Search & Rescue Dog Association of Alberta

Standards

Contents

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide the user with information on SARDAA's training expectations, and on the progression of training and testing leading up to a search-ready (Active Level) team.

History
SARDAA was officially formed in November of 1989 when it was registered with the Companies Branch of the government of Alberta under the Societies Act. Charitable Organization status under Revenue Canada was obtained in July of 1991. There were six original members of SARDAA – Kevin George, Barb McLeod, George Hart, Mike Andresen, Michelle Limoges and Bob Wynnyk.

Mission Statement
SARDAA's mission is to provide properly trained, competent search dog/handler teams in the province of Alberta, and Canada.

Goals
SARDAA's goal is to provide SAR-dog and Field Tech instruction, training and information so as to develop well-trained teams for search and rescue purposes; and, where ever possible, to provide a minimum of two dog/handler teams to authorities when requested.

Philosophy
Our philosophy is to assist others, and to preserve life using well-trained Teams. SARDAA members do not freelance; our teams respond to official agencies only.

Objectives
SARDAA's objective is to develop teams in all the skills required for them to provide professional support to aid agencies in locating evidence, lost or missing persons. Handlers will have working knowledge of SAR techniques, SAR management, evidence preservation, courtroom procedures, navigation, survival, first aid, and other specialized training as required. Members of SARDAA are expected to follow guidelines set out for training, participate in team training exercises, demonstrate a team-oriented attitude and train themselves and their dog to the best of their ability in order to ensure that the 'potential survivor' has a well trained and highly competent team working towards his/her rescue.

Candidate Criteria

To join SARDAA and begin training, candidates must:
1) be a minimum of 18 years of age.
2) be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.
3) be in good physical condition.
4) commit to volunteer his/her time in aid of the Lost Person.
5) have an appreciation of the outdoors.
6) commit to the time needed to train and work with dogs.
7) commit meeting and maintaining Field Tech requirements inclusive of becoming proficient with search strategies and use of equipment.
8) commit to an interview process with SARDAA Preceptor.
9) commit to donating time towards fundraising, public relations and/or team administrative tasks.
10) commit to undergoing a six-month probationary term review by a senior SARDAA Member.
11) commit to allowing their dog to be evaluated for aptitude by the SARDAA Training Director or designate.
12) commit to being an active participant and team player
13) commit to taking direction from the SARDAA Training Director or designate as well as the SARDAA leadership team

A handler's willingness and ability to follow instructions and to commit efforts to SARDAA will help us determine if handlers have the qualities that we expect in all our members. We work for the potential survivor; ego and personal objectives have no place in search and rescue generally, nor in our organization specifically.

Dog Criteria

The dog that is selected for SAR work must have an excellent temperament, and have a strong desire to perform this type of training. The stresses of SAR work demand dogs have a stable temperament and strong drives.

- dog must have all required health vaccinations or titer certificates.
- The dog will be in good physical condition to permit its use in SAR Dog training.
- The dog must successfully pass the pre-evaluation test with a promising grade.
- The best dogs for SAR work have pronounced retrieve and hunt drives.
- The most common breeds come from the working, herding and sporting groups. Mixed breeds are also known to work well.
- The gender of the dog is not of any great importance; whether male or female it is usually left up to the individual handler to make that decision. SARDAA does not allow member female canines to be bred. Females whelping puppies result in the canine being out of service for six months.
- In support of responsible dog ownership, we strongly recommend that all SARDAA canine members be spayed or neutered by 30 months of age.
- The size of the dog is somewhat important, as the dog must be able to overcome a wide range of human and natural obstacles with ease. Generally the best size is

anywhere from 45 cm to 69 cm in height and between 22 and 41 kg in weight.
- The dogs must show no aggression towards people or other dogs.
- Dogs with physical or mental disabilities will not make the grade.
- Dogs that have done Schutzhund/IPO/French Ring Sport-style bite work, or general protection work will not be accepted.

The SARDAA Training Director will make the final determination as to the dog's potential.

The pre-evaluation assesses the dog's level of sociability and its drives. The objective is to screen applicants with the view of accepting only those dogs that exhibit the aptitudes expected and are well suited to the work. Prior training for the evaluation is not necessary.

SARDAA Membership Obligations

SARDAA Members must:

- Cover any personal expenses– SARDAA is a volunteer Association; any money raised goes towards team training costs, equipment, running of the organization, and costs that occur while on an official search. It is the responsibility of SARDAA Members to pay out of pocket expenses for themselves and their dog during training exercises.
- Have their dog enrolled in obedience classes. SARDAA expects all dogs in its program to have successfully completed obedience training. Since SARDAA training days are mostly spent on search training, SARDAA encourages handlers to take obedience classes from a reputable instructor.
- Attend training sessions. It is the dog handler's obligation to work their dog in-between these sessions. SARDAA training sessions occur every Sunday. SARDAA also on occasion holds two-day or longer training sessions. SARDAA does not usually schedule training on weekdays or holidays. It is essential that handlers work their dogs in between regular training sessions to give the dogs the foundation and reinforcement needed. Attendance at training and any extra time required to learn skills also applies to Field Techs.
- Ensure they are getting the information given out by SARDAA. If a member has to miss regular training or meetings, it is up to that member to ensure they are kept abreast of SARDAA happenings.
- Keep up-to-date training log books and entries in D4H; this refers to dog handlers and Field Techs alike. This information is valuable when training to keep an eye on where errors may have been made in training, and when to move forward. They may also be requested in a court of law if the handler is requested to give testimony on their reputation and their dog's training.
- Ensure they are properly outfitted for working outdoors. Working in all types of weather conditions better prepares the handler/dog for the possibility of having to search in bad conditions. It is up to each member to be prepared for the likelihood of training or searching in the elements. See Personnel Handbook for a list of recommended clothing and gear.
- Provide any necessary gear for training. All dog handlers will need to provide leashes, collars, tracking harnesses (optional) etc. for their dog partner. As well, any equipment needed for training of handlers or field tech; i.e., compass, light sources etc.
- Complete an accepted level of personal training using the Personnel Handbook.
- Ensure their Personnel Handbook is signed off by a designated trainer.
- Successfully complete the Field Tech Field Evaluation.

No dog/handler team or Field Tech will attend a formal search unless specifically called out by SARDAA; or, if called out directly by a tasking agency such as Edmonton Police Service or RCMP, the SARDAA member will immediately call the SARDAA emergency number to obtain a SARDAA file number. All Incident reports copies are to be handed in to the SARDAA Secretary or Executive member within 24 hours following the end of the search incident.

<u>Categories of Membership</u>

Voting –

Field Tech Teams
- Field Tech
- Active Field Tech

Dog Teams
- Supporting Associate
- Associate
- Active
- Active Accredited

Non-Field Response
- Active Administrator

Non-Voting –
- Friends of SARDAA
- Life

Field Tech Membership

Details of Membership (this membership category applies to those who wish to participate fully but without a dog).

1) Once all requirements are met, Field Techs advance to Active Level. There is no Associate level for Field Techs.
2) SARDAA uses a specific screening process for all new Field Techs. The following requirements must be met:
   - Complete SARDAA application form, interview questionnaire, and submit to SARDAA secretary with the membership fee.
   - Authorize a criminal background check (provided by Edmonton Police Service or local RCMP as appropriate) with satisfactory results.
   - Submit three references, along with contact information (references not to include family members.
   - Participate in an interview with the SARDAA Preceptor.
3) Once their application is received and approved, new members receive a letter confirming their membership along with a tax-deductible receipt for their fees, a membership card, SARDAA red T-shirt, 4 SARDAA decals, the SARDAA Training Standards manual, SOPs and New Candidate Process information.
4) The new member will meet with the preceptor to review the probation period and the interview questionnaire. They will also be introduced to the Personnel Handbook, D4H, Logbooks, and the Field Tech Progress document.
5) Within the first month, the new member will also be introduced to the Field Tech trainers who will review the Field Tech Progress document and how it ties in with the Personnel Handbook, D4H and Logbooks.
6) The applicant will be on a six-month probationary period at which time his/her membership will be reviewed. In addition, if the Preceptor feels that insufficient progress is being made during the Field Tech's first three months of membership, based on the progress, then a recommendation will be made to the Executive to terminate their membership.
7) Field Tech members receive equipment as per the Equipment Distribution Schedule located at the end of this document.
8) Field Techs may attend SARDAA organized courses. It is expected that these members pay deposits on such courses with full reimbursements after the Field Tech member has been fully accepted into the membership and has passed the Field Tech evaluation.
9) Field Techs are encouraged to attend training regularly. They offer important assistants to the SAR dog handlers. In training, they will be asked to perform the following duties, depending on the search profile:
   - Act as tracklayers and/or hiders for the SAR dogs/handlers.
   - Act as a backup for the Live Find or HRD dog team to help navigate, man track, search, take notes, offer search strategies, operate the radio and in case of emergencies, aid in performing first aid.
   - Mark areas of indication by the dog during disaster search exercises, operate the radio and in case of emergencies, aid in performing first aid. The Disaster Search

Profile can only be pursued after becoming an Active Field Tech.

- Assist and/or manage boat equipment; act as boat operator. The Water Search Profile can only be pursued after becoming an Active Field Tech.

10) **Within 14 months** it is required that new members complete the mandatory courses as per the Personnel Handbook, as well as submit for a Field Tech evaluation of joining SARDAA.

11) Before a Field Tech Evaluation, the Field Tech must:
- Pass their six-month probation period evaluation.
- Continually update their Field Tech Progress document and periodically send to the Field Tech trainers to show the status of each objective. Adequate practice has to be written in their logbook for most of these objectives before sign off is granted in the Personnel Handbook.
- Complete the training criteria as per the Personnel Handbook (some extensions may be considered if courses/training were not offered in the time period).
- Complete mandatory courses as required as per the Personnel Handbook.
- Have the Personnel Handbook signed off by a qualified trainer.
- Submit the Personnel Handbook for review to the Training Director.

12) Before a Field Tech may move up to the Active Team, they must:
- Have passed the Field Tech evaluation.
- Receive a favorable majority vote (2/3 majority or more) by the current Active Team.

13) It is required that Field Tech members maintain training logs and submit such training logs for review monthly to the Training Director or designate.

14) Once an Active member, training logs must continue to be maintained and submitted for review by the Training Director or designate, upon request.

15) In some cases, exceptions to these criteria will be considered. The Training Director, in consultation with trainers, will make the decision regarding an exception.

It is important that the Field Tech train with the dog/handler teams to have an understanding how the SAR Dog resource works in each profile. It will be up to the Field Tech to train to their potential for the profile they wish to search in. The training for the Field Techs includes courses, learning about the dog handler team, navigation, survival/safety skills, communication and search & rescue basics. See Personnel Handbook for more details. They may wish to further their training by taking additional related courses (see optional courses).

Important Notes -
- The emergency call-out phone number is **(780) 405-6084**; One of Active Accredited, Administrator or Executive members is designated, on a rotating basis, to respond to callouts 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The person on call will respond, evaluate the call, and if appropriate contact the Active Accredited members to respond to the incident.
- Only those on the Active Accredited Field Tech list will be deployed on call-outs. No other team member will respond unless called under extraordinary circumstances.
- Active Accredited team members must respond to 50 per cent of eligible search call outs in each calendar year. Failure to do so will result in a membership review by the

SARDAA executive.
- Active Accredited members who will be on holiday or otherwise unavailable will inform the executive member on call out dispatch, and note their absence on D4H.

So that SARDAA maintains high standards, on-going training and accreditations ensure that Active members on the Call-Out list maintain their search readiness.

<u>Field Tech - Evaluation Criteria</u>

The purpose of this outline is to briefly describe how a field tech member will be evaluated when they wish to advance to the Active Member level of SARDAA. This advancement is anticipated within **14 months** of acquiring their membership. Details of what is expected can be found in the Personnel Handbook.

1) Field Techs must demonstrate during normal team training that they are comfortable working with all of the team dogs and all the members.
2) All mandatory courses must be completed.
3) Their Personnel Handbook must be completed, signed off by a qualified trainer, submitted and accepted by the Training Director.
4) They must pass the Field Tech Evaluation. Any Field Tech who does not satisfactorily complete the field evaluation within two attempts will have their continued membership in SARDAA reviewed by the Executive.

Supporting Associate Membership

Details of Membership

1) All dog handlers must initially start at this level of membership.
2) New members will begin training in one of the two main profiles, Wilderness/Urban Live Find or Human Remains Detection.
3) Once Active Accreditation is achieved, additional profiles such as Disaster, Human Remains, Tracking or Water Search may be added.
4) SARDAA uses a specific screening process for all new dog handlers. The following five requirements must be met:
   - Successfully complete an aptitude evaluation of their dog.
   - Complete SARDAA application form plus interview questionnaire and submit to SARDAA secretary with fee.
   - Authorize a criminal background check (provided by Edmonton Police Service or local RCMP, as appropriate) with satisfactory results.
   - Submit three references, along with contact information (references not to include family members.
   - Participate in an interview with the SARDAA Preceptor.
5) Once their application is received and approved, new members receive a letter confirming their membership along with a tax-deductible receipt for their fees, a membership card, SARDAA red T-shirt, 4 SARDAA decals, SARDAA in-training dog vest (once probation requirements are met), the SARDAA Training Standards manual, SOPs and New Candidate Process information.
6) The new member will meet with the preceptor to review the probation period and the interview questionnaire. They will also be introduced to the Personnel Handbook, D4H, Logbooks, and the Field Tech Progress document.
7) Within the first month of membership, the new member will also be introduced to the Field Tech trainers who will review the Field Tech Progress document and how it ties in with the Personnel Handbook, D4H and Logbooks.
8) A preceptor will be assigned from the Active team members and the applicant will be on a six-month probationary period at which time his/her membership will be reviewed. In addition, if the Preceptor feels insufficient progress is being made during the Supporting Associate's first three months of membership based on the progress detailed in these Standards, then a recommendation will be made to the Executive to terminate their membership.
9) Supporting Associate members must attend regular training sessions and SARDAA organized courses.
10) Each Supporting Associate is required to participate in the mandatory training courses as listed in the Personnel Handbook. For courses where there is a charge, it is expected that these members pay deposits on such courses with full reimbursements after they have obtained Associate membership status.
11) Supporting Associate members receive equipment as per the Equipment Distribution Schedule.
12) Within the first month, Supporting Associate members are advised to start using the Personnel Handbook as a guide to personal training.

13) It is required that after a **minimum six month training period**, and dogs are a minimum one year of age, Supporting Associates are expected to submit to a Supporting Associate Evaluation.

14) Before the Supporting Associate can move up to Associate membership, they must have -
   - passed the six-month Probationary Review,
   - passed the Supporting Associate Evaluation, and,
   - be recommended by the Training Director and co-Trainer.

15) Supporting Associate members are encouraged to keep up-to-date hard copy training logs. Electronic logs are permitted however they must be printed. It is required that Supporting Associate members submit their training logs for review monthly to the Training Director or designate.

16) Supporting Associate must keep up-to-date training entries into the D4H database.

Supporting Associate - Evaluation Criteria

The purpose of this outline is to describe the minimum performance standards for dogs and handlers who wish to advance to the Associate Member level of SARDAA.
The Supporting Associate is required to submit to this evaluation within six months of acquiring their membership in the Association. If the Supporting Associate begins training with a young puppy, then they have until that puppy is one year of age before this evaluation is required. Dog /Handler teams who do not satisfactorily complete the evaluation on two occasions will not normally be permitted to attempt the evaluation again.

All the following tests are rated on a pass or fail basis.
Obedience

The dog on leash will be asked to demonstrate an obedience pattern, which will include the following exercises, not in any particular order -
   - heeling on lead - the team will be asked to demonstrate a pattern showing a normal, fast and slow walk, commanding the dog to sit as required when halted. The dog must remain by the handler's side without pulling on the leash or sniffing the ground.
   - sit / stay and down / stay - the dog will be placed in the sit position and left on lead; the handler will walk 15 meters from the dog and remain away from the dog for one minute. Repeat for down/stay.
   - recall - the dog will be placed in either the sit or down position and left; the handler will walk 15 meters away from the dog and call the dog to 'come'; the dog will return to the handler and sit in front or at the handler's side.
The dog / handler team will be tested to determine the level of control the handler has of the dog and also whether there is a bond and working cooperation existing between them.

Transportation

The dog / handler team will be evaluated on how they respond to being transported in a vehicle (truck, van) with other dog / handler teams and evaluator.
- the team to be tested will be placed in a vehicle with at least **two** other dog/handler teams (The evaluator may be in one of the other teams)
- the dogs will ride in the vehicle on leash with their handlers and the exercise will include changes of positions for the dog / handler teams in the vehicle.
- the dog shall show no aggression or fear at any time during this exercise.
- at the conclusion of this transportation exercise, a person other than the dog's handler will lift the dog from the vehicle and walk the dog away at heel position.

The Evaluator will be observing the Dog / Handler teams to see if there is any aggression or fear towards the other teams in the vehicle or of being in a confined space.

Agility

The Agility evaluation consists of the dog, upon direction and off leash, with complete control by the handler, negotiating high jumps, crawling through a tunnel approximately 3 meters in length, negotiating a plank with which is one meter off the ground.
The equipment used may be man-made or objects in the environment that may replicate the agility testing criteria.

The dog / handler team should move at a comfortable pace, with the dog under control.
- Jump 3 high jumps not to exceed the dog's height at its withers.
- Crawl through a tunnel approximately 3 meters in length.
- Walk over a plank minimum of one meter above the ground, not exceeding 3 meters in length.

The agility exercises are evaluated on the, control demonstrated by the handler over the dog, also by the dog's ability to take direction through the various obstacles. Dogs must show flexibility and jumping ease to the evaluator. If the dog refuses obstacles more than twice a determination will be made as to the cause; i.e., lack of control of the dog by its handler, lack of the physical ability to work in this field, etc.

Article Search

Using appropriate search strategy, the dog / handler team will demonstrate the dog's ability to locate and alert on three small-to-medium sized articles (see below for examples) placed at random on the ground.
*In the case of human remains detection dogs in training, they will be required to locate articles that have human remains related scent on them.

Evaluation Location
- Field of mixed grasses.

Evaluation Area size
- Approximately 30 x 30 meters. The corner boundaries of the area must be marked.

Articles
- 3 articles, ranging in size from small to medium that may be of such materials as cloth, metal, plastic, wood or leather; the articles shall be randomly placed.
- Human remains articles should be from the above article list but will have human remains related scent on them.

The articles will be placed by the SARDAA Evaluator or his / her designate a minimum of 30 and not more than 60 minutes prior to the beginning of the test.

Time Limit
- 20 minutes

Evaluator
- One Evaluator is required who shall be a SARDAA trainer/co-trainer or an SARDAA Active member.
- Evaluators will be aware of the location of the test articles.
- Evaluators may follow dog/handler team through the search area.
- The Evaluator will be assessing the dog's ability to source out articles and give it's trained alert as described by the handler.
- The evaluator will also assess the handler's ability to read the dog, and how the handler conducts the search of the area.

A passing grade will be awarded if the following criteria are met:
Handlers:
- Before the test begins, the handler will inform the evaluator of how the dog will alert to the articles (i.e., down, sit, stand over them, and/or bark).
- The team may start from any side of the area.
- Handlers may enter the search area.
- The handler may give as many verbal commands and as much encouragement to the dog as he/she deems necessary.
- When the dog has located each article, the handler will inform the Evaluator. The handler will pick up the items as the dog locates them. *In the case of an HR test, **the evaluator** will pick up the sources using approved methods.
- The handler may restart the dog as often as required within the 20 minute time period.
- Handlers should demonstrate that they have an understanding of search strategy by using the wind to their advantage, and by properly clearing the designated search area.

Cause of failure
- The handler is not permitted to cue the dog's alert, nor direct the dog to the article.

Dog:

- The dog must show its independent trained alert on the articles located.
- The independent alert must be a minimum alert of a stationary position of a sit, down or stand stay at the article. A Bark Alert is not required at this level.
- The dog must locate and alert on 2 out of 3 articles to receive a passing grade.
- The dog is required to work the majority of the time approximately 6 meters away from the handler.

Causes of failure

- A dog that consistently refuses to obey its handler's commands,
- leaves the test zone for more than two minutes and cannot be readily redirected by its handler,
- locates placed articles and does not commit or leaves them and does not go back,
- ignores placed articles, or
- does not perform the described alert.

Associate Membership

Details of Membership

1) Dog / Handler team must have passed the Supporting Associate Evaluation.
2) It is recommended that the dog be a minimum of one year of age.
3) It is required that an Associate member submits to an internal evaluation in the applicable search profile **within 12 months** of becoming an Associate member.
4) Within **18 months** of joining SARDAA it is required that Associate members complete all mandatory courses as listed in the Personnel Handbook, submit their Personnel Handbook to the Training Director for approval, and must have successfully completed their Field Tech evaluation.
5) May attend any SARDAA promotional events (tradeshows, Preventive SAR education) with their dog.
6) May attend SARDAA funded courses based on training need and availability of space.
7) Must continue to maintain up to date training logs with current D4H entries.
8) Associate members must attend and document 20 Team training sessions during the course of a year. This attendance level must be sustained each year.
9) Associate members must attend two, all-day sessions per year if they are offered.
10) It is recommended that Associate members from locations outside the Edmonton area attend regularly scheduled practice sessions in Edmonton at least once a month. Exceptions may be made during the winter months.
11) An Associate member must submit their training logs for review every two months to the Training Director or designate.
12) Associate members receive equipment as per the Equipment Distribution Schedule.
13) An Associate member must receive favorable majority vote (2/3 majority or more) by the current Active team to be accepted at the Active membership level. The Associate member only has to go through this vote once, not for every additional profile they add to their resume.

<u>Associate - Evaluation Criteria</u>

The purpose of this outline is to describe the minimum performance standards for dog teams to advance to the Active Member level of SARDAA.

Associate members are to attempt an evaluation within 12 months of acquiring their Associate membership. Dog teams who do not satisfactorily complete the chosen evaluation on two occasions will not be permitted to attempt the evaluation again without further review by the Training Director and Co-Trainer.

Associate members will produce their training logs prior to their scheduled evaluation day illustrating previous training under a variety of conditions. These logs should reflect training for the profile in which they plan to be evaluated.

Individual Search Profiles	Disaster Search
Wilderness/Urban LIVE FIND	(a) Obedience
(a) Obedience	(b) Agility
(b) Agility	(c) Live Find
(c) Area Search	(d) Human Remains Detection
(d) Building Search	**Human Remains Detection**
Tracking	a) Same obedience and agility
a) Same obedience and agility	tests as in Live Find
tests as in Live Find	

Wilderness/Urban LIVE FIND- <u>Introduction</u>

The use of dogs to locate evidence or persons who are lost or missing in rural and urban areas is of great value.
Wilderness search is very tiring and both dog and handler must be in good physical and mentally shape to permit them to work over long periods and over very rough terrain.

Urban search, with a wide range of terrain from river valleys to city streets and buildings, is not without its challenges. Dogs and handlers have to deal with a multitude of distractions and potential dangers such as persons, loose dogs or vehicles in the search area.

(a) <u>Obedience</u>

Off leash, the dog team will be asked to demonstrate an obedience pattern, which will include the following exercises, not in any particular order -

- the dog will heel at a walk, run, slow and drop in motion with dog returning to heel position on command by handler. The dog must remain by the handler's side.
- the dog will perform sit & down signals from approximately 9 meters away. Both voice and hand signals will be permitted.
- the dog will be placed in a sit position with handler approximately 9 meters away

will perform a stop on recall (sit/down/stand).

- Out of sight stay - the dog will be placed into an open truck box; the handler will leave the dog and go out of sight for five minutes.

- ❖ The evaluators will be looking for the control of the dog by the handler while it is off leash, and dog's attentiveness to its handler and quickness to respond to commands. There will no excessive commanding permitted by the handler either verbally or signaling. The out-of-sight stay will demonstrate the dog's confidence level while away from its handler.
- ❖ If only one portion is deemed a failure, then that exercise is repeated at that time and if not passed, a retest of that exercise will be done in two weeks. Only the failed exercise will be retested. All Associate dog teams must pass all of their obedience evaluation before proceeding to the area search test.
- ❖ Each component is given a pass or fail grade. The dog and handler team must receive a pass for all obedience components to move forward to the agility testing.

(b) Agility

The dog will perform the following agility exercises off leash and in a controlled manner by its handler.
The equipment used may be man-made or objects in the environment that may replicate the agility testing criteria.

- the dog will jump over three high jump (not to exceed the dogs height at the withers).
- the dog will negotiate a plank approximately1.2 m off the ground, walk the- plank of 3 meter length, then jump onto a platform and stay there for a count of 5 seconds; then jump onto the ground.
- The evaluators will be observing the dog's physical performance and its attentiveness to its handler's commands.

Each component is given a pass or fail grade. The dog and handler team must receive a pass for all the agility components to move forward to the search profile evaluation.

For Agility and Obedience it is a pass or fail grade.

(c) Area Search

Handlers
- Handler must be in full ready SAR gear suitable for the environment.
- Handlers must identify to evaluators how their dog will alert on both clues and hiders.
- Handlers must identify to evaluators how they will work each search segment. They must also explain when and why changes may be needed during the evaluation.
- Handlers will be briefed on their search segments, just as during a real search.
- Handlers will be expected to document the briefing.
- Handlers will be expected to record find of clues or subjects.

▪ Handlers are expected to radio in GPS locations of any finds to evaluators.
▪ Handlers will be expected to fill out search reports at the end of their evaluation.

Dogs
- Dogs must have on their search gear suitable for the environment of the test.
- Dogs should be in good physical condition.
- Dogs will be required to give their trained alert, on both clues and subjects as identified by their handler.
- The only acceptable alert is the stay and bark (stand, down or sit) alert.

Test Area
- The test area should consist of approximately **300 x 300 meters** of a mixture of bush, field and an urban type setting. (Buildings, vehicles, people).
- The search areas will typically be divided into two areas, i.e. urban alley and bush. Urban alley will be approximately **two city blocks** in length.

Subjects
- There may be up to **2 subjects** hidden.
- Subject/s will be hidden 20 minutes prior to testing.
- Each subject/s will be directed by the evaluator to be in the prone or sitting position. The subject/s will be given direction on whether or not to make verbal contact with the dog.

Evidence/clues
- There may be from 1-3 pieces of evidence hidden.
- Evidence will be of various sizes and materials.
- Evidence will be placed in search areas no less than 24 hours prior to testing.
- Evidence may be placed on the ground or no higher than 0.6 meters off the ground.

Evaluators
- Two evaluators are required for the area search test.
- Both evaluators must be a SARDAA Trainer, or an Active member accredited in the profile being tested and/or be designated by the Training Director.
- Evaluators are to follow the dog team on their search evaluation to effectively evaluate the team.
- The evaluators are given evaluation cards on which to indicate the dog team performance.
- Both evaluators must know ahead of time where clues and subjects are hidden.

Evaluation time
- Since conditions may vary from one search to the next, depending on wind, weather, terrain, the minimum required time for this evaluation is one hour with a maximum of two hours for completion.
- The dog and handler team may take breaks as required.

Evaluation System
- The dog team is evaluated on each aspect on the marking card.
- Assessment categories range from 1-5, with 1 being unacceptable to 5 being excellent.
- For missed subjects or evidence, letters will be used with explanation of what each letter stand for.
- It may be suggested that if handlers perform poorly by receiving marks of 3 or below for all aspects of the search process that they not be moved up by the evaluators.
- Handlers who do not receive sufficient evaluation marks are encouraged to reevaluate at a later date.
- Only one re-attempt is allowed.

(d) Building Search

- The dog team will search a building approximately 800 – 2400 sq. meters in size, for two subjects - one hidden from view at ground level and one hidden approximately 2- 3 meters above ground level.
- Subjects will be hidden 20 minutes prior to testing
- The dog will give a trained and recognizable alert upon locating each subject as indicated by the handler to the evaluators prior to testing. The bark alert is the preferred alert for this profile.

The dog should show ease of working in a building and be able to source as close as possible to the hidden subjects. Handlers will clearly outline to the evaluators their search strategy. Evaluators will be looking for how well the handler works the search area and how they interpret their dog's actions.

Evaluators
- Two evaluators are required for the building search test.
- Both evaluators must be a SARDAA Trainer, or an Active member accredited in the profile being tested and/or be designated by the Training Director.
- Evaluators are to follow the dog team on their search evaluation to effectively evaluate the team.
- The evaluators are given evaluation cards on which to indicate the dog team performance.
- Both evaluators must know ahead of time where subjects are hidden.

Evaluation time
- The maximum time for this evaluation is 20 minutes.

Evaluation System
- The dog team is evaluated on each aspect on the marking card.

- Assessment categories range from 1-5, with 1 being unacceptable to 5 being excellent.
- For missed subjects or clues, letters will be used with explanation of what each letter stand for.
- It may be suggested that if handlers perform poorly by receiving marks of 3 or below for all aspects of the search process, that they be not moved up by the evaluators.
- Handlers who do not receive sufficient evaluation marks are encouraged to reevaluate at a later date. Only 1 reattempt is allowed.

e) Tracking (Optional)

Tracking (on line)

- The dog team will be asked to successfully work a 1-2 km unknown and unmarked track approximately 1-2 hours old (depending on weather conditions).
- The track will be laid by one subject in a wilderness/urban environment. The track will include:
  - three road crossings
  - three scent related articles
  - one dead end (not over 15 meters in length)
  - two cross tracks (human)
  - approximately 20 meters on low scent area (dirt, gravel, pavement)
  - track will run approximately 1/2 in a urban environment and 1/2 in a wilderness environment
  - one subject at end.
- The handler will inform to the evaluator/s how the dog will indicate the articles left on the track prior to the testing (i.e., down, bark).

Evaluators
- Both evaluators must be a SARDAA Trainer, or an Active member accredited in the profile being tested and/or be designated by the Training Director.
- Evaluators are to follow the dog/handler team on their search evaluation to effectively evaluate the team.
- The evaluators are given evaluation cards on which to indicate the dog / handlers performance.
- Both evaluators must know ahead of time where the track is located, where clues are deposited and where the subject is waiting.
- The Evaluators will be looking at the physical stamina of the dog team, and for how well the handler works with their dog on the track (i.e., line handling, reading of dog).

Evaluation time
- Due to the possibility of environmental conditions changing the scent left on the track, there is no maximum time limit for this profile.

- If at any time the dog quits working the scent or is distracted and cannot be refocused the test may be called. This decision is left up to both evaluators.

Evaluation System
- The dog team is evaluated on each aspect on the marking card.
- Assessment categories range from 1-5, with 1 being unacceptable to 5 being excellent.
- For missed subjects or clues, letters will be used with explanation of what each letter stand for.
- It may be suggested that if handlers perform poorly by receiving marks of 3 or below for all aspects of the search process that they not be moved up by the evaluators.
- Handlers who do not receive sufficient evaluation marks are encouraged to reevaluate at a later date.
- Only one re-attempt is allowed.

Disaster Search
Introduction

There is significant risk involved in Disaster SAR for the handler and their dog.

The term "Disaster Dog" refers to dogs trained to locate persons who are trapped under various types of debris that may have been caused by tornados, earthquakes, explosion, bomb, etc. As lives hang in the balance and are measured in minutes, not hours, the use of trained dogs may greatly reduce the loss of lives.

There are two types of dogs utilized for disaster work, the Live Find Search Dog and the Recovery (HRD) Dog.

For both Live Find and Recovery testing –

(a) <u>Obedience</u>

The dog/handler will be asked to demonstrate an obedience pattern, which will include the following exercises, not in any particular order.

Heel off leash
- While using hand signals only, the dog team will heel at walk with the changes of pace of a slow and a fast with a sit at halts. The dog must remain by the handler's side.

Stay
- On leash, the dog will allow a person, other than its handler, to lift it up onto a surface of a table (not more than one meter high) or into the back of a truck. This person will stay by the dog. The handler will remain out of sight for five minutes. The dog will calmly remain in place until the handler returns.

Emergency Stop off leash
- With the dog sitting at heel position, the dog will be given a send away command.
- The handler will, using command and /or signals, stop the dog while the dog is in motion and at least 7 meters away from the handler.
- The dog will stop and stay in any of the following positions - down, sit or stand.
- The handler will then give an alternate command and/or signal for the dog to come. When the dog is half way back to the handler, the handler will command and or signal the dog to stop.
- After a completed stop at the midway point, the handler will recall the dog, using command and or signal to a front or heel position.
- The dog may not move more than one body length after the stop command is given each time.

On every disaster site, there will be a multitude of distractions and the dog must respond to handler's commands and or signals immediately.
Evaluators will be observing how well the dogs respond to the voice and or signals given during these exercises.

- The exercises are to be performed without more than two extra commands and/or signals.
- Each component is given a pass or fail grade.
- The dog and handler team must receive a pass for all the obedience components to move forward to the agility and search profile evaluation.

(b) Agility

The equipment used may be man-made or objects in the environment that may replicate the agility testing criteria.

The dog will demonstrate the following agility exercises off leash in a controlled fashion:
- Negotiate a dark narrow tunnel, approximately 3 meters in length, with at least one turn; one end of the tunnel may be partial covered.
- Climb a flat rung ladder, at a approximately 45 degree angle, up to a plank, approximately 3 meters in length, jump onto a platform, and perform a stay of five seconds
- Negotiate from one barrel top to the next, using five different size barrels and or spools or similar objects.
- Evaluators will be observing how well the dogs respond to the voice and or signals given during these exercises.
- The exercises are to be performed without more than two extra commands and/or signals.
- Each component is given a pass or fail grade.
- The dog and handler team must receive a pass for all the agility components to move forward to the search profile evaluation.

Alert
The only acceptable alert in disaster search is the bark alert. The dog must have a sustainable bark alert to tell the handler where the subject is hidden.

(c) Disaster Search - Live Find

- There shall be **two** separate rubble sites for this evaluation. Totaling 800 sq. meters.
- Each site will contain contamination with distractions that may include: workers, food, dead animal, clothing articles, and human remains.

Site #1) off leash, the dog team will search a rubble site for a **one** hidden subject and will perform a bark alert upon locating where the subject is hidden.

Site #2) off leash, the dog team will search a rubble site for **one or two** hidden subjects and perform a bark alert upon locating each of the subjects.

- Persons acting as subjects shall be placed 15 to 20 minutes prior to testing.

- They will be in inaccessible locations to the dog team.
- Hidden subjects will remain buried and silent until instructed otherwise by an evaluator.

Time Limit: Each dog team will be given **20 minutes** on each site to locate the subjects.

- The handlers must inform the evaluator of their search strategy and of what type of alert the dog will perform.
- Evaluators will be looking for control and quality of alert from the dog. Excessive attention to, or alert on, the distractions placed in the rubble will result in failure of the test.
- all placed subjects must be alerted on by the dog and called by the handler
- A called dog alert by the handler on a negative area, negative meaning no subject, will be deemed a false alert. Only one called false alert is allowed.
- On completion of their search sites, handlers must produce a search report with hand drawn maps indicating the location of the alerts.

(d) Disaster Search – Recovery (HRD)

Evaluation Area
- The total rubble area will be up to **300 sq. meters**
- The total area shall be divided into two separate rubble sites for this evaluation.
- Each site will contain contamination with distractions that may include: workers, food, dead animal or clothing articles.

Site #1) off leash, the dog team will search a rubble site for a **one** hidden scent source and will perform a bark alert upon locating where the source is hidden.

Site #2) off leash, the dog team will search a rubble site for **one to two** hidden scent sources and perform a bark alert upon locating each of the sources.

All sources must be located and alerted on by the dog.

Sources
- Human Remains shall be **placed 15 - 20 minutes** prior to testing.
- They will be in inaccessible locations to the dog team.
- Scent sources shall be no smaller than 0.127 meters (5 inches) and no larger than 0.254 meters (10 inches).
- Scent sources may be a mixture of placenta, blood, bone, teeth or hair.
- Scent sources are to be contained in vessels of clothing or scent tubes.

Time Limit: Each dog team will be given **20 minutes** on each site to locate the scent sources.

- The handlers must inform the evaluator of their search strategy and of what type of

alert the dog will perform.
- Evaluators will be looking for control and quality of alert from the dog. Excessive attention to, or alert on, the distractions placed in the rubble will result in failure of the test.
- A called alert by the handler on a negative area (negative meaning no scent source), will be deemed a false alert.
- On completion of their search sites, handlers must produce a search report with hand drawn maps indicating the location of the alerts.

Disaster Live Find and Recovery (HRD)
Evaluators
- Two evaluators are required for the area search test.
- Both evaluators must be a SARDAA Trainer, or an Active member accredited in the profile being tested and/or be designated by the Training Director.
- Evaluators are to follow the dog team on their search evaluation to effectively evaluate the team.
- The evaluators are given evaluation cards on which to indicate the dog team performance.
- Both evaluators must know ahead of time where clues and subjects are hidden.

Evaluation Time
- A maximum of 20 minutes for completion of each search site.

Evaluation System
- The dog team is evaluated on each aspect on the marking card.
- Assessment categories range from 1-5, with 1 being unacceptable to 5 being excellent.
- For missed subjects or clues, letters will be used with explanation of what each letter stand for.
- It may be suggested that if handlers perform poorly by receiving marks of 3 or below for all aspects of the search process that they not be moved up by the evaluators.
- Handlers who do not receive sufficient evaluation marks are encouraged to reevaluate at a later date.
- Only one re-attempt is allowed.

Associate Membership
Human Remains Detection (HRD) Search

Introduction
As in the case of many other SAR disciplines, HRD search dogs provide an additional resource to the search and recovery effort.
The HRD dog teams will be evaluated in obedience and agility using the same testing requirements as stated in the Associate level Wilderness/Urban Live Find.

HRD - Area Search
Human Remains Detection

- Dogs will be required to give their fully trained alert (primary i.e. sit/down/stand and secondary, i.e. bark), on all scent sources located. The dog must alert on at least two sources per positive area.
- Prior to the evaluation the handler will describe the dog's alert to the evaluators. This alert may be a sit or down or stand but must also include the bark.
- Handlers are required to submit a detailed search report at the end of the evaluation.

Evaluation Area
- There will be **four** separate evaluation areas that may consist of a mixture of bush, field and an urban setting (buildings, and vehicles).
- The evaluators will determine the order in which the test areas will be searched.
- The team must complete and call each area with the number of finds, or as a negative area as clear, before moving on to the next area.
- Each of the evaluation areas should be a **minimum of 12 meters by 12 meters up to a maximum of 18 meters by 18 meters.**
- In three of the areas, **four** scent sources of human remains related sources shall be placed on the ground, open and exposed, or covered by not more than 1 meter of debris, or hanging not more than 2 meters off the ground.
- One area shall be a negative area consisting of no purposely-placed scent sources.
- The dog must alert **on 2 scent sources per positive search area**.

Scent Sources
- Human remains related sources. Scent sources may be dried placenta, blood, bone, teeth, hair or any combination of human remains.
- Scent sources shall be no smaller than 1 cm (1 inch) and no larger than 12 cm (5 inches).
- Depending on conditions of the evaluation and type of scent source, scent sources will be placed in each area 30 to 60 minutes prior to testing.

Distractions
- Scent distractions may be placed in any or all of the four areas.

- Distractions of animal remains and or clothing must be placed a minimum of 30 to 60 minutes prior to testing.
- Other distractions may be workers and or other dogs working nearby.
- It is to be taken into consideration that the evaluation areas may already hold scent distractions.
-

Evaluators
- Two evaluators are required for the area search test.
- Both evaluators must be a SARDAA Trainer, or an Active member accredited in the profile being tested and/or be designated by the Training Director.
- Evaluators are to follow the dog team on their search evaluation to effectively evaluate the team.
- The evaluators are given evaluation cards on which to indicate the dog team performance.
- Both evaluators must know ahead of time where clues and subjects are hidden.

Evaluation time
- Since conditions may vary from one search to the next, depending on wind, weather, terrain, a maximum of **one and one half hours** for completion.
- The dog and handler team may take breaks as required.

Evaluation System
- The dog team is evaluated on each aspect on the marking card.
- Assessment categories range from 1-5, with 1 being unacceptable to 5 being excellent.
- For missed subjects or clues, letters will be used with explanation of what each letter stand for.
- It may be suggested that if handlers perform poorly by receiving marks of 3 or below for all aspects of the search process that they not be moved up by the evaluators.
- Handlers who do not receive sufficient evaluation marks are encouraged to reevaluate at a later date. Only one re-attempt is allowed.

Notes:
- The dog must alert **on 2 scent sources per positive search area**.
- It is deemed a failure if –
  - the dog team receives over 50% of the marks of 3 or below
  - the dog to false alerts on any scent distractions
  - The dog team exceeds the time limit
  - the dog team stands down and cannot complete the test
  - the dog consumes or physically destroys any scent source
  - the dog locates and leaves or ignores a scent source, and does not go back.

Active Membership

Details of Membership

1) Admission to this category of membership is by vote of the current Active Members (Dog Handlers and Field Techs) and is contingent upon:
   a) the dog/handler team have achieved a level of training as prescribed by SARDAA under their Training Standards and Personnel Handbook, and have successfully passed a minimum of one search profile evaluation (Wilderness/Urban Live Find, Tracking, Disaster, HRD) as described in the SARDAA Standards under Associate Membership.
   b) all members must complete the mandatory courses, have objectives from Personnel Handbook signed off by a qualified trainer and pass the Field Tech Evaluation before becoming an Active member.
   c) members who have documented and proven equivalent training from other outside sources maybe considered for Active membership.
   d) having received a favorable majority vote (2/3 of the votes cast) by the current Active Membership.

2) In order to be placed on the call out list for any of the search profiles an Active member must submit **within 6 months** to an external evaluation involving an outside agency in the applicable search profile.

3) Active members may attend SARDAA funded courses. See optional courses in the Personnel Handbook.

4) Active members are expected to be continuously participating in training and, to participate in any and all activities of the Association (training sessions, meetings, fund raising activities etc.)

5) Active Members may start to train in the Water Search Profile, as laid out in the Boat documents.

6) Active Members may start to train in the Disaster Profile, as laid out in the Disaster documents.

7) May attend any SARDAA promotional events (tradeshows, Preventive SAR education) with their dog.

8) Active members receive equipment as per the Equipment Distribution Schedule.

9) Active members must keep accurate hard copy training logs and résumés, and submit these for review by the Training Director or designate, upon request.

10) Active members must keep up-to-date training logs in the D4H database.

11) Active members must attend and document 20 training sessions with other SARDAA team members during the course of a year in order to remain on the Call-Out list. This attendance level must be sustained from year to year.

12) Active members must attend two, all-day sessions per year if they are offered.

13) Active members normally expect to begin training another dog and special privileges will be given to that handler and their young dog.

14) It is suggested that Active members from locations outside the Edmonton surrounding area attend regularly scheduled practice sessions in Edmonton when possible.

15) Active members are expected to keep current first aid qualification to the St. John's Ambulance Standard level (with CPR level A) or other recognized organization equivalent.

Active - Evaluation Criteria

In each of our profiles as listed below, accreditation evaluations for each dog/handler team will be conducted every other year. Records will be kept by the SARDAA secretary as to which teams require evaluation in any given year.

SEARCH PROFILES (same as Associate)

1) Wilderness/Urban LIVE FIND 2) Tracking	3) Disaster Search 4) Human Remains Detection 5) Water Search

General Criteria for all Active level profiles.

Handlers:
- Handlers must have obtained the mandatory courses needed for the profile they are testing in.
- Handler must be in full ready SAR gear suitable for the environment of the evaluation.
- Handlers must be in good physical condition.
- Handlers must identify to Evaluators how their dog will alert on both evidence and hiders.
- Handlers must identify to Evaluators how they will work each search segment. They must also explain when and why changes may be needed during the evaluation.
- Handlers will be briefed on their search segments, just as during a real search. They will be expected to document the briefing as well as their search segments. When evidence or hiders are found, they will radio in locations and document. Handlers will be expected to fill out search reports at the end of their evaluation.

Dogs:
- Dogs must have on their search gear suitable for the environment of the evaluation.
- Dogs should be in good physical condition

1. Wilderness/Urban – Live Find

The live find and the evidence evaluations will be run consecutively (i.e. separately, one after the other).
 Dogs will be required to give their trained bark alert, on both evidence and hiders as identified by their handler.

Evaluation Area
- The evaluation area will be divided into **two** separate areas with each performance evaluated individually.
- Live find area consists of field and woods up to **300 x 300 meters**.
- Evidence search area consists of an urban area (alleys, building) up to **100 meters**.

Subjects
- There will be **one** subject hidden in the search area.
- Subjects will be hidden approximately one half hour prior to testing.
- The subject will be directed by the evaluator to be in the prone or sitting position and directed on whether or not to make verbal or physical contact with the dog.

Evidence
- There will be **4 evidence items** (i.e., cellphone, shotgun shells, lighter, small wallet) placed in the search area. Two of the placed evidence items must be located to constitute a pass.
- The evidence will be placed in the search areas no less than 24 hours prior to testing.
- The evidence may be placed on the ground or no higher than one meter above ground.

Evaluators
- Two evaluators are required for the area search test.
- One evaluator must be a SARDAA Trainer, or designated by the Training Director.
- One evaluator must be a non-SARDAA member.
- The second Evaluator may be a recognized SAR Manager or Agency personnel (e.g., police)
- Evaluators are to follow the dog team on their search evaluation to effectively evaluate the team.
- The evaluators are given evaluation cards on which to indicate the dog team performance.
- Both evaluators must be aware of the location of clues and subject.

Evaluation Time
- Since conditions may vary from one search to the next, depending on wind, weather, terrain, the maximum allowable time for both live find and the evidence

search evaluations is **two hours**.
- At the discretion of the evaluator, during adverse conditions, the dog and handler may be allowed more time to search.

Evaluation System
- The dog team is evaluated on each aspect on the marking card.
- Assessment categories range from 1-5, with 1 being unacceptable to 5 being excellent.
- For missed subjects or clues, letters will be used with explanation of what each letter stand for.
- It may be suggested that if handlers perform poorly by receiving marks of 3 or below for all aspects of the search process that they not be moved up by the evaluators.
- Handlers who do not receive sufficient evaluation marks are encouraged to reevaluate at a later date.
- Only one re-attempt is allowed.

Notes:
- The team must complete and call the number of finds before moving on to the next area.
- It is deemed a failure for a dog to false alert on any scent distractions.
  It is deemed a failure if the dog leaves the search area and cannot be called back to work.
- It is deemed a failure if dog locates and leaves or ignores placed evidence or the subject and does not go back.

2) Wilderness/Urban - Tracking

Tracking (on line)

1) The dog/handler team will successfully complete and locate the track layer at the end of the track plus at least one scent related article placed on the track. The track will be laid by one person in a wilderness/urban environment. The track will include:
- 2 to 3 km, unknown and unmarked track
- Aged 2 to 3 hours
- three to five road crossings
- two scent related articles
- two dead ends (not over 15 meters in length)
- approximately 20 meters in a heavily contaminated area (i.e. playground)
- approximately 20 meters on low scent area (i.e. dirt, gravel, pavement)
- track will run approximately half in a urban environment and half in a wilderness environment
- track layer at end of the track.

The handler will inform the evaluator/s how the dog will indicate the articles and person prior to the testing (sit/down/bark).

Evaluators
- Two evaluators are required for the area search test.
- One evaluator must be a SARDAA Trainer, or designated by the Training Director.
- One evaluator must be a non- SARDAA member.
- The second Evaluator may be a recognized SAR Manager or Agency personnel (e.g., police)
- Evaluators are to follow the dog team on their search evaluation to effectively evaluate the team.
- The evaluators are given evaluation cards on which to indicate the dog team performance.
- Both evaluators must know ahead of time where clues and subjects are hidden.
- Evaluator/s will be looking at the physical stamina of the dog/team and for how well the handler works with their dog on the track i.e., line handling, reading of dog.

Evaluation Time
- Since conditions may vary from one search to the next, depending on wind, weather, terrain, there is no maximum time limit.

Evaluation System
- The dog team is evaluated on each aspect on the marking card.
- Assessment categories range from 1-5, with 1 being unacceptable to 5 being excellent.
- For missed subjects or clues, letters will be used with explanation of what each letter stand for.
- It may be suggested that if handlers perform poorly by receiving marks of 3 or below for all aspects of the search process that they not be moved up by the evaluators.
- Handlers who do not receive sufficient evaluation marks are encouraged to reevaluate at a later date.
- Only one re-attempt is allowed.

Notes:
- It is deemed a failure if the dog leaves the track on distraction and cannot be called back to work.
- It is deemed a failure if dog locates and leaves or ignores placed evidence.

3) Disaster Search

Dog teams testing in the Disaster Search profile may be required to repeat the Associate obedience testing component upon request from the Training Director or Evaluator. This will apply when a dog team has successfully passed the Associate obedience testing requirements for disaster but more than 6 months has lapsed prior to Disaster Search test. In such instances the dog team will be subject to repeat the Associate level obedience test prior to the search test.

(a) Disaster – Live Person

Evaluation Area
- The total area size for the disaster evaluation should be 600 up 900 sq. meters.
- The area should consist of varied debris.
- Each evaluation area is to be divided up into three separate areas.
- Each separate area's performance will be evaluated.

Subjects
- There may be up to two subjects hidden in any two of the search areas at one time.
- Subjects will be hidden 20 minutes prior to testing.
- Each subject will be directed by the evaluator on whether to make contact with the dog team or not.
- One search area shall consist of no subjects and deemed a negative area.

Distractions
- Contaminates of clothing type articles, food, animal distractions and human remains may be placed in the search areas.
- There may also be site workers and machinery to create a simulation of a real search.
- All distractions will be placed 30 minutes to 24 hours prior to testing.

Evaluators
- Two evaluators are required for the area search test.
- One evaluator must be a SARDAA Trainer, or designated by the Training Director.
- One evaluator must be a non- SARDAA member.
- The second Evaluator must be a recognized SAR Manager or Agency personnel (e.g., police)
- Evaluators are to follow the dog team on their search evaluation to effectively evaluate the team.
- The evaluators are given evaluation cards on which to indicate the dog team's performance.
- Both evaluators must know ahead of time where subjects and distractions are hidden.

- The evaluators will determine the order in which the test areas will be searched.

Evaluation Time
- For each search segment, dog teams will be given 20 minutes to complete.
- At the discretion of the evaluator, during adverse conditions, the dog and handler may be allowed more time to search.
- Reasonable time breaks may be permitted in-between search areas.

Evaluation System
- The dog team is evaluated on each aspect on the marking card.
- Assessment categories range from 1-5, with 1 being unacceptable to 5 being excellent.
- For missed subjects or clues, letters will be used with explanation of what each letter stand for.
- It may be suggested that if handlers perform poorly by receiving marks of 3 or below for all aspects of the search process that they not be moved up by the evaluators.
- Handlers who do not receive sufficient evaluation marks are encouraged to reevaluate at a later date. Only one re-attempt is allowed.

Notes:
- The dog must alert on all placed subjects per search area.
- The evaluators will determine the order in which the test areas will be searched.
- The team must complete one area before moving on to the next.
- The team must complete and call each area with the number of finds or as a negative area as clear before moving on to the next area.
- It is deemed a failure for a dog to false alert on any scent distractions.
- It is deemed a failure if the dog leaves the search area and cannot be called back to work.
- It is deemed a failure if dog locates and leaves or ignores a scent source and does not go back.

(b) Disaster – Human Remains Recovery

Evaluation Area
- There will be three evaluation areas of varied debris.
- Each of the evaluation areas should be a minimum of 18 meters by 18 meters up to a maximum of 30 meters by 30 meters.
- In the positive areas, two human remains scent sources shall be placed, open and exposed, or covered by not more than one half meter of debris.
- One area shall be a negative area consisting of no purposely-placed scent sources.
- The team must complete one area before moving on to the next. The team must call each area as completed.

Scent Sources
- There will be two HRD scent sources hidden in the search areas.
- Scent sources shall be no smaller than 0.127 m (5 inches) and no larger than 0.254 m (10 inches).
- Scent sources may be a dried placenta, blood, bone, teeth, hair or any combination of human remains. Scent sources are to be contained in vessels of clothing or scent tubes.
- Depending on conditions of the evaluation and type of scent source, scent sources will be placed in each area 15 to 60 minutes prior to testing.

Distractions
- Placed in the search areas will be contaminates of clothing type articles, food and animal and a live subject.
- There may also be site workers and machinery to create the simulation of a real search.
- All distractions will be placed 15 minutes to 24 hours prior to testing.

Evaluators
- Two evaluators are required for the area search test.
- One evaluator must be a SARDAA Trainer, or designated by the Training Director.
- One evaluator must be a non-SARDAA member.
- The second Evaluator may be a recognized SAR Manager or Agency personnel (e.g., police)
- Evaluators are to follow the dog team on their search evaluation to effectively evaluate the team.
- The evaluators are given evaluation cards on which to indicate the dog team's performance.
- Both evaluators must know ahead of time where scent sources and distractions are hidden.
- The evaluators will determine the order in which the test areas will be searched.

Evaluation Time
- For each search segment, dog teams will be given 20 minutes to complete.
- At the discretion of the evaluator, during adverse conditions, the dog and handler may be allowed more time to search.
- Reasonable time breaks may be permitted in-between search areas.

Evaluation System
- The dog team is evaluated on each aspect on the marking card.
- Assessment categories range from 1-5, with 1 being unacceptable to 5 being excellent.
- For missed subjects or clues, letters will be used with explanation of what each letter stand for.

- It may be suggested that if handlers perform poorly by receiving marks of 3 or below for all aspects of the search process that they not be moved up by the evaluators.
- Handlers who do not receive sufficient evaluation marks are encouraged to reevaluate at a later date. Only one re-attempt is allowed.

Notes:
- The dog must alert on both scent sources per search area.
- The team must complete and call each area with the number of finds or as a negative area as clear before moving on to the next area.
- Called false alerts on a negative area, negative meaning no source is present, results in failure.
- It is deemed a failure for a dog to false alert on any scent distractions.
  It is deemed a failure if dog consumes or physically destroys any scent source.
- It is deemed a failure if dog locates and leaves or ignores a scent source and does not go back.
- It is deemed a failure call a false alert in a negative search area.

4) Human Remains Detection

Human Remains Detection - Area Search

Dogs will be required to give their trained alert (primary and secondary), on all scent sources located. The handler will tell the evaluators what the dog's trained alert is, prior to the beginning of the test.
Handlers are required to submit a detailed search report at the end of the evaluation.

Evaluation Area
- There will be **three** evaluation areas that may consist of a mixture of bush, field and an urban setting (rubble, buildings, and vehicles).
- The evaluators will determine the order in which the test areas will be searched.
- The team must complete and call each area with the number of finds, or if a negative area, as clear before moving on to the next area.
- Each of the evaluation areas should be a minimum of **18 x 18 meters up to a maximum of 30 x 30 meters.**
- **Four scent sources** of human remains material will be placed in each of the two areas.
- The scent sources shall be placed on the ground, open and exposed, or covered by not more than one meter of debris, or hanging not more than two meters off the ground or lightly hidden from sight.
- One area shall be a negative area consisting of no purposely-placed scent sources.

Scent Sources
- All scent sources will be of human remains related material.

- Scent sources shall be no smaller than 1 cm (1 inch) and no larger than 12 cm (5 inches)
- Scent sources may be a dried placenta, blood, bone, teeth, hair or any combination of human remains.
- Human fluid may be placed on items such as a knife, clothing, or just placed in the environment such as on a rock or on a tree.
- Depending on conditions of the evaluation and type of scent source, scent sources will be placed in each area 30 to 60 minutes prior to testing.

Distractions
- Scent distractions may be placed in any or all of the four areas.
- Distractions of animal remains and or clothing must be placed a minimum of 30 to 60 minutes prior to testing.
- Other distractions may be workers and or other dogs working nearby.
- It is to be taken into consideration that the evaluation areas may already hold scent distractions.

Evaluators
- Two evaluators are required for the evaluation.
- One evaluator must be a SARDAA Trainer, or designated by the Training Director.
- The second Evaluator may be a recognized SAR Manager or Police Agency personnel.
- One evaluator must be a non-SARDAA member.
- Evaluators are to follow the dog team on their search evaluation to effectively evaluate the team.
- The Evaluators are given evaluation cards on which to indicate the dog team's performance.
- Both Evaluators must know ahead of time where scent sources and distractions are located.

Evaluation Time
- Total time for this evaluation is **2 hours**. This is for all search segments.
- A reasonable time for breaks may be permitted in between search areas.

Evaluation System:
The Team is evaluated on each aspect on the assessment card. *See HRD Marking Card.* Assessment categories range from 1-5 with 1 being unacceptable to 5 being excellent. For missed subjects, clues or other, letters will be used with explanation of what each letter stands for. A combination of letters and numbers may be used.

If the dog team performs poorly by receiving more than 3 marks of 3 or below for any aspects of the search process they will not be passed by the evaluators.
Handlers who do not receive sufficient evaluation marks are encouraged to reevaluate at a later date.

- Only one re-attempt is allowed.

Notes:
- The dog must alert on a minimum of **2 scent sources** per search area.
- The evaluators will determine the order in which the test areas will be searched.
- The team must complete one area before moving on to the next.
- The team must complete and call each area with the number of finds or as a negative area as clear before moving on to the next area.
- It is deemed a failure for a dog to false alert on any scent distractions.
  It is deemed a failure if dog consumes or physically destroys any scent source.
- It is deemed a failure if dog locates and leaves or ignores a scent source and does not go back.

5) Water Search - Introduction

Since Human Remains Detection corresponds with water searching, Water Search dogs must be trained and accredited in the HRD element first.
Water search dogs have been utilized to locate drowned persons on water such as lakes, rivers or ponds with good success. The water search dog does not always locate the exact spot of the drowned person; they may give a location of area where the drowned person is.

All handlers must at all times while in the boat wear an approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD). The boat operator must be instructed on how to conduct a grid pattern into the wind, giving the best advantage to the dog to pick up scent. Upon the dog alerting on a scent source, a second dog is dispatched to honor the alert. All indications are documented to aid the SAR team's search strategy.

Both components of the Water Search profile, Shoreline Search and Open water Search, must be passed in order to receive certification in this profile.

General set up information

- Scent sources will be set out no less than one hour prior to the dog team starting the evaluation. The source may be suspended or floated in an appropriate container. A weight of sufficient size shall be used to prevent drift or marine life interference. The source may be tethered to a corner or other boundary marker using weighted line or cable.
- Due to difficulties in setting up tests of this magnitude, search areas may be used for multiple testing participants. The minimum time between each of the tests shall be 30 minutes. The scent source will not be moved.
- The handler shall have no knowledge of the location of the scent sources prior to the evaluation.
- An incorrect location call by the handler will be deemed a failure.
- The body of water used for testing shall be no less than 10 acres of still water for both boat and shoreline testing.
- It will be taken into consideration that the dog team is reliant on the boat operator to follow instructions with regard to keeping their dog in the scent.
- At the discretion of the evaluator the evaluation may be postponed or cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

(a) Water Search – Shoreline Search

The dog and handler will demonstrate the ability to locate an unknown scent source that is near the shoreline.

- The dog and handler shall perform a 100 meter shoreline search for one scent source.
- For the shoreline component the scent source shall be human remains of

significant amount, for example 1 – 2 placentas.

- For the shoreline search there is no minimum depth, as long as the source is not visual. The maximum depth shall be no more than 2 meters.
- The scent source will be set out approximately 60 minutes prior to the start of the test.
- The source will be set at a distance of approximately three meters from shore and will be positioned up wind from the shore. There will be no minimum depth as long as the source is not visible.
- The dog will give a recognized alert or indication.
- The handler will advise the evaluator how they will conduct the search and articulate how their dog will perform its trained alert or indication.
- The handler may start the search from anywhere within the designated search area.
- The handler will show the evaluator where their dog's trained alert or indication was and the most reasonable location of the source.
- The dog must successfully demonstrate the ability to consistently and readily locate the scent source within a 4 meter area on either side of the location of the scent source.
- GPS units may be used by the handler.
- For safety reasons the handler must show control of the dog along the shoreline.
- The time limit for this test shall be 25 minutes. At the discretion of the evaluator, during adverse conditions, the dog and handler may be allowed more time to search.
- Only one re-attempt is allowed.

The team will pass if the dog alerts as predicted by the handler on the scent source.

Notes:
- Excessive attention to or false alerts on distractions will result in failure.
- The dog leaving the search area or jumping out of the boat will result in failure.
- The dog not working but playing in the water will result in failure.

(b) Water Search – Open Water (boat) Search

The dog and handler will demonstrate the ability to locate an unknown scent source that is in open water.

- The dog and handler shall perform an open water search from a boat in approximately 125 m by 125 meters (1.5 hectares) for a scent source submerged three meters and approximately 30 to 50 meters from shore.
- The scent source shall be human remains of a significant amount, for example 2 – 3 placentas.
- There is no minimum depth, as long as the source is not visual. The maximum depth shall be no more than 3 meters and approximately 30 – 50 meters from shore.

- A trained SARDAA boat operator (who holds a boat operators license) is required for the boat test.
- There shall only be a maximum of three people in the boat during the evaluation: the dog handler, the boat operator and the evaluator. If possible the evaluator may observe from the shoreline. The additional evaluator shall observe from the shoreline.
- For safety reasons all personnel in the boat shall wear a personal flotation device (PFD). The dog must remain in the boat at all times during the open water search portion of the evaluation.
- The handler will identify the location of the scent source to the evaluator based on the dog's indication or alert. The dog may give multiple alerts or indications before the handler is confident enough to state the location.
- The handler may mark the location by using a GPS.
- The handler may have the boat operator mark the area with a buoy.
- This identified location may be shown on a map if a map is available.
- The dog must successfully demonstrate the ability to consistently and readily locate the scent source within a 9-meter radius of the scent source location.
- At the discretion of the evaluator, during adverse conditions, the distance from the scent source to the point of the handler's decision may be increased.
- The time limit for this test shall be one hour.
- At the discretion of the evaluator, during adverse conditions the dog and handler may be allowed more time to search; the evaluation test can be postponed; or the evaluation can be cancelled.

The team will pass if the canine alerts as predicted by the handler on the scent source. Excessive attention to or alert on the animal scent source will result in failure of the test as will false alerts and a dog out of control in the boat.

Evaluators
- Two evaluators are required for the water search test.
- One evaluator must be an SARDAA Trainer, or designated by the Training Director. For boat operations must have a boat license.
- One evaluator must be a non-SARDAA member.
- The second Evaluator may be a recognized SAR Manager or Agency personnel (e.g., police)
- Evaluators may follow the dog team on their shoreline search evaluation or observe from a distance.
- Evaluators may be in the watercraft during the evaluation or may watch from the shoreline.
- The evaluators are given evaluation cards on which to indicate the dog team performance.
- Both evaluators must know ahead of time where scent source and distractions are hidden.

Evaluation Time

- Since conditions may vary from one search to the next, depending on wind, weather, terrain:
  - Maximum required time for the shoreline evaluation is 25 minutes.
  - Maximum time limit for the open water evaluation is 1 hour.
- At the discretion of the evaluator, during adverse conditions, the dog and handler may be allowed more time to search

Evaluation System

- The dog team is evaluated on each aspect on the marking card.
- Assessment categories range from 1-5, with 1 being unacceptable to 5 being excellent.
- For missed scent sources, letters will be used with explanation of what each letter stand for
- It may be suggested that if handlers perform poorly by receiving marks of 3 or below for all aspects of the search process that they not be moved up by the evaluators.
- Handlers who do not receive sufficient evaluation marks are encouraged to reevaluate at a later date. Only one re-attempt is allowed.

Active –Accreditation Membership

- The emergency call-out phone number is **(780) 405-6084**; One of Active Accredited, Administrator or Executive members is designated, on a rotating basis, to respond to callouts 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The person on call will respond, evaluate the call, and if appropriate contact the Active Accredited members to respond to the incident.
- Only those on the Active Accredited dog team or Field Tech list will be deployed on call-outs. No other team member will respond unless called under extraordinary circumstances.
- Active Accredited team members must respond to 50 per cent of eligible search call outs in each calendar year. Failure to do so will result in a membership review by the SARDAA executive.
- Active Accredited members who will be on holiday or otherwise unavailable will inform the executive member on call out dispatch, and note their absence on D4H.

Dog teams only:
- In order to be placed on the call out list for any of the search profiles an Active member must submit **within 6 months** to an external evaluation involving an outside police agency in the applicable search profile.
- Active Accredited dog teams will be re-evaluated in the profile/s for which they are accredited every two years.
- Active Accredited dog teams will be expected to be available for searches in the profiles for which they have accreditation.
- Active Accredited members must not participate on a search, unless accredited by an outside agency and called out by the SARDAA team.

Important Note -
So that SARDAA maintains high standards, on-going training and accreditations ensure that Active dog team members on the Call-Out list maintain their search readiness.

The evaluation process is designed to test the handler on search tactics, clue awareness, understanding of their own and their dog's abilities and performance. The use of SAR dog teams is of little value if the teams fail to maintain their training. The objective of this evaluation is to give the handler an indication of where their strengths and weakness lie.

Active dog team accreditations will be conducted by a SARDAA K9 Evaluator and designated tasking agency search manager or dog handler (i.e. from Edmonton Police Service or another Municipal Police Force, RCMP, National Parks Service, or Office of the Fire Commissioner or Fire Service).

Active Administrator

The role of the SARDAA Administrator includes but not limited to:

- Aid in Receiving calls and dispatch dog teams and field tech for search incidents.
- If requested by a Tasking Agency and deployed by the SARDAA team may act as an aid to the SAR Management at command base only.
- Aid with preceptor duties.
- Takes their directions from the SARDAA Executive.
- Taking part in Active member voting.

The SARDAA Active Administrator may act at times as dispatch of call outs of active members for deployment on searches. As such, it is critical this person has a good working relationship with all these members. Just as important, they will maintain an understanding of each member's strengths and weaknesses. Their involvement with members will maintain they obtain the knowledge about each member and dog.

The SARDAA Active Administrator must have:

- Worked with the SARDAA organization a minimum of five years
- Management and leadership skills
- Public relation skills
- Obtained mandatory courses as specified in the Personnel Handbook
- Obtained any additional courses deemed necessary by the executives
- Attended searches with any SAR organization
- Good understanding of subject profiles
- Good analysis skills
- Excellent map reading skills

This Active Administration position is voted in by having received a favorable majority vote (2/3 of the votes cast) by the current Active Membership.

The SARDAA Active Administrator may receive the same SARDAA privileges and equipment as a field operational Active member with the exception of:

- Any field operational courses that are not relevant to working in a command post.
- Any clothing or equipment that is deemed only necessary to work out in the field beyond command post.

Friend of SARDAA

Details of Membership

- Any new member who applies to join SARDAA and whose interests do not fall under the membership categories of Supporting Associate or Field Tech may join under this category.
- Once the membership application is received and approved by the membership at a general meeting, new members will receive a letter confirming their membership along with a tax-deductible receipt for their fees as well as the quarterly newsletter, *Scent Dog News*. Membership at this level does not include SOPs; Standards documents may be obtained from the web site. Criminal background check is not required for this membership level.
- Any member of SARDAA who is no longer a dog handler or a field tech person but would like to remain a member will be moved to the Friends of SARDAA level upon payment of the appropriate fee.

Life Member

Details of Membership

- Life Membership is an honor bestowed by the membership upon long-standing members of the organization who have made outstanding contributions to the development of the SARDAA.

Equipment Distribution Schedule

The equipment listed below will be distributed upon a member's completion of the requirements at each training level. The equipment chair and secretary will coordinate the distribution of equipment. Equipment is issued in accordance with the following policy –

SARDAA's Equipment Policy – Subject to available funding, SARDAA will purchase specific equipment or repurpose existing equipment that will be issued to members per the following chart. Members will maintain such equipment in good working condition. If such equipment is lost or damaged, the member responsible will notify the equipment Chair as soon as possible. A deposit will be required for a replacement piece of equipment as set out by the executive from time to time. The deposit will be returned to the member when the equipment is eventually returned to SARDAA.

• **Supporting Associate - Dog Handler** • **Field Tech**	- T shirt, crest only - membership card; receipt; decals (4)
• **Associate – Dog Handler, and** **Field Tech following 6-month probation**	- In-training dog vest, if a dog handler - search vest, person
	- radio/batteries/charger
	- soft cover notebook
	- GPS
	- Toque and/or ball cap
• **Active – Dog Handler/Field Tech**	- golf shirt
	- team jacket
	- pant set (2)
	- long sleeved black shirt
	- regular dog vest
	- hoodie, if available
	- metal clipboard
	- Back crest
	- cloth logo crests
	- dog handler/field tech t-shirt
	- Helmet, if involved with disaster dog training
	- trading card for dog
	- specialized clothing (disaster/boat)

Evaluation Marking Sheets

Dog Team Membership

- Supporting Associate
- Associate
- Active

Revised 2018

Supporting Associate Evaluation
(Live find and Human Remains)

Handler:	Dog:	Dog's Age:	Date:

Obedience				
Exercise	**Pass**	**Fail**	**Retry**	**Comments**
Heel on Leash				
Sit Stay 1 min				
Down Stay 1 min				
Recall				

Agility				
Exercise	**Pass**	**Fail**	**Retry**	**Comments**
Three High Jumps				
Tunnel				
Plank				

Transportation				
Exercise	**Pass**	**Fail**	**Retry**	**Comments**
Vehicle Transport				

Article Search				
Exercise	**Pass**	**Fail**	**Retry**	**Comments**
First Article				
Second Article				
Third Article				
Alert				
Out of Area				
Total Time 20 min				

Evaluator: _____

Training Director: _____

Supporting Associate -Evaluation Interpretations

The handler may use voice and or signal commands for all the following exercises.
No toy or treat may be in the handler's hands! Dogs may be rewarded after each exercise is finished.
For further testing breakdown locate document in D4H database.

OBEDIENCE

The dog team must pass all of the obedience exercises in order to move forward.
If only one portion is deemed failure then that exercise is repeated at another time. Not all exercises need to be retested. All Supporting Associate dog teams must pass all of their obedience evaluation before proceeding to the search test

HEEL ON LEASH
Pass: The dog, while on leash, walks calmly at its handler's side while performing various turns, changes of pace and stops.
Failure: if the handler has no control of the dog while performing the heel pattern
Failure: If the handler has to repeat more than twice any command during the movement portion of the exercise.
Failure: if excess force or commands are given by the handler to maintain control.

SIT STAY
Pass: The dog holds a sit position with the handler approximately 20 paces away for 1 minute.
Failure: If the dog breaks position such as stands up, lies down or walks away.
Failure: If the handler has to correct the dog using verbal or physical correction after the time has started.

DOWN STAY
Pass: The dog holds a down position with the handler approximately 20 paces away for 1 minute.
Failure: If the dog breaks position such as stands up, sits up or walks away.
Failure: If the handler has to correct the dog using verbal or physical correction after the time has started.

RECALL
Pass: The dog returns directly to the handler when called.
Failure: if the dog breaks the stay
Failure: if the dog does not come to the handler

AGILITY

All obstacles in the agility portion may be industrial-made or man-made with what is available.

Off leash
3- HIGH JUMPS
Pass: The dog clears all 3 jumps in a row.
Failure: if the dog does not jump without excessive commands. (More than 2 per jump)
Failure: if the dog goes around the jumps even after an extra command.
Failure: if the dog needs to be restarted more than once.
Failure: if the handler loses control of the dog

TUNNEL
Pass: The dog must go through the whole tunnel and come out at the other end.
Failure: if the dog refuses into the tunnel.
Failure: if the dog goes partway through the tunnel and turns around and comes back out the same way it went in more than once.
Failure: If the dog stays in the tunnel

PLANK
Pass: The dog walks the plank comfortably.
Failure: if the dog cannot be coaxed to walk the plank without excessive commands. (More than 2 commands)
Failure: if the dog jumps off more than twice.
Failure: if the dog needs to be restarted more than once.

VEHICLE TRANSPORT

On leash

Pass: For the dog and handler to be able to be transported calmly with other dog teams in a vehicle.
Failure: If the dog/handler team being tested cannot be loaded into the vehicle.
Failure: If the dog shows aggression towards the other dogs or handlers inside the vehicle.
Failure: If the dog shows fear inside the vehicle to a dangerous point that it may bite.
Failure: If the dog shows uncontrollable behavior such as excessive barking or screaming or tying to get out of the vehicle.
Failure: If the dog cannot be lifted out by a person other than its handler.
Failure: If the dog tries to bite or cannot be picked up as it shows it may bite.

ARTICLE SEARCH

(Live and Human Remains)

For live find the articles will be of man-made materials. For HRD the articles will be of man-made materials with decomposition on them.

Off leash
Pass: The dog team locates and alerts to a minimum of 2 out of 3 articles in a field location.
Failure: If the dog stays out of the marked are for more than 2 minutes and cannot be redirected by the handler.
Failure: If the dog is not actively searching and has to be told what to do constantly by the handler.
Failure: If the dog leaves any of the articles it finds without alerting to them.
Failure: If the dog does not find and alert on 2 out of the 3 articles placed.
Failure: If the handler verbally or signals or directs the dog to an article.
Failure: If the handler tells the dog to alert on an article.
Failure: If the dog picks up the article.
Failure: If dog consumes the article
Failure: If the dog team runs out of time

Associate Evaluation
Wilderness/Urban Live Find
Human Remains Detection
Tracking

Handler:	Dog:	Dog's Age:	Date:

Obedience			
Exercise	**Pass**	**Fail**	**Comments**
Heel off Leash Drop in Motion			
Sit Signal			
Down Signal			
Stay on Recall			
Out of Sight Stay (5 minutes)			

Agility			
Exercise	**Pass**	**Fail**	**Comments**
High & 2 plank Jumps			
Plank			
Platform Stay 5 seconds			

Evaluator/s: _____

Training Director: _____

Associate - Evaluation Interpretations

The handler may use voice and or signal commands for all the following exercises.
No toy or treat may be in the handler's hands! Dogs may be rewarded after each exercise is finished. All tests are run with the dog off leash. The dog may be put back on leash in between each exercise.
For further testing breakdown and explanation please locate document in D4H database.

OBEDIENCE

The dog team must pass all of the obedience exercises in order to move forward.
If only one portion is deemed failure then that exercise is repeated at that or another time.
Not all exercises need to be retested. The testing period is for 2 months after that the whole test must be repeated. All Associate dog teams must pass all of their obedience evaluation before proceeding to the search test

HEEL OFF LEASH
Pass: For the dog, while off leash, walks calmly at its handler's side while performing various turns, changes of pace and stops.
Failure: if the handler has no control of the dog while performing the heel pattern
Failure: If the handler has to repeat more than twice any command during the movement portion of the exercise.
Failure: if excess force or commands is given by the handler to maintain control.
Failure: if the handler has no control of the dog while performing the heel pattern
Failure: If the handler has to repeat more than twice any command during the movement portion of the exercise.
Failure: if excess force or commands is given by the handler to maintain control.

SIT SIGNAL
Pass: The dog performs a sit when given the command/signal from the handler.
Failure: If the dog breaks the stay position.
Failure: If the dog does not respond to the sit signal. Two tries are permitted.

DOWN SIGNAL
Pass: The dog performs a sit when given the command/signal from the handler.
Failure: If the dog breaks the stay position.
Failure: If the dog does not respond to the down signal. Two tries are permitted.

STAY ON RECALL
Pass: The dog performs a stop in motion while responding to the come command.
Failure: if the dog breaks the stay
Failure: if the dog does not come to the handler
Failure: If the dog does not stop
Failure: if the dog does not recall after stop

OUT OF SIGHT STAY

Pass: the dog must remain calmly in a sit or down position (as placed by the handler) for the duration of the time.

Failure: if the dog changes position, i.e. a sit to a down or vice versa, or moves more than one body length.

Failure: excessive whining or barking during the test.

AGILITY

All obstacles in the agility portion may be industrial-made or man-made with what is available.

With agility course the dog is run off leash.

1- HIGH JUMP WITH 2 PLANK JUMPS (Broad jump)

Pass: The dog must clear all 3 jumps.

Failure: if the dog does not jump without excessive commands. (More than 2 per jump)

Failure: if the dog goes around the jumps even after an extra command.

Failure: if the dog needs to be restarted more than once.

Failure: if the handler loses control of the dog

PLANK WITH PLATFORM STAY

Pass: For the dog to walk comfortable across the plank.

Failure: if the dog cannot be coaxed to walk the plank without excessive commands. (More than 2 commands)

Failure: if the dog jumps off more than twice.

Failure: if the dog needs to be restarted more than once.

Failure: if the dog does not stay in position on the platform

ASSOCIATE BUILDING SEARCH

Subject		1	2
Initial Search Strategy			
Ranging			
Directional Control			
Quality of Dog Sourcing	High		
	Low		
Dogs Alert	High		
	Low		
Handlers response to Alerts	High		
	Low		
% of Coverage of Area			
General Reading of Dogs Actions			
Communication from Handler			
Dog's Maintenance of Performance			
Main Cause of Failure to Find			
Time Worked per find (20 minutes total)			

Evaluation System

Each aspect should be given a mark out of five as follows:
5 – excellent **4** – good **3** – acceptable **2** – weak **1** – unacceptable

Missed Subject Codes:
A – bad conditions **B** – poor coverage of area
C – failure to read dogs indication or alert
D – dog had no interest in subject
E- Excessive attention to distractions
G- False alert

Date:
Name:

Dog:

Evaluators:
1)

2)

Location:

Area Description:

Described Alert:

Subjects:
Low

High

Comments:

Start Time:
End Time:
Total time:

Evaluators Signatures:

<u>Check one:</u>
PASS   FAIL

Building Search - Evaluation Interpretations

- All handlers will be briefed on the evaluation form by evaluators prior to evaluation.
- All evaluators must have knowledge of location of clues, distractions, and hiders.
- Evaluators must be prepared to aid in location of such items if the dog and handler team fails in finding.

Evaluators will follow teams throughout search evaluation.

- **Search Area Number:** Each search area is numbered per evaluation; i.e.: Area #1, 2
- **Initial Search Strategy:** After briefing, apparent decisions on how to commence search and of method of working area as described by handler to evaluators.
- **Ranging:** The distance the dog works from handler in any free direction. (As opposed to quartering) No set distance can be stipulated and this should be marked according to the opinion of the evaluators viewing with regard to terrain, conditions and breed of dog. However, a reasonable distance from the handler is essential. The dogs ranging ability and distance it normally goes should be relayed to the evaluators during the briefing.
- **Directional Control:** The ability of the handler to send the dog in any direction for a reasonable distance and thus change the pattern of the search.
- **Quality of Dogs Sourcing:** #1-2 signifies the number of subjects in search area. Evaluation is based on:

1) Distance the dog gets the scent 2) tenacity in surmounting obstacles 3) speed at which it follows scent 4) persistence in following scent 5) maintaining search after losing scent.

- **Dogs Alert:** The consistency of alert (Bark, passive, penetration) when locating subjects as told to the evaluators prior to the evaluation.
- **Response to Alert:** # 1-2 signifies the number of subjects in search area. The handler's ability to recognize the alert and communicate back to evaluators.
- **Coverage of Search Area:** Percentage of the area covered by handler and dog team as documented by evaluators.
- **General Reading of Dog's Actions:** Handlers should be able to answer any questions by the assessors on what their dog's body language is telling them.
- **Handler's Response to Change:** The handler's ability to read the situation and make changes accordingly to their search strategy if needed.
- **Dog's Maintenance of Performance:** Physically and mentally how the dog holds up during the evaluation.
- **Main Cause of Failure to Find:** Use missed subject codes.
- **Time worked:** The total time each search segment is worked.

ASSOCIATE and ACTIVE Levels
WILDERNESS/URBAN LIVE FIND

Search Area Number		1 – Evidence	2 – Person
Search Ready			
Initial Search Strategy			
Ranging			
Directional Control			
Quality of Dog Sourcing	1		
	2		
Dog's Alert	1		
	2		
Response to Clues	1		
	2		
% of Coverage of Area			
General Reading of Dogs Actions			
Handlers Response to Changes			
Dog's Maintenance of Performance			
Main Cause of Failure to Find			
Report Writing			
Wind Conditions			
Temperature			
Time Worked (2 hours total)			

Date:
Name:
Dog:

Evaluators:
1.
2.

Location:

Hider:

Evidence:
1.

2.

3.

4.

Start Time:
End Time:
Total time:

Evaluators Signatures:

1)

2)

Check One:

 PASS   FAIL

Evaluation System

Each aspect should be given a mark out of five as follows:
5 – excellent   **4** – good   **3** – acceptable   **2** – weak   **1** – unacceptable
Wind Condition Codes:
C – calm   **L** – light **M**- moderate   **S** – strong   **V** – variable   **ST** – steady
Missed Subject and Clue Codes:
A – bad conditions   **B** – poor coverage of area   **C** – failure to read dogs indication or alert
D – dog had no interest in subject and or clue **E**- excessive attention to distractions

Wilderness/Urban Live Find - Evaluation Interpretations

- All handlers will be briefed on the evaluation form by evaluators prior to evaluation.
- All evaluators must have knowledge of location of clues, distractions, and hiders.
- Evaluators must be prepared to aid in location of such items if the dog and handler team fails in finding. Evaluators will follow teams throughout search evaluation.

- **Search Area Number:** Each search area is numbered per evaluation. I.e.: Area #1, 2
- **Search Ready:** the handler is expected to arrive with the appropriate gear for the environment they are working in. Gear must be in good condition, including the dog.
- **Initial Search Strategy:** After briefing, apparent decisions on how to commence search and of method of working area as described by handler to evaluators.
- **Ranging:** The distance the dog works from handler in any free direction. (As opposed to quartering) No set distance can be stipulated and this should be marked according to the opinion of the evaluators viewing with regard to terrain, conditions and breed of dog. However, a reasonable distance from the handler is essential. The dogs ranging ability and distance it normally goes should be relayed to the evaluators during the briefing.
- **Directional Control:** The ability of the handler to send the dog in any direction for a reasonable distance and thus change the pattern of the search.
- **Quality of Dog's Sourcing:** #1-3 signifies the number of subjects or clues in search area. Evaluation is based on:1) Distance the dog gets the scent 2) tenacity in surmounting obstacles 3) speed at which it follows scent 4) persistence in following scent 5) maintaining search after losing scent.
- **Response to Clues:** # 1-3 signifies the number of clues in search area. The handler's ability to recognize clues found, document and report.
- **Dogs Alert:** The consistency of alert (Bark, passive, penetration) when locating clues and or subjects as told to the evaluators prior to the evaluation.
- **Coverage of Search Area:** Percentage of the area covered by handler and dog team as documented by evaluators.
- **General Reading of Dogs Actions:** Handlers should be able to answer any questions by the assessors on what their dog's body language is telling them.
- **Handler's Response to Change:** The handler's ability to read the situation and make changes accordingly to their search strategy if needed.
- **Dog's Maintenance of Performance:** Physically and mentally how the dog holds up during the evaluation.
- **Main Cause of Failure to Find:** Use missed body codes.
- **Report Writing:** The quality of a hand written report including map of subject/clue finds.
- **Wind Conditions:** Use wind condition codes.
- **Temperature:** use real time temperature
- **Time worked:** The total time each search segment is worked.

TRACKING

Initial Search Strategy		
Quality of Dog's Sourcing		
Dog's Alert at articles	**1**	
	2	
General Reading of Dogs Actions		
Dog's Maintenance of Performance		
Main Cause of Failure to Find		
Wind Conditions		
Time Worked		

Date:
Name:

Dog:

Evaluators:
1)

2)

Location:

Total Length of Track:

Comments of Area:

Location of clues/subject:

Evaluation System

Each aspect should be given a mark out of five as follows:

5 – excellent   **4** – good   **3** – acceptable   **2** – weak   **1** – unacceptable

Wind Condition Codes:
C – calm   **L** – light **M**- moderate   **S** – strong   **V** – variable
 ST – steady

Failure to Find:
A – bad conditions **B –** failure to read dogs indication or alert
D – dog had no interest in subject and or clue
E- excessive attention to distractions

Start Time:
End Time:
Total time:
Evaluators Signatures:

<u>**Check one**</u>

☐ **Pass**   ☐ **Fail**

Tracking - Evaluation Interpretations

- All handlers will be briefed on the evaluation form by evaluators prior to evaluation.
- All evaluators must have knowledge of location of track layer and clues. Evaluators must be prepared to aid in location of such items if the dog and handler team fails in finding.
- Evaluators will follow teams through out search evaluation.

- **Initial Search Strategy:** After briefing, apparent decisions on how to commence track as described by handler to evaluators.

- **Quality of Dogs Sourcing:** Evaluation is based on:
1) Tenacity in surmounting obstacles 2) speed at which it follows scent 3) persistence in following scent 4) maintaining search after losing scent.

- **Dogs Alert:** The consistency of alert (Bark, passive) when locating clues as told to the evaluators prior to the evaluation.

- **General Reading of Dogs Actions:** Handlers should be able to answer any questions by the assessors on what their dog's body language is telling them.

- **Dog's Maintenance of Performance:** Physically and mentally how the dog holds up during the evaluation.

- **Main Cause of Failure to Find:** Use failure to find codes for team's failure to find track scent or clues misses.

- **Wind Conditions:** Use wind condition codes.

- **Time worked:** The total time track is worked.

DISASTER

Handler:	Dog:	Dog's Age:	Date:

Obedience			
Exercise	**Pass**	**Failure**	**Comments**
Heel off Leash Hand signal only			
Send away			
Emergency stop going			
Emergency stop coming			
5 min Out of Sight Stay			

Agility			
Exercise	**Pass**	**Failure**	**Comments**
1 turn-covered end tunnel			
Ladder			
Plank			
Platform Stay 5 sec			
5 unstable surfaces (spools/barrels)			

Evaluator/s: _____

Training Director: _____

DISASTER
(Area 1-2 Associate) (Area 1-4 Active)

Search Area Start time for each area		1	2	3	4
Search Ready					
Initial Search Strategy					
Ranging					
Directional Control					
Quality of Dog Sourcing	Subject 1				
	Subject 2				
	Subject 3				
Dogs Alert	Subject 1				
	Subject 2				
	Subject 3				
Handlers response to Alerts	Subject 1				
	Subject 2				
	Subject 3				
% of Coverage of Area					
Handlers Response to Changes					
Dog's Maintenance of Performance					
Main Cause of Failure to Find					
Report Writing					
Wind Conditions					
Time Worked					

Date:
Name:
Dog:
Evaluators:

1)
2)

Location:

Subject Hides:
1)
2)
3)
4)

General Comments:

Total working time:

Evaluators Signatures:

1)

2)

Check One:

☐ **Pass** / ☐ **Fail**

Evaluation System

Each aspect should be given a mark out of five as follows:
5 – excellent **4** – good **3** – acceptable **2** – weak **1** – unacceptable

Wind Condition Codes:
C – calm **L** – light **M**- moderate **S** – strong **V** – variable **ST** – steady

Missed Victim Codes:
A – bad conditions **B** – poor coverage of area **C** – failure to read dogs alert
D – dog had no interest in subject **E** **-** excessive attention to distraction **F**- false alert

Disaster - Evaluation Interpretations

- All handlers will be briefed on the evaluation form by evaluators prior to evaluation.
- All evaluators must have knowledge of location of clues, distractions, and hiders.
- Evaluators must be prepared to aid in location of such items if the dog and handler team fails in finding.
- Evaluators will watch teams within close proximity through out search evaluation

- **Search Area Number:** Each search area is numbered per evaluation. i.e.: Area #1, 2 etc. up to 4 segments per evaluation.
- **Initial Search Strategy:** After briefing, apparent decisions on how to commence search and of method of working area as described by handler to evaluators.
- **Ranging:** The distance the dog works from handler in any free direction. (As opposed to quartering) No set distance can be stipulated and this should be marked according to the opinion of the evaluators viewing with regard to terrain, conditions and breed of dog. However, a reasonable distance from the handler is essential. The dogs ranging ability and distance it normally goes should be relayed to the evaluators during the briefing.
- **Directional Control:** The ability of the handler to send the dog in any direction for a reasonable distance and thus change the pattern of the search.
- **Quality of Dogs Sourcing:** #1-3 signifies the number of subjects in search area. Sourcing Evaluation is based on:

1) Distance the dog gets the scent 2) tenacity in surmounting obstacles 3) speed at which it follows scent 4) persistence in following scent 5) maintaining search after losing scent.

- **Dogs Alert:** The consistency of alert (Bark, passive, penetration) when locating clues and or subject as told to the evaluators prior to the evaluation.
- **Response to Alert:** # 1-3 signifies the number of sources in search area. The handler's ability to recognize the dog's alert, document and report.
- **Coverage of Search Area:** Percentage of the area covered by handler and dog team as documented by evaluators.
- **General Reading of Dogs Actions:** How well the handler knows their dog's body language and what it is meant by it. Handlers should be able to answer any questions by the assessors on what their dog is telling them.
- **Handler's Response to Change:** The handler's ability to read the situation and make changes accordingly to their search strategy if needed.
- **Dog's Maintenance of Performance:** Physically and mentally how the dog holds up.
- **Main Cause of Failure to Find:** Use missed hider codes.
- **Report Writing:** The quality of a hand written report including map of subject finds.
- **Wind Conditions:** Use wind condition codes.
- **Time worked:** The total time the dog team works each search segment from beginning until end.

HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION (Associate and Active)

Search Area Number		1	2	3	4
Initial Search Strategy					
Ranging					
Directional Control					
Quality of Dog Sourcing	Source 1				
	Source 2				
Dog's Alert	Source 1				
	Source 2				
Handler's Response to Alerts	Source 1				
	Source 2				
% of Coverage PER Area					
General Reading of Dogs Actions					
Dog's Maintenance of Performance					
Distractions					
Report Writing					
Main Cause of Failure to Find					
Wind Conditions					
Time Worked					

Date:
Name:
Dog:
Evaluators:
1)

2)

Location

Area#1:

Area#2:

Area#3:

Active-Area #4:

Source Types
Area#1:

Area#2:

Area#3:

Area#4

(For Entire Evaluation)
Start Time:
End Time:
Total time:

Evaluators Signatures:
1)

2)

Check one:
☐ Pass / ☐ Fail

---

5 – Excellent **4** – Good **3** – Acceptable **2** – Weak **1** – Unacceptable
Wind Condition Codes: **C** – Calm **L** – Light **M-** Moderate **S** – Strong **V** – Variable **ST** – Steady
Missed Source Codes: **A** – Bad scent conditions **B** – Poor coverage of area **C** – Failure to read dogs indication or alerts **D** – Dog had no interest in scent sources **- E** – Excessive attention to distractions
 F- False alert **G-** consumes or destroys scent source

- All handlers will be briefed on the evaluation form by evaluators prior to evaluation.
- All evaluators must have knowledge of location of distractions, and scent sources.
- Evaluators must be prepared to aid in location of such items if the dog and handler team fails in finding.
- Evaluators will follow teams throughout search evaluation.

- **Search Area Number:** Each search area is numbered per evaluation. I.e.: Area #1, 2 etc. up to 4 segments per evaluation.
- **Initial Search Strategy:** After briefing, apparent decisions on how to commence search and of method of working area as described by handler to evaluators.
- **Ranging:** The distance the dog works from handler in any free direction. (As opposed to quartering) No set distance can be stipulated and this should be marked according to the opinion of the evaluators viewing with regard to terrain, conditions and breed of dog. However, a reasonable distance from the handler is essential. The dog's ranging ability and distance it normally goes should be relayed to the evaluators during the briefing.
- **Directional Control:** The ability of the handler to send the dog in any direction for a reasonable distance and thus change the pattern of the search.
- **Quality of Dog's Sourcing:** #1-3 signifies the number of scent sources in search area. Evaluation is based on: 1) Distance the dog gets the scent 2) tenacity in surmounting obstacles 3) speed at which it follows scent 4) persistence in following scent 5) maintaining search after losing scent.
- **Dogs Alert:** The consistency of alert (Bark, passive, penetration) when locating clues and or hider as told by handler to the evaluators prior to the evaluation.
- **Response to Alert:** # 1-3 signifies the number of sources in search area. The handler's ability to recognize the dog's alert, document and report.
- **Coverage of Search Area:** Percentage of the area covered by handler and dog team as documented by evaluators.
- **Handler's Response to Change:** The handler's ability to read the situation and make changes accordingly to their search strategy if needed.
- **Dog's Maintenance of Performance:** Physically and mentally how the dog holds up during the evaluation.
- **Distractions:** The dog ability to ignore or identify and dismiss scent distractions that are placed or are already a part of evaluation areas
- **Main Cause of Failure to Find:** Use missed source codes.
- **Report Writing:** The quality of a hand written report including map of source finds
- **Wind Conditions:** Use wind condition codes.
- **Time worked:** The total time the canine unit works each individual search segment from beginning until end.

Water Search
(Associate & Active)

Search Area Number	Shore	Boat
Search Ready		
Initial Search Strategy		
Control		
Quality of Dogs Sourcing		
Dogs Alert		
Handler response to Dog alert		
% of Coverage of Area		
General Reading of Dogs Actions		
Handler's Response to Changes		
Dog's Maintenance of Performance		
Main Cause of Failure to Find		
Wind Conditions		
Tim Worked		

Evaluation System
Each aspect should be given a mark out of five as follows:

5 – excellent   **4** – good   **3** – acceptable   **2** – weak   **1** – unacceptable

Wind Condition Codes:

C – calm   **L** – light   **M-** moderate   **S** – strong
V – variable   **ST** – steady

Missed Victim/Source Codes:

A – bad conditions   **B** – poor coverage of area
C – failure to read dogs indication or alert
D – dog had no interest in scent or source
 E – excess attention to distractions
F- False Alert

Date:
Name:

Dog:

Evaluators:
1)

2)

Location:
Area 1:

Area 2:

Sources:
Area 1:

Area 2:

Comments of Area:

GPS Location of source:

Area 1:

Area 2:

Start Time:
End Time:
Total time:

Evaluators Signatures:
1)

2)

Check One:

☐ **Pass**   ☐ **Fail**

Water Search - Evaluation Interpretations

All handlers will be briefed on the evaluation form by evaluators prior to evaluation.
All evaluators must have knowledge of location of distractions and scent sources. Evaluators must be prepared to aid in location of such items if the dog and handler team fails in finding.

- **Search Area:** Shore search and Boat search.
- **Initial Search Strategy:** After briefing, apparent decisions on how to commence search and of method of working area as described by handler to evaluators.
- **Control:** The ability of the handler to control the dog in the boat and along the shoreline.
- **Quality of Dogs Sourcing:** Evaluation is based on: 1) distance the dog gets the scent 2) tenacity in surmounting obstacles 3) speed at which it follows scent 4) persistence in following scent 5) maintaining search after losing scent.
- **Dogs Alert:** The consistency of alert (Bark, passive, penetration) when locating scent source as told to the evaluators prior to the evaluation.
- **Response to Alert:** The handler's ability to recognize alert, document and report.
- **Coverage of Search Area:** Percentage of the area covered by handler and dog team as documented by evaluators.
- **General Reading of Dogs Actions:** How well the handler knows their dog's body language and what it is meant by it. Handlers should be able to answer any questions by the assessors on what their dog is telling them.
- **Handler's Response to Change:** The handler's ability to read the situation and make changes accordingly to their search strategy if needed.
- **Dog's Maintenance of Performance:** Physically and mentally how the dog holds up during the evaluation.
- **Main Cause of Failure to Find:** Use missed source codes.
- **Wind Conditions:** Use wind condition codes.
- **Time worked:** The total time the canine unit works each search segment from beginning until end.