Demonstrate the ability to locate in the field a point shown on a map
7. Demonstrate the ability to create track logs and waypoints using the GPS
8. Demonstrate the ability to obtain information from a GPS unit and correlate it to a map
9. Demonstrate the ability to construct an emergency shelter utilizing personally carried items and materials found in the field
10. Demonstrate the ability to construct a fire utilizing personally carried items and materials found in the field

Instructor Instructions

Map and Compass

1. Student goes to starting location, DP1 and orients map. Starting point should be distinct on the map and students will be asked to find the location (old cemetery, hilltop etc.)
2. Student is given a UTM coordinate for TP1 (approx. 500', per instructor)
3. Student plots TP1 on map.
4. Student extracts azimuth from DP1 to TP1
5. Student extracts distance from DP1 to TP1
6. Student traverses from DP1 to TP1
7. Student plots azimuth and distance (per instructor) from TP1 to TP2 on a map.
8. Student travels from TP1 to TP2 after instructor approval
9. At TP2 student plots and azimuth (per instructor) to TP3 (Should be a distinct line or barrier).
10. Student travels from TP2 to TP3 after instructor approval
11. At TP3 student will have to provide an estimated distance from TP2 to TP3
12. At TP3 student will point to their position on the map without use of the GPS unit

GPS

13. At TP3 students are provided their GPS units and are instructed to record a waypoint for TP3
14. Students input the coordinates for DP1 into their GPS unit (extracted from their map)
15. Students set up GPS unit to record a track
16. Students traverse to DP1
17. At DP1 students will save the track log and transfer track information to the map
18. Instructor will review GPS units to conform proper waypoints and track log

Map and Compass Cont

19. From DP1 student will sight on a distant landmark or instructor provided object
20. Student will obtain an azimuth to the object and plot it on the map

Survival

21. Build an emergency shelter utilizing personally carried materials and items found in the field (can work in pairs)
22. Build a fire utilizing personally carried materials and items found in the field (can work in pairs)

Field Exercise Check List

Student Name _____

Lead Instructor _____

Task	Location	1st Attempt	2nd Attempt	3rd Attempt	4th Attempt	Date Successful
Locate map point in the field	DP1					
Orient map	DP1					
Obtain utm and plot	DP1					
Obtain azimuth and plot	DP1					
Follow azimuth, estimate distance	TP3					
Locate field position on map	TP3					
Create track log and record/input waypoints	TP3					
Correlate GPS information to map	DP1					
Obtain feild azimuth and plot	DP1					
Build emergency shelter	DP1					
Start a fire	DP1					
Date completed all requirements						

HUMAN REMAINS DETECTOR DOG SEARCH REPORT

REPORT NUMBER: _____ DATE: _____ TIME: _____ ZONE: _____

INCIDENT OR CRIME: _____

VICTIM'S NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

LOCATION: _____ PREMISE TYPE: _____

Area to be searched: _____ vehicle _____ residence _____ building _____ field or woods

Wind direction: _____ Wind Speed _____ Temperature _____ Humidity _____

Weather: _____ clear _____ cloudy _____ rain _____ daylight _____ dark

Terrain: _____ Field _____ short/med grass _____ tall grass
_____ Woods _____ thin _____ thick
_____ Marsh _____ Water
_____ Flat _____ Hilly

Evidence Found:

- (1) _____ Location: _____ Time: _____
- (2) _____ Location: _____ Time: _____
- (3) _____ Location: _____ Time: _____
- (4) _____ Location: _____ Time: _____

Individuals Present: _____

Narrative: _____

K9 Handler: _____ **K-9:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date/Time Submitted:** _____