



## 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 graduate from a suitable basic obedience class; preferably obtain a Canine Good Citizen test.

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. This log will be reviewed once a year at least and before promotions of the team to operational, full operational, advanced operational, cadaver operational, and water search operational. 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.

**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 re-find on the subject. (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.
14. The handler must have achieved searcher qualification or above as stated in their individual team standards.

The handler must have read the following books to have an understanding of SAR and dog working relationship before beginning any training or qualifying of any certifications: *Search and Rescue Dogs - Training the K9 Hero* by ARDA, *Training Steps for Search and Rescue Dogs* by William G. Syrotuck, *Scent and the Scenting Dog* by William G. Syrotuck, and *Ready!* by Susan Bulanda. Trailing dog handlers must also read *The Silent Witness* by Bill Tolhurst and *On The Trail!* By Jan Tweedie.

## **Standards of Operation & Qualification (cont.)**

### **Operational Levels and Certifications**

#### Airscent Teams

There are three levels of operational certification in which a K9 team may qualify: Operational, Full Operational and Advanced Operational. Each level contains a number of individual certifications which must be completed to obtain that particular level. All K9 teams must complete all the certifications for the Operational level before proceeding to any other individual certifications or levels of certification.

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
5. 100 acres

#### 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.

Once a K9 team is certified as Operational, they may challenge any of the certifications at either Full or Advanced levels, and the certifications for Cadaver or Water Search. However, for a K9 team to be certified at a particular level, said K9 team must qualify in all the certification standards in that level.

The standard for Full Operational K9 Airscent teams is:

6. Article search
7. Hanging subject
8. Snow burial
9. Building search
10. Debris pile

The standard for Advanced Operational K9 Airscent teams is:

11. 100 acres scent discriminating air-scent

Additional certifications include:

12. Five acre cadaver
13. Water search

## **Operational Levels and Certifications**

### Trailing Teams

There are two levels of operational certification in which a K9 team may qualify, which include certification standards to reach that particular level. All K9 teams must complete the level of Operational first, in order to be allowed to proceed to any other certification or level of certification. A K9 team is Operational after successfully passing both the Trailing I and II certifications. A K9 team that passes both the Trailing III and IV certifications will be considered an Advanced Trailing team.

The standard for the Operational K9 Trailing teams is:

- 14. Two hour trail 1-1.5 miles long
- 15. Twelve hour old trail

The standard for the Advanced Operational K9 Trailing teams is:

- 16. Twenty-four hour old trail Twelve hour old urban trail

### 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.

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 from another team: 40 acre night, 100 acre area, 5 acre cadaver.

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.

Full Operational and Advanced Operational certifications shall be administered by Federation Testers.  
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Handler will be notified of pass / fail within 5 days of certification by the tester.

### **Safety**

The tester will take reasonable precaution to ensure the safety of all individuals involved with the certifications. During the Trail IV certification, a minimum of one safety observer will accompany the team. The safety observer will be responsible for alerting the handler and tester to changing traffic conditions.

### **Scent Article Collection**

When collecting scent articles for trailing certifications tester will provide trail layer with a clean unscented plastic bag to place scent article in. If the handler is responsible for collecting the scent article he/she will inform the tester about what and how they will collect the scent article. Protective gloves must be worn when collecting a scent article from another individual. Date, time of collection and name of individual collecting scent article must be written on the outside of the bag the scent article is stored in.

It is the responsibility of the handler to confirm that they have a valid scent article by questioning who collected the scent article and how they collected it.

## **Qualifications for Federation K9 Testers**

To ensure consistent, quality testing, Federation Testers shall be Operational handlers, with at least two years experience as K9 handlers at the Operational level. Such testers shall have participated with their K9 in at least 3 searches where they have been deployed in the field and actively searched. In addition, such testers shall have tested tests 1 through 3 at least five times, and have tested all three tests.

Testers shall have their name, team affiliation and contact information (at least an email address) posted on the NYSFEDSAR website.

Testers testing the 100 acre test shall, in addition, have tested a 40 acres night exercise at least twice before serving as tester for the 100 acre test.

Any Federation Tester can test the Five Acre Cadaver certification. The Water Certification test may only be conducted by a Federation Tester who is water certified and has participated in two Federation water searches.

## **Recertification**

Recertification shall be done every two years. The recertification exercise shall be done during the day. The area will be 40 acres with the same testing characteristics as the 100 acre certification. During the FIRST re-certification on any K9, the handler MUST use map and compass for navigation. Subsequently GPS will be allowed. Rationale: Basic skills will continue to be practiced.

Certifying second and subsequent SAR dogs

Handlers whose SAR dog had been certified by these Federation Standards can, upon training a new dog, opt to use GPS as a navigation tool in any test other than their FIRST certification with that new K9. Rationale: to encourage experienced handler to become proficient in newer navigation techniques.

## **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 / her self 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 refind of a moving subject.

*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 refind.

*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.

*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 resweeping 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. Up to 3 persons (number known 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 number of subjects to be found. 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. Up to 3 persons (number known 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 once at area from the Beaufort Scale.**
  
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 CERTIFICATION for FULL OPERATIONAL**

### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**Be able to find three of five articles in an area of 150 feet x 150 feet in a wooded area with light brush. The dog / handler team will use a systematic sector search of area and are allowed to make only one series of sweeps in the area, (no repeating of previously searched areas).**

*The purpose* of this certification is for the dog / handler team to demonstrate their ability to clear a small area by using a sector search pattern (systematic sweeps), to locate articles contaminated with human scent.

*The articles* are to be placed in the area at least two hours prior to the certification hidden from sight (not buried), and on or near the ground (placement off the ground will not exceed a height of one foot). The articles are to be of the following; two clothing (no larger than a tee shirt), one metal (keys, or a watch, etc.), one paper (3" x 5" note pad, or envelope, etc.), one leather (wallet or belt, etc.). All articles are / will have been worn or carried a minimum of one hour with contact to human skin prior to placement.

*The tester* is to provide an area that is suitable for the purpose of this certification as described above, with well defined boundaries (flagged if no other confinement). The wind will be no more than 10 mph (i.e. dust and loose paper raised off the ground is over 10 mph). Only one person will enter the area when placing the articles.

It is understood by the handler that this is only one of the certifications needed to be full 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 the location and boundary of area to be searched. All articles will have been placed in the area (locations known to the tester), at least 2 hours prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.

## **AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for FULL OPERATIONAL**

### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**Be able to find three of five articles in an area of 150 feet x 150 feet in a wooded area with light brush. The dog / handler team will use a systematic sector search of area and are allowed to make only one series of sweeps in the area, (no repeating of previously searched areas).**

**YES**   **NO**

1.    ( )   ( )   *Dog is motivated to find articles through out problem, (at least three of the five).*
  
2.    ( )   ( )   **K9 team covers area systematically.**
  
3.    ( )   ( )   **Dog finds three of the five articles placed for this certification without resweeping areas. Note: If dog finds an article adjacent to a sweep because of a coneing of scent from an article, that area will not be considered to have been swept systematically.**
  
4.    ( )   ( )   **Handler recognizes the dog's alerts and interests in finds of articles. Note: The tester will acknowledge each article as presented to him / her by the handler, as those which were placed.**

DATE    \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_    LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_    TIME IN \_\_\_\_\_    TIME OUT \_\_\_\_\_

HANDLER \_\_\_\_\_    K9 \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

## **AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for FULL OPERATIONAL**

### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**Be able to find a subject hidden above ground in a tree (tree stand, etc.), no higher than 12 feet off the ground in a wooded area approximately 20 acres (933 x 933 feet).**

*The purpose* of this certification is for the dog to alert and work out the problem of locating the source with encouragement from the handler, not for the handler to find / see the subject and draw the dog's attention to the source. The dog / handler team is to demonstrate their ability to find a subject above ground simulating a hanging or hiding, etc., by using either a hasty (a rapid, quick check) or a sector search (systematic sweeps) to locate the subject. It is understood that it will be impossible for the dog to have direct contact with the subject, and therefore, the find will be described as that in which the dog's alerts narrows the location of the subject when working the scent cone and scent pooling by indicating that the source is up above, this direct attention to the scent source by the dog will be recognizable as any or all of the following behaviors: jumping, standing up on hind legs, barking, whining, trying to climb the tree, staring up at tree. This recognizable behavior by the dog should draw the handler's attention to look up and see the subject, thus the find is complete.

*The subject* is to remain motionless in a tree no higher than twelve feet off the ground, making the utmost effort not to be seen or heard. It is understood that it will be difficult to be unseen, however subjects will wear clothing that will not advertise their presence (fluorescent orange, red, etc.), but colors that will come close to that of the environment. Subjects are not to give any recognition until told to do so by the handler and / or the tester. Subjects will use a safety line to secure themselves from a fall.

*The tester* is to provide an area that is suitable for the purpose of this certification as described above, with well defined boundaries (flagged if no other confinement) that is forested with trees that will be safe to hold a subject at a height described above.

It is understood by the handler that this is only one of the certifications needed to be full 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 FULL OPERATIONAL**

### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**Be able to locate a subject hidden under snow (a minimum of 24 inches unpacked).**

*The purpose* of this certification is for the dog / handler team to demonstrate their ability to systematically search (sector sweep) the area for the source of human scent coming from a subject buried under snow and locate the subject by the dog sniffing, clawing the snow, etc.

*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 subject must have radio communication with a safety man during the entire certification. It is important that the subject remain covered up until the handler, tester, or the safety person give an OK to uncover, thus preventing the subject from being clawed by the dog digging to get him or her.

*The tester* is to provide an area that is suitable for the purpose of this certification which will have enough snow, and some form of confinement (natural or manmade) to narrow the amount of time needed for the dog to locate the subject. No subject is to remain buried more than 10 minutes. Communications will be maintained by a safety man through out the entire exercise. The safety man will make any / all decisions to abort the certification if the safety of the buried subject is in jeopardy at any time. Both the tester and safety man will know the location of the subject.

It is understood by the handler that this is only one of the certifications needed to be full 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) prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.

**AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for FULL OPERATIONAL**

**CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**Be able to locate a subject hidden under snow (a minimum of 24 inches unpacked).**

**YES   NO**

- 1.    (   )   (   )   **K9 team covers area systematically.**
  
- 2.    (   )   (   )   **Dog alerts (natural alert) on scent cone and / or pooling and follows to location of buried subject.**
  
- 3.    (   )   (   )   **Dog is motivated to reach subject by digging (trained alert).**
  
- 4.    (   )   (   )   **Handler encourages and praises dog for digging to subject.**

**DATE**    \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_    **LOCATION** \_\_\_\_\_    **TIME IN** \_\_\_\_\_    **TIME OUT** \_\_\_\_\_

**HANDLER** \_\_\_\_\_    **K9** \_\_\_\_\_

**TESTER** \_\_\_\_\_    **OBSERVER** \_\_\_\_\_

**TESTER SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_    **OBSERVER** \_\_\_\_\_

## **AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for FULL OPERATIONAL**

### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**Be able to search a building and indicate a person present in the building in an identifiable manner.**

*The purpose* of this certification is for the dog / handler team to demonstrate their ability to thoroughly search a building and indicate a find of a hidden subject in an obvious and identifiable manner (barking, whining, pawing, etc.). The handler may / should encourage the dog with commands and praise during the search to cover the assigned area effectively.

*The subject* is to remain motionless 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 subject is not to place him / her self in any sealed (air tight) container.

*The tester* will designate the area of the building suitable for this certification. The tester will know the entire layout of the building by having done a walk through prior to the certification. He / she will accompany the dog /handler team through out the entire search and will make every effort not to interfere with the team. The tester will inform the handler not to open any door without first receiving permission to do so, and that if the dog indicates that the subject is behind a closed door, the handler must inform the tester. The tester will give the team a reasonable amount of time based upon the contents and internal structure of the building, and inform the handler of the time allotted.

It is understood by the handler that this is only one of the certifications needed to be full 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 the handler information on the assigned building area to be searched. The subject will have been placed in the building (location known to the tester), at least 10 minutes prior to the K9 team's entering the building.



## **AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for FULL OPERATIONAL**

### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**Be able to locate a subject hidden under natural or manmade debris and indicate the subject's location in an identifiable manner (natural and trained).**

*The purpose* of this certification is for the dog / handler team to demonstrate their ability to thoroughly search an area which includes a pile of debris (anything natural or manmade, i.e. construction debris from a small building, or trees / logs / brush / earth in a pile, and is large enough to place a subject inside) and indicate the location of a subject hidden inside, in an obvious / identifiable manner (barking, whining, pawing, etc.). The handler may / should encourage the dog with commands and praise during the search and the indication. This certification is not to be confused with that of a disaster search qualification, in which a large building or earthen area has collapsed, and specialty teams and equipment are employed to recover or rescue human beings. However, this certification does qualify the dog / handler team to locate live human scent in a search area that includes a debris pile as previously described.

*The subject* is to remain motionless in a specific and safe location in the pile, 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 subject must have radio communication with a safety man during the entire certification.

*The tester* is to provide an area that is suitable for the purpose of this certification which will have a debris pile in it as described above. The tester will point out the boundary of the area to be searched to the handler prior to the certification. The size of the search area shall be small enough (10 acres or 660 x 660 feet, recommended) to minimize the time spent clearing the area surrounding the debris pile.

It is understood by the handler that this is only one of the certifications needed to be full 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 the handler information on the assigned area to be searched. The subject will have been placed in the debris pile (location known to the tester), at least 1/2 hour prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.



## **AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for ADVANCED OPERATIONAL**

### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**With three persons hidden in a 100 acre area, approximately (2,100 x 2,100 feet), be given the scent of one by a scent article and find that person by air scenting.**

*The purpose* of this certification is for the dog demonstrate a find through discrimination in an area of contamination present with other human scents, using a hasty (a rapid, quick check) or a sector search (systematic sweeps) to locate the subject. Acknowledgment of the other two persons by the dog is acceptable, however, the dog is to work the scent (cone) and refind only on the subject matching the scent article.

*The subject* is to place personal scent material into a (uncontaminated) clear plastic sealed bag provided by and then given back to the tester. The subject and the two people placed to contaminate the area are to remain down, (not moving) in a specific location, making the utmost effort not to be seen or heard. They are 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 (hills, ravines, streams, etc.), and some form of confinement, either natural or manmade. The tester will be responsible for the subject's scent material, and will be the only one to handle the bag before giving it to the handler to work this certification.

It is understood by the handler that this is only one of the certifications needed to be advanced 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 the location and boundary of areas to be searched. All subjects will have been placed in the area (locations known to the tester), at least 2 hours prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.

## AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for ADVANCED OPERATIONAL

### CERTIFICATION STANDARD

With three persons hidden in a 100 acre area, approximately (2,100 x 2,100 feet), be given the scent of one by a scent article and find that person by air scenting.

YES   NO

1.    (   )   (   )   **Handler uses proper care of scent articles.**
2.    (   )   (   )   **Dog accepts scent article (the dog sniffs, licks, mouths, article when handler presents it).**
3.    (   )   (   )   **K9 team covers area systematically.**
4.    (   )   (   )   **Dog does not re-find persons placed to contaminate area.**
5.    (   )   (   )   **Dog finds subject for which it was scented.**

DATE    \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_    LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_    TIME IN \_\_\_\_\_    TIME OUT \_\_\_\_\_

HANDLER \_\_\_\_\_    K9 \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

## **AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for CADAVER**

### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**With corpse scented material placed in a 5 acre area, the dog will find one placed on the ground in an identifiable manner (natural and trained) without resweeping the area.**

*The purpose* of this certification is for the dog to find and / or indicate corpse scented material in an identifiable manner on the ground in a sector search. The dog / handler team are to clear the area by using systematic sweeps. Following up on a natural alert is not considered re-sweeping.

*Material scented with human cadaver* will be as free of any contamination (live human scent) as possible when being handled for placement. Care should also be taken when placing the scented material so not to disturb the natural habitat, thus preventing a find by sight versus scent.

*The tester* is to provide the scented material and an area that is suitable for the purpose of this certification which will include a forested area of trees, light brush, and grasses. The area will be well confined, by natural or manmade (flagging) boundaries.

It is understood by the handler that he / she and the dog must be at least operational to qualify to take this certification for cadaver 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 the location and boundary of area to be searched. All material will have been placed in the area (locations known to the tester), at least 2 hours prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.

**AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for CADAVER**

**CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

With corpse scented material placed in a 5 acre area, the dog will find one placed on the ground in an identifiable manner (natural and trained) without resweeping the area.

**YES   NO**

- 1.    ( )   ( )    **Dog / handler team sector search area using systematic sweeps without resweeping area. Following up on a natural alert is not considered re-sweeping.**
  
- 2.    ( )   ( )    **Dog locates / finds material scented with human cadaver placed on the ground by scent, (a find by sight is a failure).**
  
- 3.    ( )   ( )    **Dog's alert (natural) and indication (trained) are identifiable when finding / locating the scented materials.**

DATE    \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_    LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_    TIME IN \_\_\_\_\_    TIME OUT \_\_\_\_\_

HANDLER \_\_\_\_\_    K9 \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

## **AIR SCENT CERTIFICATION for WATER SEARCH**

### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**Be able to alert (natural alert) and give an indication (trained alert) in an identifiable manner from a boat to a known scent cone released below the surface by a canine training aid**

*The purpose* of this certification is for the dog / handler team to locate an area that human scent is present on the surface of water. 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 sent, 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 canine training aid* is to be under water at a minimum depth of 10 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.

*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 tester will have communications with the boat man, spotter, and the handler at all times.

It is understood by the handler that he / she and the dog must be at least operational to qualify to take this certification for water search 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 the location and boundary of area to be searched. The diver and the canine training 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 from a boat to a known scent cone released below the surface by a canine training aid

YES   NO

1.    ( )   ( )    **The handler must wear a PFD.**
  
2.    ( )   ( )    **Dog enters and rides in boat with confidence and direction from handler when needed.**
  
3.    ( )   ( )    **Handler directs boat properly to follow dogs alert.**
  
4.    ( )   ( )    **Dog alerts in an identifiable manner (natural ) on scent released from a canine training aid.**
  
5.    ( )   ( )    **Dog gives an identifiable indication (trained alert) of scent source at location of canine training aid.**

DATE    \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_    LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_    TIME IN \_\_\_\_\_    TIME OUT \_\_\_\_\_

HANDLER \_\_\_\_\_    K9 \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

## TRAIL CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL TRAIL I

### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**Be able to find a subject by trailing, over a minimum of three different surfaces (e.g. grass, dirt, woods), with three 90-degree turns. The trail shall be at least two hours old from the start of trail, 1 to 1.5 miles in length.**

*The purpose* of this certification is for the dog / handler team to discriminate a trail over three surfaces, with three 90 degree turns. The handler will scent his / her dog with material from the trail layer.

*The handler* is to demonstrate proficiency in handling scent material. Dog will work on lead, handler should be physically capable of handling a 15-30 foot lead over various terrain. Handler should be capable of assisting their dog over or under fences, across streams or breaks in terrain. The handler should be knowledgeable about and aware of visual clues in the urban and wilderness environments. Handler should be able to recognize when their dog needs a break from trailing especially in different climates. Handler should be able to recognize “pool” scent and be able to assist their dog out of it, if necessary. Once subject is located, the handler will notify base of a find, show subject location on the map (use of GPS is not allowed) and assess the medical condition of the subject and notify base of the condition.

The dog expectations is to demonstrate the ability to “take scent” from a scent article of the subject. Should be able to find the “most recent trail” of a subject leaving the area from a contaminated area at least 100 feet in diameter. Should demonstrate a willingness to resume trailing after being rested by the handler and without being re-scented. Should be able to work its way out of a “pool scent”. Should be physically capable and motivated to run a trail with rest breaks as deemed necessary by the handler. Dog must be at least 12 months of age to complete this certification.

The trail layer will provide a shirt that has been worn for a minimum of 2 hours with in the last 24 hours, the article will be placed in a clean zip-lock bag by the trail layer upon removing the article – this is to prevent contamination of the scent article and handed over to the tester only. The trail layer will: follow a route previously planned out by the tester, have radio contact throughout the certification with the tester to insure that: three surfaces are crossed or walked through, there are three 90-degree turns. The trail layer is to remain down (motionless) 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 three different surfaces as previously described. The tester will prepare the trail layer by providing maps of the area previously marked to show the trail for the trail layer. The tester will be responsible for the trail layers' scent material. The tester will use sound judgment as to the validity of this certification based on the performance of the dog and handler.

The handler further understands that a NO in any of the BOLD 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 of the trail layer’s starting point. The trail layer will have been placed in the area (location known to the tester), at least 2 hours prior to the K9 team’s arrival to be tested.

**TRAIL CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL**  
**TRAIL I**

**CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

Be able to find a subject by trailing over a minimum of three different surfaces (e.g. grass, dirt, woods), with three 90 degree turns. The trail shall be at least two hours old from the start of trail, 1 to 1.5 miles in length.

**YES   NO**

1.    ( )   ( )   **Handler handles scent article properly.**
2.    ( )   ( )   **Dog trails across three different surfaces.**
3.    ( )   ( )   **Handler recognizes when dog has a trail.**
4.    ( )   ( )   **Handler recognizes when dog has lost the trail.**
5.    ( )   ( )   Handler is alert to visual clues proper for the situation.
6.    ( )   ( )   **Handler maintains control of K9.**
7.    ( )   ( )   **Handler rests K9 adequately.**
8.    ( )   ( )   Handler rewards K9 properly.
9.    ( )   ( )   K9 motivated properly to trailing.
10.   ( )   ( )   **K9 trails without being LED/DIRECTED.**
11.   ( )   ( )   K9 avoids distractions (by themselves or on command from handler).
12.   ( )   ( )   **K9 successfully refinds trail if over-running a turn.**
13.   ( )   ( )   **K9 locates subject.**

DATE    \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_    LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_    TIME IN \_\_\_\_\_    TIME OUT \_\_\_\_\_

HANDLER \_\_\_\_\_    K9 \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

## **TRAIL CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL** **TRAIL II**

### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**Be able to find a subject by trailing, over a minimum of four different surfaces (e.g. grass, dirt, woods, asphalt), with five 45 to 90-degree turns to the left or right of the direction of travel. The trail shall be at least twelve hours old from the start of trail, 1 to 1.5 miles in length. There will be one cross trail between one to two hours old. Dog must have completed Trail I certification**

*The purpose* of this certification is for the dog / handler team to discriminate a trail over four surfaces, with five 45 to 90 degree turns to the left or right of the direction of travel. The handler will scent his / her dog with material from the trail layer.

*The handler* is to demonstrate proficiency in collecting and handling scent material. Handler will create a scent article from the subject's vehicle, following appropriate collection techniques. Dog will work on lead, handler should be physically capable of handling a 15-30 foot lead over various terrain. Handler should be capable of assisting their dog over or under fences, across streams or breaks in terrain. The handler should be knowledgeable about and aware of visual clues in the urban and wilderness environments. Handler should be able to recognize when their dog needs a break from trailing especially in different climates. Handler should be able to recognize "pool" scent and be able to assist their dog out of it, if necessary. Once subject is located, the handler will notify base of a find, show subject location on the map (use of GPS allowed) and assess the medical condition of the subject and notify base of the condition.

*The dog expectations* is to demonstrate the ability to "take scent" from a scent article of the subject. Should be able to find the "most recent trail" of a subject leaving the area from a contaminated area at least 100 feet in diameter. Should demonstrate a willingness to resume trailing after being rested by the handler and without being re-scented. Should be able to work its way out of a "pool scent". Should be physically capable and motivated to run a trail with rest breaks as deemed necessary by the handler.

*The trail layer* will: follow a route previously planned out by the tester, have radio contact throughout the certification with the tester to ensure that: four surfaces are crossed or walked through, there are five 45 to 90 degree turns to the left or right of the direction of travel. The trail layer is to remain down (motionless) 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 four different surfaces as previously described. The tester will prepare the trail layer by providing maps of the area previously marked to show the trail for the trail layer. The tester will be responsible for the trail layers' scent material. The tester will use sound judgment as to the validity of this certification based on the performance of the dog and handler. Tester will have one cross trail laid one to two hours before the dog team starts the trail. Tester will know where cross trail is located.

*The handler* further understands that a NO in any of the BOLD 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 of the trail layer's starting point. The trail layer will have been placed in the area (location known to the tester), at least 2 hours prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.

**TRAIL CERTIFICATION for OPERATIONAL**  
**TRAIL II**

**CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

Be able to find a subject by trailing, over a minimum of four different surfaces (e.g. grass, dirt, woods, asphalt), with five 45 to 90-degree turns to the left or right of the direction of travel. The trail shall be at least twelve hours old from the start of trail, 1 to 1.5 miles in length. There will be one cross trail between one to two hours old. Dog must have completed Trail I certification

YES NO

1.    ( )   ( )   **Handler collects and handles scent article properly.**
2.    ( )   ( )   **Dog trails across four different surfaces.**
3.    ( )   ( )   **Handler recognizes when dog has a trail.**
4.    ( )   ( )   **Handler recognizes when dog has lost the trail.**
5.    ( )   ( )   *Handler is alert to visual clues proper for the situation.*
6.    ( )   ( )   **Handler maintains control of K9**
7.    ( )   ( )   **Handler rests K9 adequately.**
8.    ( )   ( )   *Handler rewards K9 properly*
9.    ( )   ( )   *K9 motivated properly to trailing.*
10.   ( )   ( )   **K9 trails without being LED/DIRECTED.**
11.   ( )   ( )   *K9 avoids distractions (by themselves or on command from handler).*
12.   ( )   ( )   **K9 successfully refinds trail if over-running a turn.**
13.   ( )   ( )   **K9 works through cross trail.**
14.   ( )   ( )   **K9 locates subject.**

DATE    \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_    LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_    TIME IN \_\_\_\_\_    TIME OUT \_\_\_\_\_

HANDLER \_\_\_\_\_    K9 \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

## **CERTIFICATION for ADVANCED TRAILING**

### **TRAIL III**

#### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**Be able to find a subject by trailing, over a minimum of four different surfaces (e.g. grass, dirt, woods, asphalt), with five 45 to 90 degree turns to the left or right of the direction of travel. The trail shall be at least twenty four hours old from the start of trail, 1 to 1.5 miles in length. There will be two cross trails between one to two hours old. Dog must have completed Trail II certification**

*The purpose* of this certification is for the dog / handler team to discriminate a trail over four surfaces, with five 45 to 90 degree turns to the left or right of the direction of travel. The handler will scent his / her dog with material from the trail layer.

*The handler* is to demonstrate proficiency in collecting and handling scent material. Handler will create a scent article from the subject's vehicle, following accepted collection techniques. Dog will work on lead, handler should be physically capable of handling a 15-30 foot lead over various terrain. Handler should be capable of assisting their dog over or under fences, across streams or breaks in terrain. The handler should be knowledgeable about and aware of visual clues in the urban and wilderness environments. Handler should be able to recognize when their dog needs a break from trailing especially in different climates. Handler should be able to recognize "pool" scent and be able to assist their dog out of it, if necessary. Once subject is located, the handler will notify base of a find, show subject location on the map (use of GPS allowed) and assess the medical condition of the subject and notify base of the condition.

*The dog expectations* is to demonstrate the ability to "take scent" from a scent article of the subject. Should be able to find the "most recent trail" of a subject leaving the area from a contaminated area at least 100 feet in diameter. Should demonstrate a willingness to resume trailing after being rested by the handler and without being re-scented. Should be able to work its way out of a "pool scent". Should be physically capable and motivated to run a trail with rest breaks as deemed necessary by the handler.

*The trail layer* will: follow a route previously planned out by the tester, have radio contact throughout the certification with the tester to ensure that: four surfaces are crossed or walked through, there are five 45 to 90 degree turns to the left or right of the direction of travel. The trail layer is to remain down (motionless) 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 four different surfaces as previously described. The tester will prepare the trail layer by providing maps of the area previously marked to show the trail for the trail layer. The tester will be responsible for the trail layers' scent material. The tester will use sound judgment as to the validity of this certification based on the performance of the dog and handler. Tester will have two cross trails laid one to two hours before the dog team starts the trail. Tester will know where cross trails are located.

*The handler* further understands that a NO in any of the BOLD 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 of the trail layer's starting point. The trail layer will have been placed in the area (location known to the tester), at least 2 hours prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.

**CERTIFICATION for ADVANCED TRAILING**  
**TRAIL III**

**CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

Be able to find a subject by trailing, over a minimum of four different surfaces (e.g. grass, dirt, woods, asphalt), with five 45 to 90 degree turns to the left or right of the direction of travel. The trail shall be at least twenty four hours old from the start of trail, 1 to 1.5 miles in length. There will be two cross trails between one to two hours old. Dog must have completed Trail II certification

**YES NO**

1.    ( ) ( )    **Handler collects and handles scent article properly.**
2.    ( ) ( )    **Dog trails across four different surfaces.**
3.    ( ) ( )    **Handler recognizes when dog has a trail.**
4.    ( ) ( )    **Handler recognizes when dog has lost the trail.**
5.    ( ) ( )    *Handler is alert to visual clues proper for the situation.*
6.    ( ) ( )    **Handler maintains control of K9**
7.    ( ) ( )    **Handler rests K9 adequately.**
8.    ( ) ( )    *Handler rewards K9 properly*
9.    ( ) ( )    *K9 motivated properly to trailing.*
10.   ( ) ( )    **K9 trails without being LED/DIRECTED.**
11.   ( ) ( )    *K9 avoids distractions (by themselves or on command from handler).*
12.   ( ) ( )    **K9 successfully refinds trail if over-running a turn.**
13.   ( ) ( )    **K9 works through cross trail.**
14.   ( ) ( )    **K9 locates subject.**

DATE    \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_    LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_    TIME IN \_\_\_\_\_    TIME OUT \_\_\_\_\_

HANDLER \_\_\_\_\_    K9 \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

## **CERTIFICATION for ADVANCED TRAILING** **TRAIL IV (URBAN)**

### **CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

**Be able to find a subject by trailing, over a minimum of four different surfaces (e.g. grass, dirt, concrete, asphalt), with five 45 to 90 degree turns to the left or right of the direction of travel. The trail shall be at least twelve hours old from the start of trail, 1 to 1.5 miles in length. This certification will be run on the streets of a village or city and should include a least 500ft of the trail to be run in a foot traffic area (e.g. main street or park). Dog must have completed Trail II certification**

*The purpose* of this certification is for the dog / handler team to discriminate a trail over four surfaces, with five 45 to 90 degree turns to the left or right of the direction of travel in a urban setting. The handler will scent his / her dog with material from the trail layer.

*The handler* is to demonstrate proficiency in collecting and handling scent material. Handler will create a scent article from the subject's vehicle, following appropriate collection techniques. Dog will work on lead, handler should be physically capable of handling a 15-30 foot lead over various terrain. Handler should be capable of assisting their dog over or under fences, across streams or breaks in terrain. The handler should be knowledgeable about and aware of visual clues in the urban and wilderness environments. Handler should be able to recognize when their dog needs a break from trailing especially in different climates. Handler should be able to recognize "pool" scent and be able to assist their dog out of it, if necessary. Once subject located, the handler will notify base of a find, show subject location on the map (use of GPS allowed) and assess the medical condition of the subject and notify base of the condition.

*The dog expectations* is to demonstrate the ability to "take scent" from a scent article of the subject. Should be able to find the "most recent trail" of a subject leaving the area from a contaminated area at least 100 feet in diameter. Should demonstrate a willingness to resume trailing after being rested by the handler and without being re-scented. Should be able to work its way out of a "pool scent". Should be physically capable and motivated to run a trail with rest breaks as deemed necessary by the handler.

*The trail layer* will: follow a route previously planned out by the tester, have radio contact throughout the certification with the tester to ensure that: four surfaces are crossed or walked through, there are five 45 to 90 degree turns to the left or right of the direction of travel. The trail layer is to remain down (motionless) 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 four different surfaces as previously described. The tester will prepare the trail layer by providing maps of the area previously marked to show the trail for the trail layer. The tester will be responsible for the trail layers' scent material. The tester will use sound judgment as to the validity of this certification based on the performance of the dog and handler.

*Safety Precautions:* Tester will take reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of all individuals involved with this certification. A minimum of one safety observer will accompany the team at all times. The observer will be someone other than the tester.

*The handler* further understands that a NO in any of the BOLD 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 of the trail layer's starting point. The trail layer will have been placed in the area (location known to the tester), at least 2 hours prior to the K9 team's arrival to be tested.

**CERTIFICATION for ADVANCED TRAILING**  
**TRAIL IV (URBAN)**

**CERTIFICATION STANDARD**

Be able to find a subject by trailing, over a minimum of four different surfaces (e.g. grass, dirt, concrete, asphalt), with five 45 to 90 degree turns to the left or right of the direction of travel. The trail shall be at least twelve hours old from the start of trail, 1 to 1.5 miles in length. This certification will be run on the streets of a village or city and should include a least 500ft of the trail to be run in a foot traffic area (e.g. main street or park). Dog must have completed Trail II certification

YES NO

1.    ( ) ( )    **Handler collects and handles scent article properly.**
2.    ( ) ( )    **Dog trails across four different surfaces.**
3.    ( ) ( )    **Handler recognizes when dog has a trail.**
4.    ( ) ( )    **Handler recognizes when dog has lost the trail.**
5.    ( ) ( )    *Handler is alert to visual clues proper for the situation.*
6.    ( ) ( )    **Handler maintains control of K9**
7.    ( ) ( )    **Handler rests K9 adequately.**
8.    ( ) ( )    *Handler rewards K9 properly*
9.    ( ) ( )    *K9 motivated properly to trailing.*
10.   ( ) ( )    **K9 trails without being LED/DIRECTED.**
11.   ( ) ( )    *K9 avoids distractions (by themselves or on command from handler).*
12.   ( ) ( )    **K9 successfully refinds trail if over-running a turn.**
13.   ( ) ( )    **K9 locates subject**

DATE    \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_    LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_    TIME IN \_\_\_\_\_    TIME OUT \_\_\_\_\_

HANDLER \_\_\_\_\_    K9 \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

TESTER  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_    OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_

## Revision History

1/27/08 Changed length of trailing tests II from 2-2.5 to 1 to 1.5. Made the change in the table of contents, the description of the test and the score sheet. Did the same for Trail IV test. Trail III was changed from 3-3.5 to 1-1.5 miles

2/23/08 inserted (applies to Airscent dogs) next to three general standards on page 5.

2/23/08 inserted “5. The use of electric, prong or choke collars, or head halters during testing or while searching is prohibited.” On page 5

2/23/08 Started tracking revisions