## **NCSSAR K-9 TEAM GUIDELINES**

## February 2009

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# MISSION STATEMENT AND DESCRIPTIONS OF NCSSAR DOG TEAM

**Handler's Mission Statement**: In the spirit of compassion and dedication, to furnish highly trained search dog teams, to promote working dogs for search and rescue, and to further the public knowledge, interest and use of search dogs in Nevada County and the State of California.

**Dog's Mission Statement**: Play hard, bark loud, make the find.

The Nevada County Sheriff's Search and Rescue k-9 unit includes 9 "mission ready" dog teams that assist in searches and nine dog teams in training. The Dog Team is currently comprised of 18 handlers and 18 dogs. Each team consists of a handler and a dog. All of the team members are volunteers and own the dog(s) they work and train. To become a mission ready dog team, both the handler and dog must complete extensive training and testing which usually takes one to three years. Nevada County's dog teams must be certified by a state recognized search dog organization: California Rescue Dog Association (CARDA), WOOF or Monterey Bay Search Dogs.

Nevada County is fortunate to have dog teams that are certified in a number of specialized disciplines. Many of the teams are certified in more than one of the following disciplines:

- Trailing
- Area Scent
- Cadaver
- Water
- Avalanche
- Evidence

**Trailing Dogs** are trained to follow (or track) the scent of a particular person. Trailing dogs are often used when we know the location from which the lost person left and when we have an uncontaminated "scent article" such as a piece of the subject's clothing from which to start the dog. Most trailing dogs work "on lead" guiding their handler along the exact path taken by the lost person. Trailing dogs can be utilized in either wilderness or urban locations.

Area Scent Dogs are trained to find any live or deceased human within an assigned search area. Area scent dogs are most frequently used to cover large wilderness areas when we do not have a known starting point and scent article for the lost person, or when the trail is too old for a dog to follow. Area scent dogs work "off lead", rapidly covering a large area and frequently out of sight of the handler. When the dog locates a person, it returns to the handler, performs a specific "alert" to tell the handler it has found someone, and then takes the handler to the location.

**Cadaver Dogs** are used to locate human remains. Cadaver dogs can locate body parts or fluids as small as a single drop of blood as well as parts that are buried. These dogs are used when the subject is known or suspected to be deceased, and may be used in cases of homicide, suicide or disaster.

**Water Dogs** are used to locate drowning victims or submerged body parts. The dogs and handlers work either from the shore or from a boat to locate the scent of human remains rising through the water.

**Avalanche Dogs** are trained to rapidly locate victims buried under snow. The dog quickly covers the avalanche area to locate the spot where human scent is rising through the snow. The dog assists in the recovery by digging down to the buried subject.

## **CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

All dog handlers for Nevada County Sheriff's Search & rescue must be certified by a OES recognized organization such as CARDA, WOOF or Monterey Bay Rescue Dogs.

The certification process can take up to two years for a first time handler, as the dog and the handler both must be certified. This requires an unwavering dedication by the handler. Each handler owns and trains his/her dog and is not reimbursed for any expenses. The local training group will help a new handler evaluate the dog, for the best type of search speciality, and aid in the training process for both the handler and the dog.

#### HANDLER REQUIREMENTS

The following list of requirements is to be completed in the Apprentice period of training. With the exception of Observation hours, Area Search Apprentices must complete the preliminary requirements before progressing to the 40-acre field evaluation and the Cadaver 2/Recognition Test. All skills must be completed prior to Area or Trailing Mission Ready Testing or a Tribunal application. In this section, the term "handler" refers to both dog handlers and Technical Support personnel. Log books, physical fitness, CPR and Emergency Responder, must be kept current at all times, even after the team attains Mission Ready status.

#### 1.0 LOG BOOK

The handler shall maintain and keep current a logbook documenting the training he/she has done with his/her dog. The logbook shall be checked prior to testing and must contain at least six months of current training records.

#### 2.0 PHYSICAL FITNESS

The handler will complete the physical fitness evaluation as defined in the policies and procedures.

#### 3.0 NCSSAR APPROVED FIRST AID COURSE

The handler must pass and maintain current certification in the American Red Cross first responder course, "Emergency Response." A Board-approved equivalent or a higher level of emergency response certification will also fulfill this requirement.

#### 4.0 CPR

The handler must pass and maintain current CPR certification in one of the following: American Red Cross CPR for the Professional Rescuer; American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers; or a Board-approved equivalent.

#### 5.0 RADIO COMMUNICATION CLASS

The handler shall attend a radio communication class. Topics covered will include FCC legal requirements, handler responsibilities as defined by the FCC for specific NCSSAR frequencies, and protocols/regulations.

#### 6.0 72 HOUR SEARCH PACK AND EQUIPMENT

The handler shall maintain a day search pack that he/she will carry on searches. The required content is listed in the Equipment definition. The pack should also include

items needed for the current weather conditions and winter equipment as appropriate. Handlers qualified for multi-day deployments shall maintain a 72- hour pack consistent with environmental needs.

#### 7.0 LAND NAVIGATION

The handler shall explain and demonstrate the following skills:

- Explain declination
- Explain the UTM system
- Explain Geographic Coordinate system (Latitude/Longtitude)
- Demonstrate orienting a map and compass to the terrain
- Demonstrate obtaining and following a simple compass bearing
- Demonstrate relating a specific compass bearing to the map
- Demonstrate relating a map direction to a specific compass bearing
- Demonstrate point to point navagation with GPS and with compass
- Communicate position with GPS and with map/compass
- Demonstrate route finding with GPS and with map/compass
- Marking a waypoint with the GPS
- Demonstrate changing between Lat/Long and UTM with the GPS
- Demonstrate matching map and GPS datum

SAR Tech II certification will meet the Map and Compass portion of this requirement, but GPS skills must still be demonstrated before being signed off.

#### 8.0 ROPES SKILLS

The handler shall demonstrate basic knot tying and rescue skills using rope or webbing:

- Overhand bend/water knot
- Figure 8
- Figure 8 on a bight
- Figure 8 follow through
- Improvised hasty seat harness

SAR Tech II certification will meet this requirement.

#### 9.0 LITTER/TRANSPORT SKILLS

The handler will demonstrate the ability to assist in the transportation of a patient in a litter. This exercise will be done in teams of 4-6 people and shall include:

- Packaging of a patient for transport in a litter
- Lifting, lowering and carrying techniques
- Litter Crew procedures and commands

#### **10.0 LOW ANGLE SKILLS**

The handler shall show evidence of awareness of basic Low Angle Skills. This can be achieved through attendance at an introductory low angle class or through demonstrated proficiency in an activity that requires these skills. Awareness level instruction must include information on personal saftey, team safety, anchor systems, belay skills, and raising/lowering techniques; but this level of instruction is not expected to qualify the handler for low angle rescue.

#### 11.0 MANTRACKING

The handler shall demonstrate his or her skills and understanding of mantracking fundamentals by successfully performing the following exercises for an operations committee member:

- Describe and document the track.
- Demonstrate the use of a tracking stick.
- Demonstrate the labeling of tracks.
- Describe the importance of light and the techniques for dealing with poor conditions (i.e. high sun angle, cloudy days).
- Demonstrate the process of mantracking for a set of 8 to 10 contiguous steps laid in an area that provides both complete and partial prints (e.g., a dusty trail).
- Discuss the following terms and concepts:
- Sign and sign-cutting
- Jump tracking
- Step-by-step tracking
- Track trap
- Preservation or protection of sign

SAR Tech II certification will meet this requirement.

#### 12.0 KNOWLEDGE OF A CRIME SCENE

The handler shall demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the appropriate actions required at a possible crime scene. The handler shall discuss or define the following items with an Operations officer:

- Chain of evidence
- Protection the crime scene
- Documentation of a crime scene

#### 13.0 KNOWLEDGE OF SCENT

The handler shall be interviewed by an Operations Officer and asked questions regarding scent guides and scent behavior. The interview shall include the following items of discussion:

- Techniques for collecting a scent guide.
- Instructions for another person to collect a scent guide with cautions about clothes hampers and shared closets, etc.
- Techniques for collecting scent from a car seat using sterile gauze pads.
- Appropriate containers for storing a scent guide.
- Adverse impact of car exhaust and road flares on scene.
- Scent behavior near edge of lakes, streams, steep slopes, and conditions that lead to inversion layers.
- Factors that tend to extend or attenuate the scent such as sunlight, wind, humidity, etc.
- Factors that lead to a chimney effect
- Factors that lead to discontinuous scent from the subject
- Factors that lead to looping scent from the subject
- Strategies for placing area search dogs on ridges/canyon floors to detect subject

#### 14.0 HELICOPTER SAFETY CLASS

The handler is required to attend a lecture on personal, canine, and crew safety when entering and leaving a helicopter.

## 15.0 KNOWLEDGE OF BASIC SEMS/ICS

The handler must be familiar with the "Standardized Emergency Management System/ICS." The handler may either attend a class or pass a self-study course.

#### **16.0 UNEXPECTED NIGHT OUT COURSE**

The handler will take a course designed to prepare the team for an unplanned night out while searching. The course shall include at least the following:

- Survival attitude
- Minimum gear
- Food/water issues
- Clothing
- Shelter Building
- Dog needs

#### 17.0 UNEXPECTED NIGHT OUT FIELD EXERCISE

The handler and dog demonstrates the ability to spend an "unplanned" night out while searching. The handler must have completed the Unexpected Night Out Course or similar Board approved course prior to attempting the field exercise. The exercise is supervised by an Operations committee member, ensuring that each team knows the location of at least one other nearby team. The supervisory member ensures that at least one safety check is done during the night.

The overnight shall meet at least the following parameters:

- Teams shall be placed out of sight and sound of base camp.
- Each team shall camp alone (no closer than 150 yards from another team).
- Equipment should be limited to the required day pack items
- To complete the exercies, teams shall go out before eating dinner and return no earlier than official sunrise.
- Each team shall have a radio and, for the duration of the exercise, will be monitored by base camp.
- Following the overnight, the handlers and instructors shall have a group evaluation of the overnight exercise.

#### 18.0 MONTHLY WORKOUTS

The handler shall participate in at least six monthly CARDA, WOOF or MBRD workouts, as well as attend local trainings on a regular basis, to be documented in the handler's logbook for search dog training.

#### 19.0 FIELD OBSERVATION EXPERIENCE

All Apprentices shall be required to complete 10 hours of field observation experience (without their dog) on at least two separate wilderness missions. Before arranging for field observations, Apprentices shall complete all handler skills, send a copy of the completed Foundation Skills Check List to the Vice President, and check the CARDA web site to ensure that the Foundation Skills Check List has been received. Before a Mission Ready test or Tribunal can be arranged, field observation hours must be completed, sent to the Vice-President, and confirmed on the web site. Apprentices shall complete the 10 observation hours by observing a CARDA Mission Ready handler team in the discipline in which they are training. The Board must approve any exceptions. Apprentices are encouraged to accumulate additional hours in their own or other disciplines. The signature of the mission ready handler on the Field Observation Record is required for each search. An Individual Search Summary must also be completed. Field experience is defined as that time spent briefing, observing the mission ready team search the area assigned, and debriefing. It does not include transportation to and from the search or sitting at base camp.

## PRELIMINARY HANDLER SKILL CHECKLIST

Handler CARDA # Apprentice Date [	Oog
SIGN-OFF Description	
DATE	
EVALUATOR SIGNATURE	
CARDA #	
1.0 Logbook	
2.0 Physical Fitness (attach fitness record).	
Type Level:	
3.0 First Aid	
4.0 CPR	
5.0 Radio Communications	
6.0 Day Search Pack	
7.0 Land Navigation	
8.0 Rope Skills	
9.0 Litter/Patient Transport	
10.0 Low Angle Skills	
11.0 Mantracking	
12.0 Crime Scene	
13.0 Knowledge of scent	
14.0 Helicopter Safety Class	
15.0 Knowledge of SEMS/ICS	
16.0 Unexpected Night Out Class	
17.0 Unexpected Night Out Exercise	
18.0 Monthly Workout #1	
18.1 Monthly Workout #2	
18.2 Monthly Workout #3	
18.3 Monthly Workout #4	
18.4 Monthly Workout #5	
18.5 Monthly Workout #6	
19.0 Field Observation Send completed "Apprention instructions on that form.	ce Field Observation Record" to Vice President per

## Handler Skills Complete & Verified Sponsor:

\*When complete to this point send to Vice President for review and approval to start observation hours

## APPRENTICE INDIVIDUAL FIELD OBSERVATION RECORD

Name CARDA #			
Date			
CARDA Search #			
OES#			
County/Location Field Hours  Type of Search Observed (i.e. Area, Trailing, etc.):			
(signature of team observed) (CARDA # of team)			
Date			
CARDA Search #			
OES#			
County/Location Field Hours			
Type of Search Observed (i.e. Area, Trailing, etc.):			
Mission Ready Handler			
(signature of team observed) (CARDA # of team)			
Date			
CARDA Search #			
OES#			
County/Location Field Hours			
Type of Search Observed (i.e. Area, Trailing, etc.):			
Mission Ready Handler			
(signature of team observed) (CARDA # of team)			
SEND COPY OF FORM TO THE CARDA VICE PRESIDENT AFTER HOURS ARE			

SEND COPY OF FORM TO THE CARDA VICE PRESIDENT AFTER HOURS ARE COMPLETED. VERIFY RECEIPT AND APPROVAL BEFORE ARRANGING FOR A MISSION READY TEST.

#### TRAILING

The following list of canine skills and tasks are to be completed prior to the initial Mission Ready test. The dog shall meet the minimum age requirement of 9 months for sign-offs. The team must successfully complete the Preliminary Requirements before progressing to the Mission Ready Test. For Type 1 and Type 2 teams, the Mission Ready test must be taken within 1 year from the completion date of the 48- Hour-Old Wilderness trail (8.0). For Type 4 teams, the Mission Ready test must be taken within 1 year from the completion date of the Successful Urban Trail (12.0).

With the exception of Sociability, which must be signed off by both Sponsors, refer to "Policies and Procedures, Evaluator Requirements" for evaluator qualifications.

This chapter describes each of the sign-offs. See the Trailing Dog

Preliminary Requirements Check List for the appropriate sign-offs required for each certification type:

Type 1: Multi-purpose

Type 2: Wilderness

Type 4: Urban

Each canine skill is valid for 2 years except the 48-Hour-Old Wilderness Trail for Type 1 and 2 and the Successful Urban Trail for Type 4, unless the team has become Mission Ready.

#### 1.0 OBEDIENCE

Obedience involves the following skills:

- Walking On Leash
- Long Wait

#### 1.1 WALKING ON LEASH

The handler shall demonstrate the dog's ability to walk on leash through a scattered group of people and dogs on leash in a controlled manner. Demonstration of control is satisfied by the handler being able to keep the dog near his or her side and with the dog not exhibiting aggression toward other dogs or people.

#### 1.2 LONG WAIT

The handler shall tether the dog to a fixed object and shall leave the immediate area and remain out of sight for a period of ten minutes. At the end of the first five minutes an evaluator shall move and tether the dog in another location for the remaining portion of

the exercise. This second location will also be out of sight of the handler. At some point during the exercise, a person unfamiliar to the dog shall walk past the dog in the manner of someone simply passing by. The dog shall not exhibit aggression or undue apprehension during the exercise.

#### 2.0. CONFIDENCE AGILITY

The dog and handler shall successfully negotiate the following obstacles with the dog on lead:

- Lift Over
- Crawl Under
- Lift Down
- Climb & Balance On Rocks
- Walk On Log Bridge Or Plank

#### 2.1 LIFT OVER

The handler, with the assistance of 1 or 2 helpers (if needed), shall lift the dog over a fence or similar barrier between 3 and 4 feet in height. The dog shall be controllable throughout the exercise.

#### 2.2 CRAWL UNDER

The dog shall demonstrate a crawl under an obstacle such as a barbed-wire fence or a gate.

#### 2.3 LIFT DOWN

The handler, with the assistance of 1 or 2 helpers (if needed), shall demonstrate lifting the dog down from a 4 to 5 foot height, such as boulder, truck bed or helicopter. The dog shall be controllable throughout the exercise.

#### 2.4 CLIMB & BALANCE ON ROCKS

The handler and dog shall safely climb and balance on rocks, a woodpile or similar uneven terrain.

#### 2.5 WALK ON LOG BRIDGE OR PLANK

The dog will walk along a 10-inch wide, 10-foot long plank or log. Plank must be elevated at least 3 feet off the ground.

#### 3.0 SWIMMING

The handler may use any method he or she chooses to demonstrate the dog's ability to enter a body of water and swim a total distance of 50 feet.

#### **4.0 TRANSPORT**

The dog shall demonstrate the ability to be safely transported on lead with at least two other dog teams. Ideally the dogs should not know each other well. The transport vehicle and number of teams should be such that the teams are in close quarters, but each handler must have a seat belt. The dogs shall be under the control of their handlers at all times. Teams shall be transported on a bumpy or curvy road for at least five minutes. The dogs shall remain calm and not struggle or show aggression.

#### 5.0 SOCIABILITY

CARDA dogs must be able to behave appropriately around other dogs, people and animals. Verification of appropriate canine behavior must be obtained from the *Sponsors* of an Apprentice team (or from an approved evaluator in the case of a Mission Ready handler certifying a new dog). It is understood that dog behavior can change over time such that initial verification of sociability cannot replace on-going assessment.

#### 5.1 Dog/Dog & Dog/Human Behavior

Sponsors are expected to observe the behavior of Apprentice teams over an extended period of time. Both Sponsors must verify that they have not observed or been made aware of of canine misbehavior (as described in CARDA's canine behavior policy) from the team over the past 6months. The sponsors should only consider canine behavior associated with CARDA events.

#### 5.2 Dog/Animal Behavior

Both Sponsors must verify that the dog has not exhibited excessive distractibility, fear, or aggression toward other animals during a CARDA event in the past 3months.

#### **6.0 HELICOPTER TRAINING**

The handler and dog shall participate in helicopter safety training. The dog shall demonstrate the ability to be safely loaded on and off from an operating helicopter with rotors in motion. (Hot Loading)

#### 7.0 CADAVER SCENT EXPOSURE

The intent of the cadaver scent exposure exercise is for the handler to gain knowledge of how the dog will respond to the scent of a decomposing human body. It is not intended as a cadaver training exercise nor does it in any way certify or qualify the dog for cadaver search work. In a natural environment, a cadaver scent source that is inside a secure container shall be placed at ground level at least 20 minutes before the exercise begins. The cadaver scent source shall be inaccessible to the dog. The exposure exercise should be set up in such a way that the dog will discover the cadaver

scent rather than having the scent pointed out to the dog. The handler shall document the dog's behavior in the team's logbook.

#### 8.0 SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF 48-HOUR-OLD WILDERNESS TRAIL

The team shall successfully complete a 48-hour-old trail that is unknown to the handler. The trail shall be approximately 1/2 mile in length and have several intersections or other decision points and one or more changes of direction. The trail shall be laid in a rural area and may cross paved roads/sidewalks.

#### 9.0 SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF 60- TO72-HOUR-OLD WILDERNESS TRAIL

The team shall successfully complete a 60- to 72-hour-old trail that is unknown to the handler. The trail shall be approximately 1/2 mile in length and have several intersections or other decision points and one or more changes of direction. The trail shall be laid in a rural area and may cross paved roads/sidewalks.

## 10.0 DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE TRAINING ON A 96-HOUR-OLD WILDERNESS TRAIL

The team shall demonstrate running at least one 96-hour-old trail. The team is not required to be successful and may know where the trail was laid. The purpose of this exercise is for the handler to know the dog's capabilities for the conditions encountered on this type of trail. The trail shall be at least 1/3 mile in length.

#### 11.0 SUCCESSFUL WILDERNESS NIGHT SEARCH TRAINING

The team shall demonstrate one successful wilderness night search training exercise for Type 1 and two for Type 2 to give the team search experience at night. This will provide the handler with an opportunity to demonstrate the team's ability to work in new and different scent conditions, the experience of searching in the dark, reading the dog, and seeing how the dog reacts to people and animals in the dark. The team may not know where the trail was laid. The night trail exercise shall be a minimum of 1/2 mile in length, and it shall be aged at least 2 hours before it is worked.

#### 12.0 SUCCESSFUL URBAN TRAINING

The team shall successfully complete an 8- to 12-hour-old trail on streets and sidewalks in an urban or suburban area that is unknown to the handler. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the trail was laid.

The trail will include heavily traveled streets as well as less frequently traveled streets and will contain segments with driveways or other openings that will collect scent as cars drive on or adjacent to the trail. The trail shall be 1/3 to 1/2 mile in length.

#### 13.0 DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE TRAINING ON 48-HOUR-OLD URBAN TRAIL

The team shall demonstrate training on at least one 48-hour-old trail on streets and sidewalks in an urban or suburban area. The team is not required to be successful and may know where the trail was laid. The purpose of this exercise is for the handler to know the dog's capabilities and limitations in the urban environment. The trail will include heavily traveled streets as well as less frequently traveled streets and will contain segments with driveways or other openings that will collect scent as cars drive on or adjacent to the trail. The trail shall be 1/3 to 1/2 mile in length.

## 14.0 DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE TRAINING ON 60- TO 72-HOUR-OLD URBAN TRAIL

The team shall demonstrate training on a 60- to 72-hour-old trail on streets and sidewalks in an urban or suburban. The team is not required to be successful and may know where the trail was laid. The purpose of this exercise is for the handler to know the dog's capabilities and limitations in the urban environment. The trail will include heavily traveled streets as well as less frequently traveled streets and will contain segments with driveways or other openings that will collect scent as cars drive on or adjacent to the trail. The trail shall be 1/3 to 1/2 mile in length.

#### 15.0 SUCCESSFUL URBAN NIGHT SEARCH TRAINING

The team shall demonstrate one successful urban night search training exercise for Type 1 and two for Type 4 to give the team search experience at night. This will provide the handler with an opportunity to demonstrate the team's ability to work in new and different scent conditions, the experience of searching in the dark, reading the dog, and seeing how the dog reacts to people and animals in the dark. The team may not know where the trail was laid. The night trail exercise shall be a minimum of 1/2 mile in length, and it shall be aged at least 2 hours before it is worked.

#### 16.0 TRAIL HEAD VERIFICATION/SCENT GUIDE VERIFICATION

The dog shall be provided a scent guide and last known point (LKP) such as a trailhead, trail junction, car or home. The handler shall fire the dog at the LKP and demonstrate the ability to read the dog to determine whether any scent matching the article is present. This exercise will be performed with either a matching or a non-matching scent guide and the handler shall not be told which is the case during the evaluation. If the scent guide is non-matching, the evaluator shall take special care to ensure the LKP does not have scent matching that of the guide. If the scent guide is matching, the subject will be available at the end of a short trail.

## TRAILING DOG PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS CHECK LIST - DOG SKILLS

Handler CARDA # Dog

**Evaluator** 

Sign-off Description Date Signature ID #

TYPE 1

Multipurpose

TYPE 2

Wilderness

TYPE 4

Urban

- 1.1 Walk on leash
- 1.2 Long wait
- 2.1 Lift Over
- 2.2 Crawl Under
- 2.3 Lift Down
- 2.4 Climb & Balance on Rocks
- 2.5 Walk on Log Bridge or Plank
- 3.0 Swimming
- 4.0 Transport

Sponsor #1

5.1 Dog/Dog &

Dog/Human Behavior Sponsor #2

Sponsor #1

- 5.2 Dog/Animal Behavior Sponsor #2
- 6.0 Helicopter Hot Load
- 7.0 Cadaver Exposure
- 8.0 Successful Completion of 48-hr Wilderness trail N/A
- 9.0 Successful Completion of 72-hr Wilderness trail N/A
- 10.0 Demonstrated Experience on 96-hr Wilderness trail N/A /Successful Wilderness Night Trail N/A
- 11.0 Type 2 second Wilderness Night Trail N/A N/A
- 12.0 Successful Urban Trail N/A
- 13.0 Demonstrated Experience on 48-hr Urban trail N/A
- 14.0 Demonstrated Experience on 72-hr Urban trail N/A
- 15.0 Successful Urban Night Trail N/A /Type 4 second Urban Night Trail N/A
- 16.0 Trail Head Verification

#### Trailing Dog Requirements Complete and Verified Sponsor:

#### **AREA SCENT**

The following list of canine skills and tasks are to be completed prior to the initial Mission Ready test. The dog shall meet the minimum age requirement of nine months for sign-offs.

With the exception of Sociability, which must be signed off by both Sponsors, refer to "Policies and Procedures, Evaluator Requirements" for evaluator qualifications.

The team must successfully complete the Foundation Skills before progressing to the 40-Acre Field evaluation and the Cadaver 2/Recognition test. Each Foundation Skill is valid for 2 years unless the team has become Mission Ready. Mission ready teams must repeat the obedience and agility foundation skills no more than 6 months before their next Area Search Mission Ready recertification test. The obedience and agility foundation skills may be evaluated in conjunction with the recertification test.

#### 1.0 OBEDIENCE

All of the following exercises are to be performed off-lead, except where stated. The use of prong collars or electronic collars shall not be permitted. The following skills are required:

- Heeling On Lead
- Heeling Off Lead
- Sit And Down
- Recall
- Stop On Recall
- Long Wait
- Long Down

#### 1.1 HEELING ON LEAD

The dog must heel on lead in a controlled manner through a scattered group of people and dogs. The dog should be responsive to the handler who may talk or give repeated commands as necessary.

#### 1.2 HEELING OFF LEAD

The dog must heel off-leash in a controlled manner through a scattered group of people anddogs. The dog should be responsive to the handlerwho may talk or give repeated

commands as necessary.

#### 1.3 SIT AND DOWN

The dog shall demonstrate a sit and a down.

#### 1.4 RECALL

The handler shall leave his/her dog in a sit or down stay and walk away from the dog for a distance of approximately 25 yards. The dog shall remain as placed until signaled. On the order of the evaluator, the handler shall call the dog with one command or signal. The dog shall come directly to the handler.

#### 1.5 STOP ON RECALL

The handler shall place his/her dog on a stay and walk away from the dog at least 25 yards. The handler shall then call the dog and stop the dog approximately halfway between the "stay" location and the handler.

#### 1.6 LONG WAIT

The handler shall tether the dog to a fixed object and shall leave the immediate area and remain out of sight for a period of ten minutes. At the end of the first five minutes an evaluator shall move and tether the dog in another location for the remaining portion of the exercise. This second location will also be out of sight of the handler. At some point during the exercise a person unfamiliar to the dog shall walk past the dog in the manner of someone simply passing by. The dog shall not exhibit aggression or undue apprehension during the exercise.

#### 1.7 Long Down

The long down exercise can be done indivually or with a group of dogs, but dogs shall be placed at least 15 feet apart. The dog's leash must be removed, but the dog may be placed next to the handler's pack. Upon direction of the evaluator, the handler shall leave the dog and walk out of the dog's sight until told to return. Timing starts when the handler is out of sight. The dog must remain in place for 5minutes. The dog may sit, stand, or shift positions, but may not move more than his body length in any direction from where he was placed. The dog must be under the supervision of a monitor throughout the exercise.

#### 2.0 AGILITY

The dog shall demonstrate each of the following agility skills in an unfamiliar area:

- Plank Walk
- Climb/Balance
- Tunnel
- Crawl

- Lift Down
- Lift Over

#### 2.1 PLANK WALK

The dog will walk along a 10-inch wide, 10-foot long plank or log. Plank must be elevated at least 3 feet off the ground.

#### 2.2 CLIMB/BALANCE

The dog shall demonstrate confidence when climbing and balancing on a pile of debris (i.e. rocks, a firewood pile). Debris pile should be at least 3 feet high and 5 feet long.

#### 2.3 TUNNEL

The dog shall demonstrate the ability to go through a 6-10 foot tunnel or culvert.

#### 2.4 CRAWL

The dog shall demonstrate the ability to crawl under a fence or similar obstacle. The obstacle must be low enough to require the dog to truly crawl.

#### 2.5 LIFT DOWN

The dog shall calmly accept being lifted onto something (i.e. a boulder or truck bed) 3-4 feet in height, and then being lifted down. The handler may have the assistance of 1-2 helpers for the lifting/lowering exercises as needed.

#### 2.6 LIFT OVER

The dog shall also calmly accept being lifted over a fence, from or into the arms of a helper. The handler may have the assistance of 1-2 helpers for the lifting/lowering exercises as needed.

#### 3.0 SWIMMING

The handler may use any method he/she chooses to demonstrate the dog's ability to enter a body of water and swim a total distance of 50 feet.

#### 4.0 TRANSPORT

The dog shall demonstrate the ability to be safely transported on lead with at least two other dog teams. Ideally the dogs should not know each other well. The transport vehicle and number of teams should be such that the teams are in close quarters, but each handler must have a seat belt. The dogs shall be under the control of their handlers at all times. Teams shall be transported on a bumpy or curvy road for at least five minutes. The dogs shall remain calm and not struggle or show aggression.

#### 5.0 SOCIABILITY

CARDA dogs must be able to behave appropriately around other dogs, people and animals. Verification of appropriate canine behavior must be obtained from the *Sponsors* of an Apprentice team (or from an approved evaluator in the case of a Mission Ready handler certifying a new dog). It is understood that dog behavior can change over time such that initial verification of sociability cannot replace on-going assessment.

#### 5.1 Dog/Dog & Dog/Human Behavior

Sponsors are expected to observe the behavior of Apprentice teams over an extended period of time. Both Sponsors must verify that they have not observed or been made aware of any incidents of canine misbehavior (as described in CARDA's canine behavior policy) from the team over the past 6months. The sponsors should only consider canine behavior associated with CARDA events.

#### 5.2 Dog/Animal Behavior

Both Sponsors must verify that the dog has not exhibited excessive distractibility, fear, or aggression toward other animals during a CARDA event in the past 3 months.

#### **6.0 HELICOPTER TRAINING**

The handler and dog shall participate in helicopter safety training. The dog shall demonstrate the ability to be safely loaded on and off from an operating helicopter with rotors in motion.

#### 7.0 NIGHT SEARCH TRAINING

The team shall participate in two night search-training exercises (minimum of 20 minutes each) in a location dark enough to require flashlights. The subject shall be placed in a location unknown to the handler. For each exercise, an Area Search qualified member of the Operations committee will observe the team. The dog shall locate the subject and perform the alert sequence. Dog and handler should appear comfortable searching in the dark.

#### 8.0 TEAMS OUT OF CERTIFICATION

Any Area Search team--Types 1, 2, and 3--out of certification and wishing to regain Mission Ready status shall demonstrate a pattern of weekly training for a minimum of 2 months immediately prior to Mission Ready testing. A logbook check will be done to confirm the training.

#### AREA SEARCH DOG FOUNDATION SKILLS CHECKLIST

#### Handler CARDA # Dog

## Skill Date Evaluator Signature ID #

#### 1.0 OBEDIENCE-All Requirements Complete

- 1.1 Heeling On Lead
- 1.2 Heeling Off Lead
- 1.3 Sit and Down
- 1.4 Recall
- 1.5 Stop On Recall
- 1.6 Long Wait
- 1.7 Long Down

#### 2.0 AGILITY-ALL Requirements Complete

- 2.1 Plank Walk
- 2.2 Climb/Balance
- 2.3 Tunnel
- 2.4 Crawl
- 2.5 Lift Down
- 2.6 Lift Over
- 3.0 Swimming
- 4.0 Transport

#### 5.0 Sociability-ALL Requirements Complete

Sponsor # 1:

5.1 Dog/Dog &

Dog/Human Behavior Sponsor # 2:

Sponsor # 1:

5.2 Dog/Animal Behavior Sponsor # 2:

6.0 Helicopter

7.0 Night Search Training # 1

#2

**Complete And Verified Sponsor:** 

## AREA SEARCH DOG FOUNDATION SKILLS

BI-ANNUAL UPDATE		
Handler Dog	CARDA #	
NOTE: These skills may be updated up to	to 6 months prior to or during the area search dog recertification	

Whether done prior to or during the test, each individual skill must be demonstrated, passed, and signed off BEFORE the test is concluded, otherwise the entire test must be repeated. Skills may not be performed AFTER the completion of the recertification test.

test.

## **EVALUATOR SIGN OFF DESCRIPTION**

DATE
SIGNATURE
CARDA #

## Obedience

Heel On Lead

Heel Off Lead

Sit and Down

Recall

Stop on Recall

Long Down

## **Agility**

Plank Walk

Climb/balance

Lift Over

Lift Down

Crawl Under

Tunnel

#### CADAVER

#### WILDERNESS REQUIREMENT

All dogs must be Mission-Ready in Area or Trailing at the time of testing, unless the handler is a Veteran Handler.

#### CADAVER SEARCH DOG CADAVER SCENT MATERIALS

The following definitions for the scent materials shall be used. The cadaver scent sources used must have been recently used successfully in a training or a test. Cadaver scent may include:

- Soil sample from where a body has decomposed
- Tissue
- Hair mixed with other cadaver material
- Bone with tissue
- Clothing items or cloth from a decomposing body

#### Cadaver scent may not include:

- Dry, bleached bone only
- Ashes
- Synthetic scents
- Hair Only
- Teeth only

#### 1.0 OBEDIENCE, AGILITY AND SOCIABILITY

All cadaver dogs are expected to complete, or to have completed, the dog foundation skills/preliminary requirements in obedience, agility, sociability, and transport. Veteran handlers working a dog that has not been certified in wilderness shall be required to complete the dog foundation skills/preliminary requirements sign offs in obedience, agility, sociability, and transport prior to testing for cadaver.

Dogs that will be worked off leash for cadaver shall complete (or have completed) the indicated area search dog foundation skills sign offs. Dogs that will work exclusively on leash shall complete (or have completed) the indicated trailing search dog preliminary requirements.

#### 2.0 **LOG BOOK**

The team must complete and present their logbook showing at least six months of current, regular training in cadaver. Handlers shall keep complete training records; these should start when the dog's training is started and end when the dog is retired. These records indicate the experience of the handler even after placing a new dog in service.

#### 3.0 CADAVER SCENT EXERCISE

The team must demonstrate the ability to find/locate the following cadaver scent at a training session in a search area not to exceed 20 yards by 20 yards. Scent sources are to be placed 30 minutes before the dog begins. The team will have 20 minutes to complete each sign-off.

These sign-offs may or may not be completed on the same day. The scent item location will not be known to the team. One of the sign-offs must include an animal distraction.

The dog shall not eat, pick up, or urinate on the scent source. If the dog does, then it fails.

#### 3.1 SURFACE BLOOD

The scent item will be a minimum of 3 cc of human blood on a sterile gauze pad exposed to air for at least 48 hours. The item will be on the ground but covered with leaves, branches, etc. and not readily visible to the dog and handler.

#### 3.2 BURIED CADAVER SCENT

The cadaver scent material will be buried 15 inches in porous soil and not readily visible to the dog and handler. Porous soil can be made by mixing debris such as leaves, branches, and rocks into the dirt. One or two false holes must be made no closer than 20 feet from the scent source. In case of digging, the handler shall identify the alert before the item is visible.

#### 3.3 CADAVER HANGING

The cadaver scent material will be suspended approximately three feet from the ground and not readily visible to the dog and handler.

#### 3.4 CADAVER INTERIOR ENVIRONMENT

The cadaver scent material will be placed on or close to the floor (less than one foot above the floor) in an interior environment. The item will be inaccessible to the dog and not readily visible to the dog and handler. The interior shall be approximately the size of a standard two-car garage and not a confined space.

## **4.0 ANIMAL REMAINS DISTRACTION**

An animal remains distraction that is not buried shall be placed in one of the four signoff areas. The dog shall not alert on the remains.

## CADAVER BASIC PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Handler	_ CARDA #
Dog	
EVALUATOR SIGN OFF DESCRIPTION	
DATE	
SIGNATURE	
CARDA#	
Handler Sign Offs:	
CPR Current Expiration Date :	
First Aid Current Expiration Date:	
Physical Fitness Current	
Section 1 : Obedience, Agility, Sociability	
Wilderness certification satisfies Requirement	nt:
Veteran Handler/Off Leash Dog	
Listed area search dog foundation skills sign	offs are complete.
Veteran Handler/ On Leash Dog	
Listed trailing search dog preliminary require	ment sign offs are complete.
Section 2: Log Book	
Log book current	
Section 3 : Cadaver Scent Exercises	
3.1 Surface Blood	
3.2 Buried Cadaver Scent	
3.3 Cadaver Hanging	
3.4 Cadaver Interior Environment	
Section 4: Animal Remains Distraction	
Dog did not alert on remains	

#### **APPENDIX A: APPRENCTICE**

The primary objective of the apprentice is to make adequate progress (see Sponsor guidelines) towards mission ready status. While the sponsors have a direct responsibility to ensure progress in and quality of training, the training itself is the sole responsibility of the apprentice. It is the apprentice's responsibility to maintain the relationship with both sponsors.

Apprentice responsibilities include:

- The apprentice should attend monthly meetings as well as local training sessions.
- The apprentice has sole responsibility for training his or herself and his/her dog.
- The apprentice has the responsibility to deal fairly and honestly with their sponsors on all issues.
- The apprentice should supply his/her sponsors with training logs, plans, etc. to show adequate progress towards the training goal. The Apprentice and dog in training are a team, and as such, the apprentice may work one dog and one dog only. The team must conform to the approved timeline to become Mission Ready. If the apprentice chooses to cease training with their current dog, or change wilderness disciplines, notification must be sent to the Board of Directors in writing so that the timeline for Mission Ready Status can be re evaluated. The notification should be completed within 90 days after the selection of the new dog or starting a new discipline.

#### APPENDIX B: PHYSICAL FITNESS

In order to be deployed in the field, any NCSSAR member is required to pass a physical fitness evaluation every two years. Upon completion of the physical fitness evaluation, documentation shall be submitted to the K-9 Team Leader.

Members who fail to provide documentation of current fitness will be removed from the call out list.

The purpose of the evaluation is to determine if the person has the minimal physical endurance and capability needed for a wilderness search and rescue mission. It is to be noted that the evaluation is only a general indicator of fitness and many searches require a greater endurance capability.

All Pre-Apprentices shall pass the "Fitness Hike Test" or the "Type III Fitness Test", as defined below, within 90 days of becoming a pre-apprentice. Failure to successfully complete the fitness requirement within 90 days shall terminate the pre-apprentice membership on the 91st day. Member "Fitness Type" is a measure of the member's capability of handling physical difficulty. Type ratings of Area Search Teams will be adjusted (downward if necessary) according to the Type rating of the most recently passed fitness test.

#### **FITNESS HIKE TEST**

Successful completion of the Fitness Hike Test will qualify the handler at the Type II fitness level. This test is also a required pre-requisite to the Overnight Evaluation, as defined below under Type I Handler Fitness Test. The hike shall be conducted and evaluated by a mission ready handler. Any mission ready handler may sign off the member's fitness record.

The participant(s) shall hike 8 miles with a 20-pound search pack, exclusive of water. The packs will be weighed at the beginning and the end of the hike. The hike shall include a minimum of 500 feet in cumulative elevation gain. The evaluator shall note the start and stop time of each participant. The hike shall be completed within 3 hours. Paved roads are to be avoided if possible.

#### TYPE III HANDLER FITNESS TEST

The Type III test shall be exactly as described in the above Fitness Hike Test with the following allowed modifications:

- Time: The hike shall be completed within 3.5 hours.
- Elevation: The hike shall include a minimum of 100 feet cumulative elevation gain.

#### TYPE I HANDLER FITNESS TEST

In order to qualify at the Type I fitness level, the handler shall pass the Type I Overnight Evaluation, as defined in Policies and Procedures, Standards 3.4,

Overnight Evaluation. To remain Type I, the handler must pass the Overnight Evaluation every two years, as his/her fitness test.

\*\*Prior to participating in his/her initial overnight evaluation, the handler must pass the above Fitness Hike Test as a prerequisite. In the event that a handler should fail the overnight at any time, he/she must again take and pass the above Fitness Hike Test prior to re-taking the Overnight Evaluation. This prerequisite is in place to give some assurance that the handler has an adequate fitness level to participate in the overnight exercise.

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Members who do not pass at least a Type III Fitness Test shall not respond to any CARDA dispatched searches until such time as they can pass the minimum requirement. The only exception shall be qualified Dog Ops personnel who respond solely in the role of overhead in base camp.

#### CARDA INDIVIDUAL PHYSICAL FITNESS RECORD

Handler CARDA # Date of Hike: Circle: PASS / FAIL **Circle Fitness Test Type** Fitness Hike Test Type III Fitness Test Overnight Evaluation Location **Evaluator CARDA#** Date of Hike: Circle: PASS / FAIL **Circle Fitness Test Type** Fitness Hike Test Type III Fitness Test Overnight Evaluation Location **Evaluator CARDA #** Date of Hike: Circle: PASS / FAIL **Circle Fitness Test Type** Fitness Hike Test Type III Fitness Test Overnight Evaluation Location **Evaluator CARDA#** Date of Hike: Circle: PASS / FAIL **Circle Fitness Test Type** 

Evaluator CARDA #

Location

Fitness Hike Test Type III Fitness Test Overnight Evaluation

## **APPENDIX C: TRAINING LOG**

Each handler is required to keep a training logbook and to bring this logbook to all NCSSAR workouts and trainings. These log books shall be spot checked at the NCSSAR workouts by training advisors and the Team leader.

#### **APPENDIX D: EQUIPMENT**

#### DAY SEARCH PACK

#### HANDLER SURVIVAL KIT HANDLER SAR EQUIPMENT

- Compass with protractor
- GPS
- Signal mirror (may be with compass)
- Whistle
- Multi-purpose knife
- Flashlight with extra batteries & bulb
- Candle or fire starter
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Space blanket or equivalent
- High calorie snack food
- First aid kit (see below)
- Wool or synthetic hat
- Sturdy boots (consistent with weather and terrain)
- 2 large leaf bags
- 2 quart or liter water bottles
- Water purification
- Flagging tape
- Notebook and pen/pencil
- Tissues or toilet paper
- Goggles
- Pack
- Duct Tape, 5-10 ft
- Nylon cord, 50 ft
- Leather gloves
- 25 Feet of 1-inch tubular webbing
- Two locking carabiners
- Assorted plastic bags, some zip-locked

- Bandanna
- Clothing suited for weather and terrain
- Extra clothing with waterproof bag
- Extra socks
- Insect repellent
- Rain wear
- Metal cup or pot
- Watch

#### FIRST AID KIT

- Band-Aids, various sizes
- Antiseptic pads
- Tweezers
- Roller gauze or equivalent
- Assorted sterile gauze pads
- Aspirin or equivalent
- Triangular bandage
- Chemical heat pack
- Antihistamines
- Protective gloves (latex or equivalent)

#### **DOG EQUIPMENT**

- Collar, leash
- Shabrack
- Harness
- Chemical light stick or equivalent
- One food ration
- Additional water as required
- Dog coat/neoprene (highly recommended but at handler discretion)

## **OPTIONAL SEARCH PACK EQUIPMENT**

- Folding shovel
- Helmet/hard hat

- Seat harness and personal gear
- 50 Feet of 9 mm rope (static)
- Altimeter
- Toiletries
- Sunscreen and lip balm
- Camera and film
- Extra eye glasses / sun glasses
- Prescription drugs
- Chemical cold pack
- Sam splint or equivalent material
- Insect bite treatment
- Anti-acid
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Sun burn cream
- Dog harness and long line
- Dog boots
- Dog sling
- Bringsel
- Dog medications
- Dog treats
- Dog dish