

**MISSION READY (CERTIFIED) AREA SEARCH HANDLER/CANINE TEAM CRITERIA**

Accomplish the following to be Mission Ready (Certified) as an Area Search Handler/Canine Team:

- A. Basic Requirements:
  - 1. Handler Base Support Complete
  - 2. Handler Field Support Complete
  - 3. Handler/Canine Team Fundamentals Complete
- B. Preliminary Requirements:
  - 1. Basic Requirements (see above)
  - 2. Observer or Field Support on training exercises, mock search or missions totaling 10 hours of field experience, with area search teams
- C. Core Requirements:
  - 1. Successful (Pass) Grid Search
  - 2. Successful (Pass) Trail Search
  - 3. Preliminary Requirements (see above)
  - 4. Successful (Pass) 40-acre Day Area Search (evaluators must not be members of K9SM)
  - 5. Successful (Pass) 40-acre Night Area Search (evaluators must not be members of K9SM)
  - 6. Successful (Pass) 160-acre Day Area Search (evaluators must not be members of K9SM)

## K9SM HANDLER/CANINE TEAM FUNDAMENTALS FOR \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Requirement	Date	Evaluator Initials
<b>Canine Obedience/Behavior</b>		
Successfully completed AKC Canine Good Citizen Test. See <a href="http://www.akc.org/canineowner/training/canine_good_citizen/links.cfm">http://www.akc.org/canineowner/training/canine_good_citizen/links.cfm</a>		
Crowded Vehicle Test: Canine and handler will load into the back of a vehicle, such as a pickup truck, along with at least two other people and two other canines. The vehicle will then be driven for a distance of at least one mile during which time the canine does not display aggressive or uncontrolled behavior.		
Sit/Down Stay: Canine will remain in place (sitting or in a down) without correction for a minimum of five minutes with the handler a minimum of 50 feet away. The canine will remain in place even if people or other canines are present and moving around the canine. The canine will not be tied.		
Emergency stop: The handler must be able to stop the canine while it is in motion.		
<b>Canine Agility</b>		
Jump: Canine will jump onto an object, such as the tailgate of a pickup truck or an elevated platform, one times their height at shoulder.		
Traverse: Canine will walk across a board that is at least 12 feet long, no more than 12 inches wide, and is at least 3 feet above the ground.		
Tunnel: Canine will go through a 36" diameter passageway at least 8 feet long.		
<b>Unique Situations for Canine</b>		
Stream/Pond Crossing: Canine is able to cross a stream or pond safely.		
Watercraft: Calmly and quietly ride in a watercraft with handler.		
Horses: Demonstrate the ability to work around horses.		
<b>Canine Indication</b>		
Demonstrate a known audible/physical/visual indication. The indication should be clear and not likely to be missed or mistaken by the handler. Handler should be able to describe indication or refind indication where applicable.		
<b>Handler</b>		
Handler Base Support Complete		
Handler Field Support Complete		

## UTILITY SEARCH EVALUATION

### Evaluation Setup:

- The team shall conduct a hasty search along a trail and locate one subject who has been placed no more than 50 feet off of the trail.
- The subject will be placed at least a ½ hour prior to the start of this test.
- The length of the trail shall be no more than 3 miles.
- No time limit.

Handler:	Canine:	Evaluator:	Subject:	Date:
Location/Terrain:		Climatic Conditions:		
Length/Description of Trail:		Distance of Subject from Trail:	Start:	Stop:
Notes/Comments:				

### Signatures:

EVALUATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

HANDLER: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

**PASS**

**FAIL**

**40 ACRE AREA SEARCH EVALUATION PARAMETERS AND EVALUATOR GUIDELINES**

- A. Prior to Start of Evaluation:
1. Evaluators determine search area and place subject.
  2. There shall be one subject placed in 40 acres. The terrain should be varied, timber, brush and some open meadow areas. (40 acres = 440 yds x 440 yds = 1/16 sq mile = ~1/6 sq km)
  3. The subject must be a complete stranger to the canine.
  4. The subject must be in place at least 30 minutes prior to the evaluation and must be well concealed.
  5. The subject must wear camouflaged clothing (bright colors are unacceptable) or be covered with a camouflaged cloth so that the handler cannot see the subject from a distance of 20 feet.
  6. The subject shall be given key information for role-playing of the scenario.
- B. Start of Evaluation:
1. The handler shall be given a scenario, develop a search plan based on this information and keep base advised of this plan. The handler shall keep base informed of progress in the field, plan changes, and any clues or evidence found.
  2. Note the names, date, start/stop times, climatic conditions (weather, wind, temperature), location and terrain, preliminary requirements for handler and canine, including pack, log books, certifications and uniform.
  3. Have the handler/canine team demonstrate a simple alert and refind of a concealed subject (may use subject run away to demonstrate). The canine shall be sent a minimum of 25 yds to a bush or suitable hiding place to find a concealed subject. The canine must alert and perform a refind. Note the indication and refind.
  4. The team, searching a forty (40) acre area, must find the subject within a two hour time limit. Timing of the evaluation will begin with the deployment of the search canine. If the canine team has not located a subject within two (2) hours, the team shall have failed. If the subject is found in less than one hour, the canine shall be required to work a minimum time of one hour. Another subject may be placed or the canine can continue to search the time required without a subject (it is the handler's choice). However, the team is not required to find the second subject to pass the evaluation.
  5. The canine must locate the subject, alert and perform a readable refind. The alert should be of intensity such that it can be recognized by the evaluators.
- C. Evaluation -- Handler Skills:
1. Interview process: Takes notes, physical description, knows area, questions reporting party, ascertains what has been done, what are the resources available.
  2. Radio Communication: depresses key for complete transmission; ID self & message destination; keeps base informed of field conditions.
  3. Map & Compass: should be able to describe position on map; describe where subject is located.
  4. Subject Assessment: may be general if no advanced first aid; handler requests appropriate resources for aid and evacuation.
  5. Search Plan: perimeter? hasty? grid sweep? contour sweep? ridge/drainage?
  6. Changes Plan: new information? clue, track or article found? changing wind conditions -- uses knowledge of wind to deploy canine.
- D. Evaluation -- Canine Skills:
1. Range: does canine range at least 25 yds? 50 yds? is any change noted in range drive due to stamina or physical conditions? due to motivation? difficult terrain? temperature increase/decrease?
  2. Agility/Awareness: should negotiate banks, logs, brush and natural objects; does canine indicate tracks and articles?
  3. Alerts: follows up alerts; does canine go all the way to subject? stops with visual contact? reports all the way to handler? takes handler to subject? responds well to handler commands? is canine easily distracted or concentrates on work?
- E. Individual Field Report
1. Handler completes an Individual Field Report and gives to the evaluators.
  2. Evaluators send a copy of the evaluation form to Operations Officer, Training Officer and Handler (should get original).

## 40 ACRES (1 SUBJECT) AREA SEARCH HANDLER/CANINE TEAM EVALUATION

Handler:	Canine:	Evaluator #1:	Evaluator #2:	Date:
Location/Terrain:	Subject:	Climatic Conditions:	Recert?	Start:
				Stop:

CANINE SKILLS	Score (1-5)	Comments
Preliminary requirements complete for canine		
Required canine vaccinations on file		
Does canine range well during 1st hour		
Does canine range well during 2nd hour		
Canine NOT easily distracted		
Canine works scent cone all the way to subject		
Is the canine well motivated during search		
Physical stamina of canine adequate for searching		
Does canine indicate track or article		
Demonstrates adequate agility for terrain		

HANDLER/CANINE TEAM	Score (1-5)	Comments
Handler has a plan of action		
Canine alert demonstrated		
Do canine and handler work well together		
Is the canine easily directed by the handler		
Responds well to handler commands		
Rest breaks, water for canine and handler		
Hasty search of trails, roads and other areas		
Will canine overrule handler and pursue an alert		
Reports all the way to the handler		
Takes handler to subject		
Did canine have false alerts		
Makes attempts to follow up on alert		

## 40 ACRES (1 SUBJECT) AREA SEARCH HANDLER/CANINE TEAM EVALUATION (CONT.)

HANDLER SKILLS	Score (1-5)	Comments
Preliminary requirements complete for handler		
Human First Aid, CPR certifications		
Canine First Aid certification		
Uniform complete		
Training log checked		
Day search pack complete		
Take notes, asks questions, interviews		
Handler communicates well on the radio		
Able to recognize canine's alerts		
Changes plan with changing conditions		
Does handler cover sector adequately		
Checks sector margin areas		
Uses map and compass adequately		
Alert to surrounding area and visual clues		
Maintains control of canine		
Physical condition of handler adequate		
Handler adjusts search for wind conditions		
Patient assessment adequate for level of training		

**Signatures:**

**EVALUATOR #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EVALUATOR #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HANDLER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PASS**

**FAIL**

**40 ACRE AREA NIGHT SEARCH EVALUATION PARAMETERS AND EVALUATOR GUIDELINES**

- A. Prior to Start of Evaluation:
1. Evaluators determine search area and place subject.
  2. There shall be one subject placed in 40 acres. The terrain should be varied, timber, brush and some open meadow areas. (40 acres = 440 yds x 440 yds = 1/16 sq mile = ~1/6 sq km)
  3. The subject must be a complete stranger to the canine.
  4. The subject must be in place at least 30 minutes prior to the evaluation and must be well concealed.
  5. The subject must wear camouflaged clothing (bright colors are unacceptable) or be covered with a camouflaged cloth so that the handler cannot see the subject from a distance of 20 feet.
  6. The subject shall be given key information for role-playing of the scenario.
- B. Start of Evaluation:
1. The handler shall be given a scenario, develop a search plan based on this information and keep base advised of this plan. The handler shall keep base informed of progress in the field, plan changes, and any clues or evidence found.
  2. Note the names, date, start/stop times, climatic conditions (weather, wind, temperature), location and terrain, preliminary requirements for handler and canine, including pack, log books, certifications and uniform.
  3. Have the handler/canine team demonstrate a simple alert and refind of a concealed subject (may use subject run away to demonstrate). The canine shall be sent a minimum of 25 yds to a bush or suitable hiding place to find a concealed subject. The canine must alert and perform a refind. Note the indication and refind.
  4. The team, searching a forty (40) acre area, must find the subject within a three-hour time limit. Timing of the evaluation will begin with the deployment of the search canine. If the canine team has not located a subject within three hours, the team shall have failed. If the subject is found in less than one hour, the canine shall be required to work a minimum time of one hour. Another subject may be placed or the canine can continue to search the time required without a subject (it is the handler's choice). However, the team is not required to find the second subject to pass the evaluation.
  5. The canine must locate the subject, alert and perform a readable refind. The alert should be of intensity such that it can be recognized by the evaluators.
- C. Evaluation -- Handler Skills:
1. Interview process: Takes notes, physical description, knows area, questions reporting party, ascertains what has been done, what are the resources available.
  2. Radio Communication: depresses key for complete transmission; ID self & message destination; keeps base informed of field conditions.
  3. Map & Compass: should be able to describe position on map; describe where subject is located.
  4. Subject Assessment: may be general if no advanced first aid; handler requests appropriate resources for aid and evacuation.
  5. Search Plan: perimeter? hasty? grid sweep? contour sweep? ridge/drainage?
  6. Changes Plan: new information? clue, track or article found? changing wind conditions -- uses knowledge of wind to deploy canine.
- D. Evaluation -- Canine Skills:
1. Range: does canine range at least 25 yds? 50 yds? is any change noted in range drive due to stamina or physical conditions? due to motivation? difficult terrain? temperature increase/decrease?
  2. Agility/Awareness: should negotiate banks, logs, brush and natural objects; does canine indicate tracks and articles?
  3. Alerts: follows up alerts; does canine go all the way to subject? stops with visual contact? reports all the way to handler? takes handler to subject? responds well to handler commands? is canine easily distracted or concentrates on work?
- E. Individual Field Report
1. Handler completes an Individual Field Report and gives to the evaluators.
  2. Evaluators send a copy of the evaluation form to Operations Officer, Training Officer and Handler (should get original).

## 40 ACRES (1 SUBJECT) AREA NIGHT SEARCH HANDLER/CANINE TEAM EVALUATION

Handler:	Canine:	Evaluator #1:	Evaluator #2:	Date:
Location/Terrain:	Subject:	Climatic Conditions:	Recert?	Start:
				Stop:

CANINE SKILLS	Score (1-5)	Comments
Preliminary requirements complete for canine		
Required canine vaccinations on file		
Does canine range well during 1st hour		
Does canine range well during 2nd hour		
Canine NOT easily distracted		
Canine works scent cone all the way to subject		
Is the canine well motivated during search		
Physical stamina of canine adequate for searching		
Does canine indicate track or article		
Demonstrates adequate agility for terrain		

HANDLER/CANINE TEAM	Score (1-5)	Comments
Handler has a plan of action		
Canine alert demonstrated		
Do canine and handler work well together		
Is the canine easily directed by the handler		
Responds well to handler commands		
Rest breaks, water for canine and handler		
Hasty search of trails, roads and other areas		
Will canine overrule handler and pursue an alert		
Reports all the way to the handler		
Takes handler to subject		
Did canine have false alerts		
Makes attempts to follow up on alert		



## 40 ACRES (1 SUBJECT) AREA NIGHT SEARCH HANDLER/CANINE TEAM EVALUATION (CONT.)

HANDLER SKILLS	Score (1-5)	Comments
Preliminary requirements complete for handler		
Human First Aid, CPR certifications		
Canine First Aid certification		
Uniform complete		
Training log checked		
Day search pack complete		
Take notes, asks questions, interviews		
Handler communicates well on the radio		
Able to recognize canine's alerts		
Changes plan with changing conditions		
Does handler cover sector adequately		
Checks sector margin areas		
Uses map and compass adequately		
Alert to surrounding area and visual clues		
Maintains control of canine		
Physical condition of handler adequate		
Handler adjusts search for wind conditions		
Patient assessment adequate for level of training		

**Signatures:**

**EVALUATOR #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EVALUATOR #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HANDLER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PASS**

**FAIL**

**160 ACRE AREA SEARCH EVALUATION PARAMETERS AND EVALUATOR GUIDELINES**

- A. Prior to Start of Evaluation:
1. Evaluators determine search area and place subject(s).
  2. There shall be one or two subjects placed in 160 acres. The terrain should be varied, timber, brush and some open meadow areas. (160 acres = 880 yds x 880 yds = 1/4 sq mile = ~2/3 sq km)
  3. The subjects must be complete strangers to the canine.
  4. The subjects must be in place at least 30 minutes prior to the evaluation and must be well concealed.
  5. The subjects must wear camouflaged clothing (bright colors are unacceptable) or be covered with a camouflaged cloth so that the handler cannot see the subject from a distance of 20 feet.
  6. The subjects shall be given key information for role-playing of the scenario.
- B. Start of Evaluation:
1. The handler shall be given a scenario, develop a search plan based on this information and keep base advised of this plan. The handler shall keep base informed of progress in the field, plan changes, and any clues or evidence found.
  2. Note the names, date, start/stop times, climatic conditions (weather, wind, temperature), location and terrain, preliminary requirements for handler and canine, including pack, log books, certifications and uniform.
  3. Have the handler/canine team demonstrate a simple alert and refind of a concealed subject (may use subject run away to demonstrate). The canine shall be sent a minimum of 25 yds to a bush or suitable hiding place to find a concealed subject. The canine must alert and perform a refind. Note the indication and refind.
  4. The team, searching a 160-acre area, must find the subject within a four-hour time limit. Timing of the evaluation will begin with the deployment of the search canine. If the canine team has not located a subject within four hours, the team shall have failed. If the subject is found in less than two hours, the canine shall be required to work a minimum time of two hours.
  5. The canine must locate the subject, alert and perform a readable refind. The alert should be of intensity such that it can be recognized by the evaluators.
- C. Evaluation -- Handler Skills:
1. Interview process: Takes notes, physical description, knows area, questions reporting party, ascertains what has been done, what are the resources available.
  2. Radio Communication: depresses key for complete transmission; ID self & message destination; keeps base informed of field conditions.
  3. Map & Compass: should be able to describe position on map; describe where subject is located.
  4. Subject Assessment: may be general if no advanced first aid; handler requests appropriate resources for aid and evacuation.
  5. Search Plan: perimeter? hasty? grid sweep? contour sweep? ridge/drainage?
  6. Changes Plan: new information? clue, track or article found? changing wind conditions -- uses knowledge of wind to deploy canine.
- D. Evaluation -- Canine Skills:
1. Range: does canine range at least 25 yds? 50 yds? 75 yds? is any change noted in range drive due to stamina or physical conditions? due to motivation? difficult terrain? temperature increase/decrease?
  2. Agility/Awareness: should negotiate banks, logs, brush and natural objects; does canine indicate tracks and articles?
  3. Alerts: follows up alerts; does canine go all the way to subject? stops with visual contact? reports all the way to handler? takes handler to subject? responds well to handler commands? is canine easily distracted or concentrates on work?
- E. Individual Field Report
1. Handler completes an Individual Field Report and gives to the evaluators.
  2. Evaluators send a copy of the evaluation form to Operations Officer, Training Officer and Handler (should get original).

## 160 ACRES (1-2 SUBJECTS) AREA SEARCH HANDLER/CANINE TEAM EVALUATION

Handler:	Canine:	Evaluator #1:	Evaluator #2:	Date:
Location/Terrain:	Subjects:	Climatic Conditions:	Recert?	Start:
				Stop:

CANINE SKILLS	Score (1-5)	Comments
Preliminary requirements complete for canine		
Required canine vaccinations on file		
Does canine range well during 1st hour		
Does canine range well during 2nd hour		
Canine NOT easily distracted		
Canine works scent cone all the way to subject		
Is the canine well motivated during search		
Physical stamina of canine adequate for searching		
Does canine indicate track or article		
Demonstrates adequate agility for terrain		

HANDLER/CANINE TEAM	Score (1-5)	Comments
Handler has a plan of action		
Canine alert demonstrated		
Do canine and handler work well together		
Is the canine easily directed by the handler		
Responds well to handler commands		
Rest breaks, water for canine and handler		
Hasty search of trails, roads and other areas		
Will canine overrule handler and pursue an alert		
Reports all the way to the handler		
Takes handler to subject		
Did canine have false alerts		
Makes attempts to follow up on alert		

## 160 ACRES (1-2 SUBJECTS) AREA SEARCH HANDLER/CANINE TEAM EVALUATION (CONT.)

HANDLER SKILLS	Score (1-5)	Comments
Preliminary requirements complete for handler		
Human First Aid, CPR certifications		
Canine First Aid certification		
Uniform complete		
Training log checked		
Day search pack complete		
Take notes, asks questions, interviews		
Handler communicates well on the radio		
Able to recognize canine's alerts		
Changes plan with changing conditions		
Does handler cover sector adequately		
Checks sector margin areas		
Uses map and compass adequately		
Alert to surrounding area and visual clues		
Maintains control of canine		
Physical condition of handler adequate		
Handler adjusts search for wind conditions		
Patient assessment adequate for level of training		

**Signatures:**

**EVALUATOR #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EVALUATOR #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HANDLER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PASS**

**FAIL**