



*Prepared for the San Diego County  
Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue  
Team, Canine Unit*

---

**San Diego County Sheriff's Department  
Search and Rescue Team  
Canine Unit Guidelines  
January 2020**

Further distribution authorization requests shall be referred to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue Team Coordinator, ASTREA Base, 1745 N. Marshall Ave, El Cajon, CA, 92020, 619-956-4990 (office)

# Executive Summary

## Purpose

This document contains operational guidelines for the Reserve Deputies and Rescue Volunteers of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue Team (SDSDSAR) Canine Unit. These guidelines are intended to designate field certification parameters and assure that SDSDSAR Canine Unit members maintain an approved level of performance.

This document represents a series of best practices. The document is intended only for the use of this agency and not for any other agency. **The SDSDSAR Canine Unit Guidelines meet or exceed the recommended California Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES) State Mutual Aid Search Canine Guidelines.**

## Disciplines

This document contains training, performance, and field certification guidelines for SDSDSAR Canine Teams in the following disciplines:

- Area Search
- Trailing
- Cadaver (also known as Human Remains Detection or HRD)

# Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>ii</b>
Purpose.....	ii
Disciplines .....	ii
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1. Purpose.....	1-1
1.2. Administration .....	1-1
1.3. Member Requirements.....	1-2
1.4. Participation Requirements.....	1-2
1.5. Timekeeping .....	1-2
1.6. Unit Callout Procedures.....	1-3
1.7. Canine Training Logs .....	1-3
1.8. Medical Emergency Procedures .....	1-3
1.9. Updates & Revisions .....	1-4
1.10. Basic Canine Proficiency Requirements.....	1-4
1.11. Field Observation Experience (1st Time Handlers) .....	1-4
1.12. Recertification.....	1-4
<b>2. Area Search Canine Guidelines.....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1. Introduction.....	2-1
2.2. CAL OES Area Search Canine Typing .....	2-1
2.3. Area Search Proficiency Requirements .....	2-2
2.3.1 Basic Training.....	2-2
2.3.2 Agility, Sociability, & Obedience.....	2-4
2.3.3 Helicopter Safety, Loading and Unloading .....	2-4
2.3.4 Cadaver Exposure .....	2-4
2.4. Area Search Canine Evaluation .....	2-5
2.4.1 Mandatory Prerequisites .....	2-5
2.4.2 Evaluation Parameters .....	2-5
2.4.3 Evaluator Requirements.....	2-5
<b>3. Trailing Canine Guidelines .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1. Introduction.....	3-1
3.2. CAL OES Trailing Canine Typing .....	3-1
3.3. Trailing Proficiency Requirements .....	3-2
3.3.1 Basic Training.....	3-2
3.3.2 Agility, Sociability, & Obedience.....	3-5
3.3.3 Helicopter safety, loading and unloading .....	3-5
3.3.4 Cadaver Exposure .....	3-5
3.4. Trailing Canine Evaluation – Type 1 (Multi-purpose) .....	3-6
3.4.1 Mandatory Prerequisites .....	3-6
3.4.2 Evaluation Parameters .....	3-6
3.4.3 Evaluator Requirements.....	3-6
<b>4. Cadaver Canine Guidelines .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1. Introduction.....	4-1

4.2. Cal OES Cadaver Canine Typing ..... 4-1

4.3. Cadaver Search Proficiency Requirements..... 4-2

    4.3.1 Basic Training..... 4-2

    4.3.2 Agility, Sociability, & Obedience..... 4-3

    4.3.3 Helicopter safety, loading and unloading ..... 4-4

4.4. Cadaver Canine Evaluation ..... 4-5

    4.4.1 Mandatory Prerequisites ..... 4-5

    4.4.2 Evaluation Parameters ..... 4-5

    4.4.3 Evaluator Requirements..... 4-5

**Appendix A Basic Canine Proficiencies..... A-1**

    A.1 Basic Canine Proficiency Descriptions ..... A-1

    A.2 Basic Canine Proficiency Checklist ..... A-4

**Appendix B Area Search Canine Proficiency Checklist & Evaluation Form..... B-1**

    B.1 Area Search Proficiency Checklist..... B-1

    B.2 Area Search Evaluation Form..... B-5

**Appendix C Trailing Canine Proficiency Checklist & Evaluation Form..... C-1**

    C.1 Trailing Search Proficiency Checklist – Type 1..... C-1

    C.2 Trailing Evaluation Form ..... C-5

**Appendix D Cadaver Canine Proficiency Checklist & Evaluation Form.....D-1**

    D.1 Cadaver Search Proficiency Checklist ..... D-1

    D.2 Cadaver Search Evaluation Form..... D-4

**Appendix E Field Observation Record.....E-1**

**Appendix F Equipment List.....F-1**

## Table of Figures

Figure 1-1. SDSDSAR Canine Unit Organization Chart..... 1-1

## List of Tables

Table 2-1. 2005 Cal OES Area Search Canine Typing ..... 2-1

Table 3-1. 2005 Cal OES Trailing Canine Typing ..... 3-1

Table 4-1. 2005 Cal OES Cadaver Canine Typing..... 4-1

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue Team (SDSDSAR) Canine Unit is responsible for training, evaluating, and deploying capable, qualified, and certified Canine Teams in the following disciplines:

- Area Search
- Trailing
- Cadaver (also known as Human Remains Detection or HRD)

The guidelines in this document apply specifically to SDSDSAR Canine Teams training in these disciplines and are not designed, nor intended, to apply to other canines within the department.

## 1.2. Administration

The Canine Unit Chain of Command is shown below in Figure 1-1. The Canine Unit Lieutenant/Unit Leader reports to the SDSDSAR Reserve Captain for Division 3. The Reserve Captain reports to the SDSDSAR Reserve Commander who in turn reports directly to the SDSDSAR Coordinator.

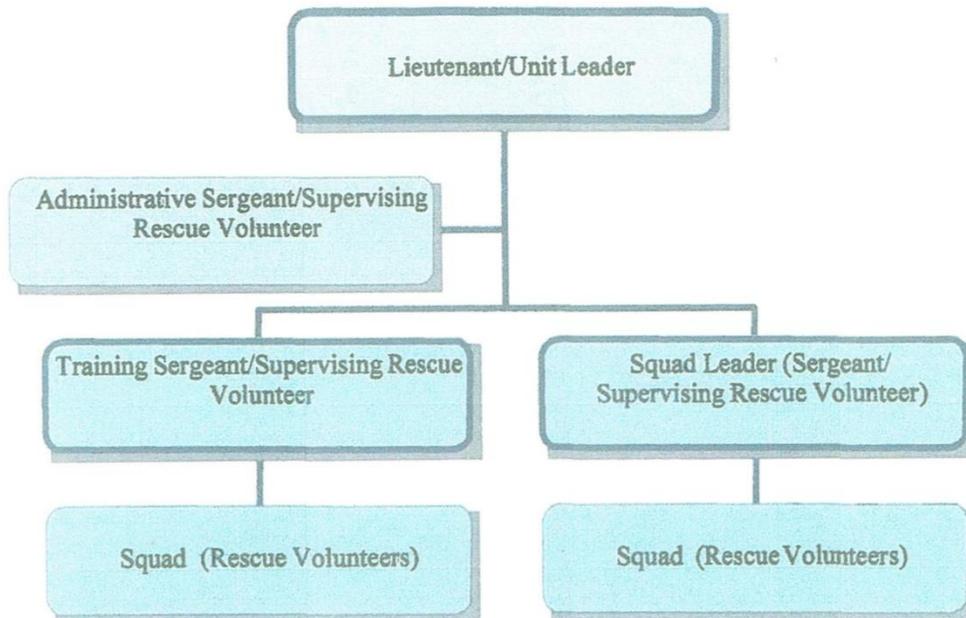


Figure 1-1. SDSDSAR Canine Unit Organization Chart

### 1.3. Member Requirements

Any SDSDSAR member with an interest in canine operations may join the Canine Unit. Members wishing to train a canine in any discipline must present their canine for an initial screening evaluation. Acceptance of a SDSDSAR member and/or canine into the Canine Unit is at the sole discretion of the Canine Lieutenant/Unit Leader.

Note that acceptance into the Canine Unit does **NOT** guarantee, nor in any way imply, that a Canine Team will achieve certification in any discipline or be deployed in the field.

### 1.4. Participation Requirements

All Canine Unit members must maintain minimum SDSDSAR requirements including (subject to revision and change):

- Complete the SDSDSAR Academy
- Hold a current Disaster Service Worker (DSW) card (renewed every four years)
- Hold a current CPR/AED Certification (renewed every two years)
- Hold a current First Aid Certification (renewed every three years)
- Hold a current Fitness Certification (renewed annually)
- Demonstrate at least 100 hours of participation each year
- Participate in at least half of all Missions
- Participate in at least two of the four All-Units training exercises each year
- Participate in at least two of the four Team Meetings each year.

In addition, Canine Unit members must attend at least two official Canine Unit trainings each month with a total of seven trainings in each quarter. K9 support members (those without a K9 partner) must attend at least 5 trainings in each quarter. Any official SAR training, including non-canine trainings, is included in the 5 trainings for each quarter.

Members who do not meet SDSDSAR or Unit requirements will have their field and/or membership status evaluated and may be prohibited from further participation permanently or until such time as all requirements are met.

### 1.5. Timekeeping

Canine Unit members must log their volunteer hours and associated mileage on a monthly basis in accordance with SDSDSAR Team policies. The Mission Manager Software tool provides a timekeeping form for this purpose which can be accessed by clicking on the Timekeeping tab. Unit members log hours from the 26th of one month to the 25th of the next month and may only record officially sanctioned events. The Canine Unit Administration Sergeant will review each member's entries on a monthly basis to ensure accuracy and may request revisions from a Unit member, as needed.

## 1.6. Unit Callout Procedures

Canine Unit members are encouraged to actively participate in searches. SDSARSAR leadership initiates each call-out using the SAR Information Line (760-856-0757).

Canine Unit members can call this number to receive Teams on each call-out.

The Unit uses a text email address system to notify leadership who will and will not be responding to each call out. When a search is announced, follow the following steps within 30 minutes to notify leadership of your callout status:

- 1) Send a text message or email to [yes.sdsar@missionmanager.net](mailto:yes.sdsar@missionmanager.net) if you are responding to the call-out.
- 2) Send a text message or email to [no.sdsar@mimissionmanager.net](mailto:no.sdsar@mimissionmanager.net) if you are not responding to the call-out.
- 3) Send a text message or email to [maybe.sdsar@missionmanager.net](mailto:maybe.sdsar@missionmanager.net) if you are unsure if you will be responding to the call-out.

In the body of your text message, please include pertinent information such as “Arrival delayed” with an estimated time of arrival, whether you are bringing specialized equipment, or any other information that Command needs regarding your response.

As a courtesy to other members of the Canine Unit, please apprise your chain of command if you will be out of town or otherwise unavailable for call-outs for any extended period of time.

## 1.7. Canine Training Logs

Canine Teams are required to maintain written/electronic logs documenting their training and deployments

## 1.8. Medical Emergency Procedures

Prior to each approved training session, the Canine Unit leadership will submit a training plan, including a medical plan, to the SDSARSAR Coordinator. If there is a need for medical assistance during a scheduled training session or mission, follow the submitted medical plan and seek medical attention as required. Notify your chain of command and the SDSARSAR Coordinator immediately. The SAR Coordinator or designee will ensure that the appropriate documentation is completed. The Training Sergeant will submit a statement describing how the injury occurred and all the Teams of the incident (i.e. time, date, situation, etc.)

In the event of a canine injury, seek appropriate medical attention for the animal and contact the SDSARSAR coordinator and your Chain of Command.

## **1.9. Updates & Revisions**

The Canine Unit has the responsibility to review this document annually. Requests for modification and revision should be submitted to the Administrative Sergeant/Supervising Rescue Volunteer (see Section 1.3) for consideration and recommendation. The Administrative Sergeant/Supervising Rescue Volunteer will submit all suggested revisions to the Unit Leader/Lieutenant for consideration. The Unit Leader/Lieutenant will then submit revisions to the SDSDSAR Coordinator for approval at the January Staff meeting.

## **1.10. Basic Canine Proficiency Requirements**

All Canine Teams seeking certification in any discipline must first successfully complete the Basic Canine Proficiency Checklist (See Appendix A). It is the handler's responsibility to have each of the listed skills and tasks signed and dated by an SDSDSAR Trainer. Only SDSDSAR Trainers may sign for each skill and must witness the completion of that skill.

Canine Teams must complete all Sociability skills without demonstrating inappropriate or uncontrollable aggression toward any person or other canine. Canines with unmanaged human or dog aggression issues will not be allowed to remain in the Canine Unit. Canines may be re-evaluated for Sociability at any time throughout their career.

ALL signoffs on the BASIC CANINE PROFICIENCY CHECKLIST (Section A.2) (with the exception of Helicopter Training) MUST be completed before moving into Advanced Skills in ANY regular Discipline (Area, Trailing, HRD).

## **1.11. Field Observation Experience (1st Time Handlers)**

All 1st time canine handlers must complete a minimum of ten (10) hours of field observation (without their K9), supporting a currently certified K9 team during at least two (2) separate SAR missions before attempting certification (Area, Trailing, HRD).

Field Observation Experience is the time the handler spends observing certified K9 teams while on assignment and during debrief. It does not include transportation to and from the search or sitting at the Command Post.

During the Field Observation the 1st time canine handler acts as support, safety, navigation and/or communications as needed.

Field Observation Experience may be acquired prior to completing their Canine Proficiency Checklist (Area, Trailing, HRD).

## **1.12. Recertification**

Following a successful certification in any discipline, Area Search and Trailing certifications must recertify at least once every two years. Cadaver certifications must be

renewed every year. Recertification evaluations follow the same guidelines as initial certifications.

## 2. Area Search Canine Guidelines

### 2.1. Introduction

These guidelines apply to SDSDSAR Canine Teams proficient in searching open areas to locate human scent under various environmental conditions.

Canine Team results may be admitted as evidence if the investigating agency determines its validity. In accordance with current case law, any evidence identified by an area search canine team must be supported by documented direct/indirect physical evidence. Due to the potential evidentiary nature of search results from area search canine teams, Canine Handlers trained and certified in this discipline will review a Courtroom testimony Course presentation (live or via video) every 2 years as part of ongoing handler training. Handlers will also review a Crime Scene Preservation Course (live or via video) regularly.

Area Search Canine Handlers must be capable (i.e., carry the proper equipment and be fully trained) of covering large (i.e., in excess of 100 acres) search areas through highly variable terrain and over significant changes in elevation. Handlers must therefore be proficient in navigation and wilderness survival skills.

The handler will keep monthly logs showing at least 6 months of current, regular area search training prior to certification evaluation. Handlers keep complete training records starting from when the canine's training begins and ending when the canine is retired.

### 2.2. CAL OES Area Search Canine Typing

SDSDSAR area search Canine Teams will meet or exceed the most current guidelines set forth by the California Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES). CAL OES has divided area search canines into four types. At the present time, SDSDSAR certifies and fields only Type 2 teams. Note that teams who complete Type 2 certifications (including all prerequisites) may also be fielded in Type 3 or 4 environments.

**Table 2-1. 2005 CAL OES Area Search Canine Typing**

	<b>Type 1 Extreme/Complex Terrain</b>	<b>Type 2 Rugged Terrain</b>	<b>Type 3 Moderate/Gentle Terrain</b>	<b>Type 4 Urban Terrain</b>
<b>Mission Assignments</b>	Challenging wilderness conditions generally above 7000' elevation	Wilderness conditions generally below 7000' elevation	Wilderness terrain without significant elevation changes or hazards	Urban environments
<b>Mission Types</b>	Extreme conditions Sustained Searching Over Multiple Operational Periods Snow, Ice, Desert, Heat, Heavy Ground Cover, etc.	Rugged conditions Possible 6 to 8 Hour Field Assignments Desert, Heat, Cold, Moderate to Heavy Ground Cover,	Suburban/rural conditions Up to 4hour deployments Structural Interiors and moderate terrain	Urban conditions High Traffic, Urban Office Complexes and/or Structural Interiors over man-made surfaces

## 2.3. Area Search Proficiency Requirements

Canine Teams must successfully complete the following list of skills and tasks prior to certification. It is the handler's responsibility to have each of the skills signed and dated (See Appendix B ). Only SDSDSAR trainers may sign for the skill and must witness the completion of that skill. Only SDSDSAR Area Search trainers may sign for skills where the team is required to be successful (i.e. "blind" or non-exposure skills).

Teams wishing to certify to any area search standard must complete all Foundation, Intermediate, and Advanced signoffs prior to their evaluation. Foundation skills must be successfully completed before a Canine Team can initiate signoffs for Intermediate skills. Additionally, Intermediate skills must be successfully completed before a Canine Team can initiate signoffs for Advanced skills.

In training instances where multiple dogs work the same problem, only the first dog to attempt a given blind or required successful signoff skill can receive the signoff for that skill.

### 2.3.1 Basic Training

#### Foundation Skills

- *Introduction to the Shabrack (search dog vest)* – Familiarize your canine with standard search gear that will be used at trainings and searches.
- *Introduction to Runaways* – Introduce the canine to an enthusiastic running subject and positively reinforce the canine for following and making contact with that subject.
- *Introduction and Development of the Reward* – Positively reinforce the canine for locating the subject.
- *Introduction to the Command to Search* – Introduce the command used to deploy the canine on an area search.
- *Use scent and wind to locate a subject* – Canine enters an area, leaves the handler, and finds the subject
- *Return to the handler after the find* – Canine leaves the subject and returns to the handler
- *Perform a recognizable alert* – Canine alerts the handler through any defined, repeatable behavior recognizable by the handler both during day or night searches
- *Return the handler to the subject (i.e. executes a re-find)* – Canine takes the handler back to the subject
- *Combine find, alert, and re-find behaviors\** – Canine team completes the find, alert, and re-find sequence. The handler may not cue the behavioral sequence.
- *Introduction to Briefing Search Team on the Area Search Strategy* – Demonstrate the ability to brief a search team and/or management staff on urban/wilderness safety, description of canine search behavior, and team member duties/expectations.

## Intermediate Skills

- *Exposure to working the scent problem\** – Demonstrate and verbalize a search strategy while working an area problem.
- *Exposure to recognizing and controlling critter distractions\** – Demonstrate and verbalize reading the dog's response to other animals in the area.
- *Exposure to interpreting dog's behavior and interest with human scent\** – Verbalize your dog's natural response to human scent.
- *Exposure to directing your dog to the left and right\** – Demonstrate your ability to direct the dog from a distance of 10-30 yards to the left and right.
- *Exposure to working in the same area with a trailing dog* – Demonstrate your dog's ability to work an area problem while a trailing dog is in the area.
- *Exposure to working on a harness and long lead (minimum 15-30 foot)* – Demonstrate the dog's ability to work independently of the lead.
- *Exposure to working around other non-working dogs* – Demonstrate the dog's ability to continue working around and ignoring the distraction of other non-working dogs.
- *Exposure to obstacles in the search area* – Demonstrate working an area with common obstacles including, but not limited to, fences, boulders, logs, etc.
- ***ALL BASIC CANINE PROFICIENCY SIGNOFFS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE GOING ON TO ADVANCED SKILLS.***

## Advanced Skills

- *Exposure to working 2 dogs together* – Demonstrate working 2 dogs in the same search area. Dogs must work independently with minimal distractions from each other.
- *Exposure to working an inaccessible subject* – Demonstrate finding a subject beyond the dog's reach to make physical contact. Inaccessible locations may include, but not limited to, in a tree, behind a fence, top of a boulder, etc.
- *Exposure to working a negative area* – Demonstrate the dog's ability to work an area with no subject without false alerting.
- *Multi-floor interior building search\** - Clear a building and locate 1 subject within 30 minutes. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the subject is located.
- *Multiple building exterior search\** – Clear area around the exterior of 2 or more buildings and locate 1 subject within 30 minutes. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the subject(s) are located.
- *Exposure to working near a busy road or area \** – Work an area problem near a busy road or area and handler must address the dog's safety at all times.
- *Working Night Problem – Type 2 (Wilderness)\** – Demonstrate working a wilderness area problem in the dark to locate 1 subject. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the subject is located. The area must be a minimum of 20 Acres and the team must locate the subject within 45 minutes.

- *Working Night Problem – Type 4 (Urban)\** – Demonstrate working an urban area problem in the dark to locate 1 subject. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the subject is located. The area must include a minimum of (2) building exteriors and the team must locate the subject within 30 minutes. The team must demonstrate an emphasis on team safety.
- *Working a 40 Acre wilderness problem\** – Work an area problem and locate 1 subject. The team is required to work for a minimum of 1 hour and for no more than 2 hours. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the subject is located.
- *Working an 80 Acre wilderness problem\** – Work an area problem and locate 2 subjects. The team is required to work for a minimum of 2 hours and for no more than 3 hours. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the subjects are located.

*\*May only be witnessed and signed by a SDSARSAR Area trainer*

### **2.3.2 Agility, Sociability, & Obedience**

Area search Canine Teams must complete the agility, sociability, and obedience sign-offs and evaluation criteria for off-lead search dogs.

### **2.3.3 Helicopter Safety, Loading and Unloading**

The Handler will attend a Canine Team helicopter safety briefing. The canine will demonstrate the ability to safely load on and off of a helicopter both when the helicopter is turned off and when it is running.

### **2.3.4 Cadaver Exposure**

Canine Teams will expose their canines to a cadaver scent source during their training process. The handler will note the canine's reaction to the scent source in their logs.

## **2.4. Area Search Canine Evaluation**

### **2.4.1 Mandatory Prerequisites**

Teams must successfully complete the appropriate Agility, Sociability, and Obedience Signoffs (including Helicopter Loading and Cadaver Exposure) and the Area Search Proficiency Checklist prior to evaluation.

### **2.4.2 Evaluation Parameters**

The evaluation will take place in an area outside of normal training areas whenever possible. The evaluation search area will cover rugged terrain environments to include altitude generally under 7000 feet, desert, heat, cold, and/or moderate to heavy ground cover. It is preferred that at least 60% of the search area be covered by an opportunity for concealment, including but not limited to, trees, rock stands, deadfall, shrubs or moderate brush. The team being evaluated will be provided a map of the search area indicating 2-3 clearly defined boundaries and 1-2 undefined boundaries.

The evaluation search area should be approximately 100-120 acres. Evaluators will place 1-3 subjects in the search area prior to the Field Evaluation start time. The Canine must alert on at least one subject before they are seen by the handler. The Canine must find all subjects in order to pass the evaluation. For the initial certification, it is preferred that the subjects be unfamiliar to the canine and from another SAR unit. For subsequent re-certifications, the subjects may be unfamiliar to the canine and from another SAR unit or familiar to the canine and from the K9 unit.

The Handler should be able to direct the Canine to the left, right and further out to a distance 25 yards from the handler during the Field Evaluation.

### **2.4.3 Evaluator Requirements**

Evaluations will be given in accordance with the San Diego Sheriff's Department Canine Evaluator Guidelines (See Appendix B ). Two evaluators are required for each area search evaluation. Neither evaluator can be the handler's designated trainer (note: this requirement does not apply to subsequent re-certification evaluations due to the size of the team). For area search evaluations, the evaluators are responsible to ensure that the evaluation is conducted in a manner that reduces the chance of a handler seeing a subject prior to the canine locating that subject.

The skills of the area search Canine Team shall be evaluated in three different areas:

- The ability of the canine to cover a defined area and locate all placed subjects.
- The ability of the handler to read and evaluate the canine while working the area
- The ability of the canine to stay on task.

The Canine Team has a minimum of 3 hours and a maximum of 4 hours to cover the entire area and locate all the subjects (1-3). Timing of the evaluation commences when the handler has given the search command. Additionally, if at any time during the field evaluation it becomes evident to evaluators that the team cannot successfully complete the problem, the evaluators may discontinue the evaluation and turn it into a training session.

## 3. Trailing Canine Guidelines

### 3.1. Introduction

These guidelines apply to Canine Teams proficient in trailing a specific human scent under various environmental conditions.

Canine Team results may be admitted as evidence if the investigating agency determines its validity. In accordance with current case law, any evidence identified by a trailing canine team must be supported by documented direct/indirect physical evidence. Due to the potential evidentiary nature of search results from trailing canine teams, Canine Handlers training and certified in this discipline will review a Courtroom Testimony Course presentation (live or via video) every 2 years as part of ongoing handler training. Handlers will also review a Crime Scene Preservation Course (live or via video) at least every 2 years.

Trailing Canine Handlers must be capable (i.e. carry the proper equipment and be fully trained) of obtaining scent sources, hereafter referred to as "scent articles" for themselves and others. Scent articles must be collected with minimal cross contamination and in accordance with evidence handling guidelines as established by the department.

The handler will keep monthly logs showing at least 6 months of current, regular training in trailing prior to certification evaluation. Handlers will keep complete training records starting from when the canine's training begins and ending when the canine is retired.

### 3.2. CAL OES Trailing Canine Typing

SDSDSAR trailing Canine Teams will meet or exceed the most current guidelines set by CAL OES. CAL OES has divided trailing canines into three types. At the present time, SDSDSAR fields Type 1 Multi-purpose Trailing teams. Note that teams who have completed Type 2 and Type 4 certifications are fielded as a Type 1 team.

**Table 3-1. 2005 CAL OES Trailing Canine Typing**

	<b>Type 1 Multi-purpose</b>	<b>Type 2 Wilderness</b>	<b>Type 4 Urban</b>
<b>Mission Assignments</b>	Wilderness and urban terrain	Wilderness (rural) terrain	Urban Terrain
<b>Mission Types</b>	All weather conditions Possible 8 hour field assignments Experience in trails over 36 hours old in all environments	Experience with trails over 24 hours old in rural environments Capable of a 4-6 hour assignment	Experience with trails over 12 hours old in urban environments Capable of working populated areas with traffic
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Scent discrimination Trailhead validation Work in adverse weather Able to perform in nighttime operations.	Scent discrimination Trailhead validation Work in adverse weather Able to perform in nighttime operations.	Scent discrimination Trailhead validation Work in adverse weather Able to perform in nighttime operations.

### 3.3. Trailing Proficiency Requirements

Canine Teams must complete the following list of skills and tasks prior to certification. It is the handler's responsibility to have each of the skills signed and dated (See Appendix C ). Only SDSDSAR trainers may sign for the skill and must witness the completion of that skill. Only SDSDSAR Trailing trainers may sign for skills where the team is required to be successful (i.e. "blind" or non-exposure skills).

Teams wishing to certify to any trailing standard must complete all Foundation, Intermediate, and Advanced signoffs prior to their evaluation. Teams wishing to certify to the Type 1 (Multi-purpose Trailing Wilderness/Urban) must complete the Type 1 signoffs prior to evaluation. Foundation skills must be completed prior to attempting Intermediate skills, and Intermediate skills must be completed prior to attempting Advanced skills. Advanced skills must be completed prior to attempting Specialist skills.

Foundation and Intermediate signoffs may be completed in any type of terrain (urban or rural) to attain their Type 1 (wilderness/urban) typing. Advanced and Specialist skills must be completed in terrain appropriate for the signoff. Only the first dog to attempt a given blind or required successful signoff skill can receive the signoff for that skill. Exposure skills can be offered to more than one dog in succession.

#### 3.3.1 Basic Training

##### Foundation Skills

- *Introduction to the Shabrack, Harness and Long Lead* – Familiarize your canine with standard search gear that will be used at trainings and searches.
- *Introduction to Runaways* – Introduce the canine to an enthusiastic running subject and positively reinforce the canine for following and making contact with that subject.
- *Introduction and Development of the Reward* – Positively reinforce the canine for locating the subject.
- *Introduction to the Command to Search* – Introduce the command used to deploy the canine on a trailing search.
- *Introduction to the Scent Article* – Introduce the canine to a scent article and the command to smell that article.
- *Introduction to Working Non-visual Trails\** – Demonstrate following a scent trail over a short distance (2 turns) from a given scent article without seeing the subject leave the area.
- *Introduction to Collecting Scent Articles* – Introduce the handler to the proper techniques and guidelines surrounding collecting scent articles.
- *Introduction to Briefing Search Team on the Trailing Search Strategy* – Demonstrate the ability to brief a search team and/or management staff on urban/wilderness safety, description of canine search behavior, and team member duties/expectations.

## Intermediate Skills

- *Exposure to Trail Head Verifications* – Demonstrate reading the canine's behavior when asked to locate a trail where the subject never was versus when asked to locate a trail from a subject's point last seen (PLS).
- *Exposure to Beginning in the Middle of a Trail* – Demonstrate the ability to choose the correct direction of travel when starting in the middle of a laid scent trail.
- *Exposure to Recognizing and Controlling Critter Distractions* – Demonstrate reading the canine's response to other animals on/near the trail.
- *Exposure to Split Trails* – Demonstrate following a scent trail on a specific subject when two subjects left the PLS together, deviating from one another in the field and continuing in separate directions.
- *Exposure to Trails with Fresh Cross Trails* – Demonstrate following a scent trail on a specific subject when a second person lays a fresher scent trail perpendicular to the subject's trail.
- *Exposure to Articles on the Trail* – Demonstrate following a scent trail containing articles left by the subject.
- *Exposure to trailing across water* – Demonstrate following a scent trail across a body of water 10-20' across and at least 6" deep.
- *Exposure to Obstacles on the Trail* – Demonstrate following a scent trail over, under, and through common obstacles including, but not limited to, fences, boulders, logs, etc.
- ALL BASIC CANINE PROFICIENCY SIGNOFFS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE GOING ONTO ADVANCED SIGNOFFS.

## Advanced Skills

- *Working Night Trails\** – Demonstrate following a scent trail in the dark. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the trail was laid. The trail must be a minimum of ¼ to ½ mile in length and not exceed twenty minutes of total search time. This signoff must be completed once per team in each environment (i.e., once in an urban environment and once in a wilderness environment).
- *Working a 48-hour old Wilderness Trail\** – Demonstrate following a scent trail that was allowed to age for 48hrs. The trail shall be approximately ½ mile in length and have several intersections or other decision points. The trail should have one change of direction. The trail shall be laid in a rural area and may cross paved roads/sidewalks. The team is required to be successful for a Type 1 signoff and may not know where the trail was laid.
- Exposure to working a 48-hour old Urban Trail — Demonstrate following a scent trail that was allowed to age for 48 hours in an urban environment. The trail should be approximately 1/3 to 1/2 miles in length and have several decision points.
- Working an 8-12 hour old trail in an Urban Environment\* - Demonstrate following a scent trail that was allowed to age for 8-12 hours.

The trail shall be approximately 1/3 to 1/2 miles in length and be laid through both heavily and lightly traveled urban areas. The trail should have at least one change of direction. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the trail was laid.

- *Working a 60 to 72-hour old Trail\** - Demonstrate following a scent trail that was allowed to age for 60-72hrs. The trail shall be approximately ½ mile in length and have several intersections or other decision points. The trail should have at least one change of direction. The team is required to be successful for a Type 1 signoff and may not know where the trail was laid.
- *Exposure to Working a Long (>1mi) Trail* – Demonstrate following a scent trail over 1 mile or more. The trail may be marked and the handler may know where the trail is laid. Both the handler and the canine must demonstrate adequate stamina and continued dedication to the trail to earn the signoff.
- *Identifying a Direction of Travel\** – Demonstrate locating the correct direction of travel from a given PLS. The PLS will be in an open area and laid in such a way as to minimize cross contamination. The team is required to successfully identify the direction of travel and may not know where the trail was laid.
- *Exposure to Scenting off of a Car Seat* – Demonstrate the ability to use a car seat as a scent article.
- Exposure to a Multi-floor Building Search — Demonstrate following a scent trail inside a building that covers multiple floors
- Exposure to Working Intersections — Demonstrate following a scent trail across large, heavily traveled urban intersections. A qualifying intersection should be over at least four lanes (two in each direction) of asphalt and, preferably, be at a crossing signal light.
- Exposure to Other Non-working Dogs — Demonstrate following a scent trail nearby or through other non-working dogs (e.g., dogs on/off leash, dogs behind fences, etc.).
- Exposure to Open Urban Areas — Demonstrate following a scent trail across open urban areas (e.g., large parking lots, concrete courtyards, etc.).
- Exposure to Heavy Foot Traffic Areas — Demonstrate following a scent trail through heavy foot traffic areas (e.g. outdoor mall, university grounds, etc.).

### **Wilderness Environment**

- *Exposure to a 96-hour old Trail* – Demonstrate following a scent trail that was allowed to age for 96hrs. The trail shall be approximately 1/3 to ½ mile in length and will have several decision points.
- *Complete a California P.O.S.T Level I-Equivalent Trail\** – Demonstrate following a scent trail in a field environment. The trail will be no more than one half mile long and laid in a manner natural to the terrain. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the trail was laid. This signoff should be the last signoff completed prior to evaluation.

**\*May only be witnessed and signed by a SDSARS Trailing trainer**

### **3.3.2 Agility, Sociability, & Obedience**

Trailing Canine Teams must complete the agility, sociability, and obedience sign-offs and evaluation criteria for on-lead search dogs.

### **3.3.3 Helicopter safety, loading and unloading**

The Handler will attend a Canine Team helicopter safety briefing. The canine will demonstrate the ability to safely load on and off of a helicopter both when the helicopter is turned off and when it is running.

### **3.3.4 Cadaver Exposure**

Canine Teams will expose their canines to a cadaver scent source during their training process. The handler will note the canine's reaction to the scent source in their logs.

## **3.4. Trailing Canine Evaluation – Type 1 (Multi-purpose)**

### **3.4.1 Mandatory Prerequisites**

Teams must complete the appropriate Agility, Sociability, and Obedience Signoffs (including Helicopter Loading and Cadaver Exposure) and the Trailing Search Proficiency Checklist prior to evaluation.

### **3.4.2 Evaluation Parameters**

The evaluation trail will be 1 to 1½ miles in length. The trail must include 3-6 turns. Turns are considered to be changes of direction at an intersection, trail junction or deviation from a specific path. There must be several opportunities for the team being evaluated to make decisions and have choices in determining the "trail the subject has walked." The subject placement should follow a natural course. The evaluation will take place in an area outside of normal training areas whenever possible.

The evaluation trail will be 18 to 24 hours old and ideally aged overnight. The trail must be laid in a Wilderness Type terrain and may contain a combination of fire roads, dirt paths or a cross country setting. The trail may cross-paved roads or surfaces, but must be laid in a fashion to avoid any distances on those types of surfaces. Additionally, one or more persons and one or more canines must cross the trail after the trail is laid and at least one hour before the evaluation commences. The evaluators will consider environmental conditions such as wind and weather when evaluating the team. The team must independently find the subject to pass.

### **3.4.3 Evaluator Requirements**

Evaluations will be given in accordance with the San Diego Sheriff's Department Canine Evaluator Guidelines (See Appendix C ). Two evaluators are required for each trailing evaluation. Neither evaluator can be the handler's designated trainer (note: this requirement does not apply to subsequent re-certification evaluations due to the size of the team). For trailing evaluations, the evaluators are responsible to ensure that the evaluation is conducted in a manner that reduces the chance of following a valid scent trail around/past the subject.

The skills of the Canine team shall be evaluated in three different areas:

- The ability of the canine to follow a trail from a known starting point to the subject
- The ability of the handler to read and evaluate the canine while working the trail
- The ability of the canine to stay on task.

The Canine Team has up to 2-hours to complete the evaluation. If the team is off trail for a 10-minute period, they will fail the field evaluation. Additionally, if at any time during the field evaluation it becomes evident to the evaluators that the team cannot successfully complete the trail, the evaluators may discontinue the evaluation and turn it into a training session.

## 4. Cadaver Canine Guidelines

### 4.1. Introduction

These guidelines apply to Canine Teams trained to locate the physical evidence of human remains.

Canine Team results may be admitted as evidence if the investigating agency determines its validity. In accordance with current case law, any evidence identified by a cadaver canine team must be supported by documented direct/indirect physical evidence. Due to the potential evidentiary nature of search results from area search canine teams, Canine Handlers trained and certified in this discipline are highly encouraged to regularly review a Courtroom Testimony Course presentation (live or via video) as part of ongoing handler training. Handlers are also encouraged to review a Crime Scene Preservation Course (live or via video) regularly.

The canine must be certified in Area or Trailing at the time of their cadaver search evaluation, unless they have obtained prior approval of the SAR Canine Unit Lieutenant/Unit Leader.

The handler will keep monthly logs showing at least 6 months of current, regular training in cadaver prior to certification evaluation. Handlers will keep complete training records starting when the canine's cadaver training begins and ending when the canine is retired.

### 4.2. Cal OES Cadaver Canine Typing

SDSDSAR cadaver Canine Teams will meet or exceed the most current guidelines set by Cal OES. Cal OES has divided cadaver canines into three types. At the present time, SDSDSAR only fields Type 1 cadaver canine teams.

**Table 4-1. 2005 Cal OES Cadaver Canine Typing**

	<b>Type 1 Cadaver: Basic</b>	<b>Type 2 Cadaver: Live or Deceased</b>	<b>Type 3 Cadaver: Water</b>
<b>Mission Assignments</b>	Basic	Person believed to be alive or deceased	Around or in Water.
<b>Mission Types</b>	Body above ground Sub-surface Disarticulated Hanging Inside simple structures	Live Subject Subject Status Unknown Body Above Ground Hanging      Avalanche Work	Submerged Floating Shoreline
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Canine Team currently certified in Area or Trailing Discipline or approved by Canine Unit Leader based upon previous canine experience.	Canine Team currently certified in the Area Discipline.	Canine Team currently certified in Area or Trailing Discipline or approved by Canine Unit Leader based upon previous canine experience.

### 4.3. Cadaver Search Proficiency Requirements

Canine Teams must complete the following list of skills and tasks prior to certification. It is the handler's responsibility to have each of the skills signed and dated (See 0). Only SDSARS trainers may sign for the skill and must witness the completion of that skill. Only SDSARS Cadaver trainers may sign for skills where the team is required to be successful (i.e. "blind" or non-exposure skills). ***If a canine eats, picks up, or urinates on any human remains, the team does not successfully complete that skill and cannot receive that signoff.***

Examples of suitable scent materials for training and evaluation purposes include:

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

Teams wishing to certify to any cadaver standard must complete all Foundation, Intermediate, and Advanced signoffs prior to their evaluation. Foundation skills must be completed prior to attempting Intermediate skills, and Intermediate skills must be completed prior to attempting Advanced skills.

#### 4.3.1 Basic Training

##### Foundation Skills

- *Introduction to Shabrack, Harness and Long Lead* – Familiarize the canine with standard search gear that will be used at trainings and searches.
- *Introduction to Cadaver Scent* – Introduced the canine to a cadaver scent source and positively reinforce the canine for attentively smelling the source.
- *Introduction and Development of the Reward* – Positively reinforce the canine for locating the source.
- *Introduction to the Command to Search for Cadaver Scent* – Introduce the command used to deploy the canine on a cadaver search.
- *Introduction and Development of the Alert* – Pair a clearly identifiable, trained indicator (i.e. alert) with the location of cadaver scent.
- *Introduction to Various Cadaver Scents* – Introduce the canine to various cadaver materials and materials of various ages.
- *Introduction and Development of the Recall/Re-find* – Reinforce canine for returning to the handler after locating the source then leading the handler back to the scent source (only required for appropriate alert types).
- *Introduction and Development of the Directed Send Out* – Demonstrate directing the canine to the left, right and further out to distances 25 yards from the handler (only required for off-lead canines without current area search certification).

- *Introduction to Working the Scent Problem\** – Demonstrate the ability to develop a plan of action/search strategy, taking into consideration search conditions, terrain, etc.
- *Introduction to Briefing Search Team on Cadaver Search Strategy* – Demonstrate the ability to brief a search team and/or management staff on urban/wilderness safety, description of canine search behavior, and team member duties/expectations.

### **Intermediate Skills**

- *Working a Surface Source\**– Demonstrate locating a hidden above ground scent source in a given search area.
- *Working a Buried Source\**– Demonstrate locating a below ground (no more than 15”) scent source in a given search area. False holes will be randomly dug in the search area.
- *Working a Hanging Source\** – Demonstrate locating a hanging or elevated scent source (no more than 36”) in a given search area.
- ALL BASIC CANINE PROFICIENCY SIGNOFFS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE GOING ONTO ADVANCED SIGNOFFS

### **Advanced Skills**

- *Working a Multi-source Problem\** – Demonstrate locating several scent sources within a given area.
- *Working an Animal Remains Distraction\** – Demonstrate locating a human remains scent source in an area that also contains non-buried animal remains. The canine should not alert on the animal remains.
- *Working a Negative Search Area\** – Demonstrate searching an area which does not have a human remains scent source located in it to reproduce the negative speculative search.
- *Working an Interior Environment\** – Demonstrate identifying scent sources inside a building or confined, enclosed area.

*\*May only be witnessed and signed by a SDSARSAR Cadaver trainer*

### **4.3.2 Agility, Sociability, & Obedience**

If the canine works cadaver off-lead, the Canine Team must complete the agility, sociability, and obedience sign-offs and evaluation criteria for area search dogs. Canines currently certified in area search need not repeat these signoffs to certify in cadaver.

If the canine works cadaver on-lead, the Canine Team must complete the agility, sociability, and obedience sign-offs and evaluation criteria for trailing search dogs. Canines currently certified in trailing need not repeat these signoffs to certify in cadaver.

### **4.3.3 Helicopter safety, loading and unloading**

The Handler will attend a Canine Team helicopter safety briefing. The canine will demonstrate the ability to safely load on and off of a helicopter both when the helicopter is turned off and when it is running. Canines currently certified in area and/or trailing need not repeat these signoffs to certify in cadaver.

## 4.4. Cadaver Canine Evaluation

### 4.4.1 Mandatory Prerequisites

Teams must complete the appropriate Agility & Sociability Checklist (including Helicopter Loading) and the Cadaver Search Proficiency Checklist prior to being evaluated.

### 4.4.2 Evaluation Parameters

The area will be approximately one acre (70 yards by 70 yards) with boundaries marked. The area should be mixed with some open areas, trees, brush, rocks, etc. The evaluators should have a clear view of the canine's work.

The area will have two scent sources. The first source will be buried 15" in porous soil. The second source will be a surface (i.e., at ground level but concealed from handler view) or hanging (i.e., suspended no more than 3' off the ground out of view of the handler) source. Scent material will be placed at least one hour prior to the field evaluation.

The field evaluation will not include known animal remains. There will be one or two false holes within the one-acre field evaluation site, none of which will be closer than 20' to any scent source.

The evaluators will brief the team and describe the boundaries. The search time will start after the briefing and when the handler has given the canine the search command. The team will be allowed a maximum of one hour to locate both sources. The handler may direct the canine to search but should not encourage the canine's alert. The canine must find both scent sources and must successfully alert on them to pass the Field Evaluation. ***If a canine eats, picks up, or urinates on any human remains, that team automatically fails the evaluation.***

Only one canine can be evaluated in a search area per day. Evaluators must be aware of any previous evaluations given in the search area.

Two evaluators are required for the one-acre field evaluation. Neither evaluator can be the handler's designated trainer (note: this requirement does not apply to subsequent re-certification evaluations due to the size of the team).

### 4.4.3 Evaluator Requirements

Evaluations will be given in accordance with the San Diego Sheriff's Department Canine Evaluator Guidelines (See 0). For cadaver evaluations, the evaluators are responsible to ensure the evaluation is conducted in a manner that allows the canine to locate the cadaver scent sources independent of each source.

Evaluators will observe the skills of the Canine Team in three different areas:

- The ability of the Canine Team to work the evaluation area based upon current conditions
- The ability of the handler to read and evaluate the canine while working the area
- The ability of the canine to successfully alert on the cadaver scent sources.

If the Cadaver Canine Team is unable to locate/alert on all scent sources within one hour, the team will fail the field evaluation. Additionally, if at anytime during the field evaluation it becomes evident to the evaluators that the team cannot successfully complete the evaluation, the evaluators may discontinue the evaluation and turn it into a training session.

## Appendix A Basic Canine Proficiencies

### A.1 Basic Canine Proficiency Descriptions

#### Agility Skills (all candidates)

- *Climb & balance on rocks, logs, etc.* – Demonstrate the canine's ability to safely climb and balance on rocks, a wood pile, or similar uneven terrain without displaying excessive anxiety or fear.
- *Crawl under obstacle (6-18" off ground)* – Demonstrate the canine's ability to crawl under an obstacle 6-18" off the ground (depending on the size of the dog) such as a fence, log, bench, etc.
- *Lift over barrier (3-4' high)* – Lift the canine over a 3-4' tall fence or similar barrier with the assistance of another handler. Handlers must maintain control of the canine throughout the exercise and the canine should not show undue anxiety or aggression.
- *Lift down from platform* – Without assistance, lift the canine down from a 3-4' tall platform such as a boulder, truck bed, etc. The handler must maintain control of the canine throughout the exercise and the canine should not show undue anxiety or aggression.
- *Walk along an elevated log or plank (8-10' long, 3' off the ground)* – Demonstrate the canine's ability to walk across a log or plank that is 8-10' long and a minimum of 3' off the ground. Handlers must spot the dog from both sides of the plank and the canine should not show undue anxiety or fear.

#### Sociability Skills (all candidates)

- *Ride uncrated in a vehicle with 3-5 other leashed canines (under handler control) down a bumpy road for 5min* – Demonstrate the canine's ability to ride with other leashed canines in a moving vehicle over uneven terrain. Handlers must maintain control of all canines throughout the exercise and the canine under evaluation should not show undue anxiety or aggression.
- *Accept an approaching friendly stranger* – Demonstrate the canine's ability to accept a friendly stranger that approaches the leashed canine and handler. The stranger and handler should be able to shake hands and converse in an everyday fashion without the canine showing evidence of aggression, shyness, or excessive exuberance.
- *Accept an approaching leashed canine with their handler* – Demonstrate the canine's ability to accept another leashed canine and their handler. The handler and second canine should be able to directly approach and interact (i.e., greet one another, shake hands, and carry on a brief conversation) with the team under evaluation without either canine showing evidence of aggression, shyness, or excessive exuberance. The handlers shall both maintain full control of their canines at all times.

- *Interact with other off-lead canines in an enclosed area* – Demonstrate the canine's unleashed ability to freely interact with a minimum of 3-5 other unleashed canines in an enclosed area. The canine may not show evidence of aggression.
- *Walk with another person away from the handler for 5 minutes* – Demonstrate the canine's ability to be lead away from their handler by another person and walked out of sight of their handler for a minimum of 5 minutes. The canine should not show evidence of undue anxiety or aggression.
- *Walk with another person and a second leashed canine for 5 minutes* - Demonstrate the canine's ability to be lead away from their handler by another person and a second leashed canine. The canine should be walked out of sight of their handler for a minimum of 5 minutes. The canine should not show evidence of undue anxiety or aggression.

### **Obedience Skills (for all certifications unless specified below)**

- *Heeling (on-lead for on-lead certifications and off-lead for off-lead certifications)* - Demonstrate the canine's ability to heel with their handler while executing left, right, and about turns, walking and jogging speeds in straight lines, and a stop. The canine should remain at the handler's side throughout the exercise and should remain focused on the handler. Positive reinforcement techniques may be used but compulsion (e.g., jerks on a choke chain, harsh verbal corrections, etc.) may not be used.
- *Emergency stop (off-lead certifications only)* - Demonstrate the canine's ability to immediately stop on command. The handler will place the canine on a "stay" and walk away from the canine at least 25 yards. At the evaluator's direction, the handler will call the canine using one command. When the canine is half way between their starting point and the handler, the handler should use a command of their choice to stop the dog. The canine may lie down, sit, or stand but must stop on command and wait until they are called a second time. The canine should then come directly to the handler.
- *10 minute wait* – Demonstrate the canine's ability to be tethered to a fixed object and left out of sight of their handler for 10 minutes. Time begins when the handler is out of sight. At the end of 5 minutes, the evaluator will approach and move the canine to another tether location (also out of sight of the handler) for the remaining 5 minutes. At the completion of the exercise, the evaluator will direct the handler to return to and reinforce their canine. The canine should not show evidence of undue anxiety (e.g., barking, pulling on lead, etc.) or aggression toward the evaluator.
- *5 minute long down (off-lead certifications only)* - Demonstrate the canine's ability to maintain an un-tethered "stay" out of sight of their handler for 5 minutes. Time begins when the handler is out of sight. If more than one canine is participating in the exercise, each canine will be placed at least 15' from one another. Canines may sit, lay down, stand, or shift positions but may not move more than one body length from their original position. All canines will be under the evaluator's direct supervision throughout the exercise. At the completion of

the exercise, the evaluator will direct the handler to return to and reinforce their canine. The canine should not show evidence of undue anxiety (e.g., barking, pulling on lead, etc.) or aggression toward the evaluator.

- *Recall from 20-25'* – Demonstrate the canine's ability to come straight to the handler on command from a minimum of 20-25'. The handler will place the canine on a "stay" and walk away from the canine. At the evaluator's direction, the handler will call the canine using one command. The canine should wait until called and then come directly to the handler.
- *Leave an object on command (i.e. "leave it")* – Demonstrate the canine's ability to leave an object immediately on the handler's command. The handler will walk their canine past an object determined to be highly desirable to that canine (e.g., animal droppings, food, toys, etc.). The handler will allow the canine to approach the object but must verbally prevent the canine from making contact with the object (i.e., use a "leave it" command). Physical corrections are not permitted.

### **Helicopter Training (all candidates)**

- *Helicopter training safety lecture* – Attend a helicopter safety training lecture prior to participating in any hands-on helicopter training with the canines.
- *Helicopter cold canine loading/unloading* – Demonstrate the ability to safely load and unload the canine from the helicopter while the helicopter is not under power. The handler must maintain full control of the canine at all times, must follow all instructions from the pilot(s), and the canine must not show undue anxiety or aggression during the exercise.
- *Helicopter hot canine loading/unloading* - Demonstrate the ability to safely load and unload the canine from the helicopter while the helicopter is under power and the rotors are turning. The handler must maintain full control of the canine at all times, must follow all instructions from the pilot(s), and the canine must not show undue anxiety or aggression during the exercise.

### **Cadaver Exposure (all candidates)**

- *Canine exposure to cadaver source material* – Demonstrate the canine's natural reaction to a human cadaver scent source. Evaluators will place the source material at the ground level in such a way as to make the material itself inaccessible to the canine (e.g., in a mesh cage, under rocks, etc.). The handler will walk the canine past the scent source and allow the canine to interact with the source naturally but should not allow the canine to urinate on or attempt to eat the source material. The handler and evaluator will note the canine's behavioral reaction to the scent source.

## A.2 Basic Canine Proficiency Checklist

Handler \_\_\_\_\_ Canine \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

Certification Type (circle one)    On Lead    Off Lead

### Agility Skills (all candidates)

Climb & balance on rocks, logs, etc.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Crawl under obstacle (6-18" off ground)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Lift over barrier (3-4' high)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Lift down from platform (3-4' high)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Walk along an elevated log or plank (8-10' long, 3' off ground)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

### Sociability Skills (all candidates)

Ride uncrated in a vehicle with 3-5 other leashed canines (under handler control) down a bumpy road for 5min.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Accept an approaching friendly stranger

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Accept an approaching leashed canine with their handler

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Interact with other off-lead canines in an enclosed area

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Walk with another person away from the handler for 5 minutes

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Walk with another person and a second leashed canine for 5 minutes

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Obedience Skills (varies for on- or off-lead certifications)**

Heeling (on-lead for on-lead certifications and off-lead for off-lead certifications)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Stop (off-lead certifications only)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

10 Minute Wait (tethered for on- and off-lead certifications)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

5 Minute Long Down (off-lead certifications only)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Recall from 20-25'

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Leave an object on command (i.e. "leave it")

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Helicopter Training**

Helicopter Safety Training Lecture

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Helicopter Cold Canine loading/unloading

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Helicopter Hot Canine loading/unloading

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Cadaver Scent Exercise**

Canine Exposure to Cadaver Source Material

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

The Canine's behavior/reactions were: \_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix B Area Search Canine Proficiency Checklist & Evaluation Form

## B.1 Area Search Proficiency Checklist

Handler \_\_\_\_\_ Canine \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

### Foundation Skills –

Introduction to the Shabrack

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to Runaways

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction and Development of the Reward

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to the Command to Search

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Use scent and wind to locate a subject

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Return to the handler after the find

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Perform a recognizable alert

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Return the handler to the subject (i.e. executes a re-find)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Combine find, alert, and re-find behaviors\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to Briefing a Search Team on the Area Search Strategy

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Intermediate Skills –**

Exposure to working the scent problem\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to recognizing and controlling critter distractions\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to interpreting dog's behavior / interest with human scent\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Directing the dog to the left and right\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to working in the same area with a trailing dog

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to working on a harness and long lead

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to working around other non-working dogs

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to obstacles in the search area

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Advanced Skills**

Exposure to working 2 dogs together

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Advanced Skills**

Exposure to working 2 dogs together

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to working an inaccessible subject

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to working a negative area

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Multi-floor interior building search\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple building exterior search\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to working near busy roads or area\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Working a night problem – Type 2 (Wilderness)\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Working a night problem – Type 4 (Urban)\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Working a 40 Acre wilderness problem\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Working a 80 Acre wilderness problem\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Agility Signoff Requirements Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Sociability Signoff Requirements Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Obedience Signoff Requirements Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Helicopter Safety, Loading, and Unloading Requirements Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Cadaver Exposure Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*\*May only be witnessed and signed by a SDSDSAR Area Search trainer*

**CANINE HAS COMPLETED ALL AREA CANINE TEAM PROFICIENCIES**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
SDSDSAR Canine Trainer

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Handler

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
SDSDSAR Canine Unit Leader

## B.2 Area Search Evaluation Form

Handler: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Canine: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Stop Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Pass:  Fail:

Terrain: \_\_\_\_\_ Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_

Wind/Weather: \_\_\_\_\_ Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Subject #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Subject #3: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Mandatory Prerequisites (must be completed prior to evaluation)</b>			✓
1.	All Proficiency Checklist items have been signed		
2.	Team has the appropriate uniform and equipment for search conditions		
<b>Mandatory Performance Requirements: Handler Skills</b>			✓
<b>No.</b>	<b>Handler Skills</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1.	Conducts an initial interview		
2.	Implements an initial plan of action		
3.	Navigates through and covers the assigned search area		
4.	Demonstrates a working knowledge of scent theory		
5.	Maintains control over the canine		
6.	Recognizes the canine's behaviors and interests		
7.	Locates all subject(s) and rewards the dog properly		
8.	Demonstrates adequate stamina		
<b>Mandatory Performance Requirements: Area Canine Skills</b>			✓
<b>No.</b>	<b>Canine Skills</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1.	Canine locates all subject(s) and alerts the handler each time		
2.	Canine stays on task		
3.	Canine stays motivated		
4.	Canine demonstrates adequate stamina		

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## Appendix C Trailing Canine Proficiency Checklist & Evaluation Form

### C.1 Trailing Search Proficiency Checklist – Type 1

Handler \_\_\_\_\_ Canine \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

#### Foundation Skills –

Introduction to the Shabrack, Harness and Long Lead

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to Runaways

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction and Development of the Reward

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to the Command to Search

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to the Scent Article

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to Working Non-visual Trails\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to Collecting Scent Articles

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to Briefing a Search Team on the Trailing Search Strategy

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Intermediate Skills –**

Exposure to Trail Head Verifications

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to Beginning in the Middle of a Trail

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to Recognizing and Controlling Critter Distractions

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to Split Trails

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to Trails with Fresh Cross Trails

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to Articles on the Trail

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to Trailing Across Water

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to Obstacles on the Trail

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Basic Canine Proficiency Signoffs Complete

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Advanced Skills – Type 2**

Working Night Trails\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Wilderness

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Urban

Working a 48-hour old Trail\* Wilderness

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to working a 48-hour old Trail – Urban

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Working an 8-12 hour old Trail\* Urban

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Working a 60 to 72-hour old Trail\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to Working a Long (>1mi) Trail

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Identifying a Direction of Travel\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to Scenting Off of a Car Seat

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to a Multi-floor Building Search

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to Working Intersections

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure to Other non-working Dogs

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Wilderness Specialist Skills – Require Signatures for Type 1**

Exposure to a 96-hour old Trail

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Complete a California P.O.S.T. Level I-Equivalent Trail\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Agility Signoff Requirements Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Sociability Signoff Requirements Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Obedience Signoff Requirements Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Helicopter Safety, Loading, and Unloading Requirements Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Cadaver Exposure Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Observation Experience Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*\*May only be witnessed and signed by a SDSDSAR Trailing trainer*

**CANINE HAS COMPLETED ALL TYPE 1 TRAILING CANINE TEAM PROFICIENCIES**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
SDSDSAR Canine Trainer

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Handler

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
SDSDSAR Canine Unit Leader

## C.2 Trailing Evaluation Form

Handler \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Canine \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Stop Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Pass:  Fail:

Terrain: \_\_\_\_\_ Weather/Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

Trail Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Subject Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluated For: Type 1

<b>Mandatory Prerequisites (must be completed prior to evaluation)</b>		✓
1.	All Proficiency Checklist items have been signed	
2.	Team has the appropriate uniform and equipment for search conditions	

<b>Mandatory Performance Requirements: Handler Skills</b>		✓	
No.	Handler Skills	Yes	No
1.	Conducts an initial interview		
2.	Implements an initial plan of action		
3.	Articulates the canine's behavior while on trail		
4.	Demonstrates a working knowledge of scent theory		
5.	Maintains control over the canine		
6.	Recognizes the canine's behaviors and interests		
7.	Rewards the dog properly		
8.	Demonstrates adequate stamina		

<b>Mandatory Performance Requirements: Trailing Canine Skills</b>		✓	
No.	Canine Skills	Yes	No
1.	Canine trails to and locates the subject		
2.	Canine stays on task		
3.	Canine stays motivated		
4.	Canine demonstrates adequate stamina		

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Cadaver Canine Proficiency Checklist & Evaluation Form

**D.1 Cadaver Search Proficiency Checklist**

Handler \_\_\_\_\_ Canine \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer \_\_\_\_\_

Current Certification (*circle one*): Area trailing None

**Foundation Skills –**

Introduction to the Shabrack, Harness, and Long Lead

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to Cadaver Scent

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction and Development of the Reward

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to the Command to Search for Cadaver Scent

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction and Development of the Alert

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to Various Cadaver Scents

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction and Development of the recall/re-find (as applicable based on alert)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction and Development of the Directed Send Out (off-lead canines)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to Working the Scent Problem\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction to Briefing a Search Team on Cadaver Search Strategy

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Intermediate Skills –**

Working a Surface Source\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Working a Buried Source\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Working a Hanging Source\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Basic Canine Proficiency Signoffs Complete

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Advanced Skills –**

Working a Multi-source Problem\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Working an Animal Remains Distraction\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Working a Negative Search Area\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Working a Cadaver Interior Environment\*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Agility Signoff Requirements Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Sociability Signoff Requirements Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Obedience Signoff Requirements Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Helicopter Safety, Loading, and Unloading Requirements Complete**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*\*May only be witnessed and signed by a SDSDSAR Cadaver trainer*

**CANINE HAS COMPLETED ALL CADAVER CANINE TEAM PROFICIENCIES**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
SDSDSAR Canine Trainer

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Handler

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
SDSDSAR Canine Unit Leader

## D.2 Cadaver Search Evaluation Form

Handler: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Canine: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Stop Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Pass:  Fail:

Terrain: \_\_\_\_\_

Wind: \_\_\_\_\_ Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_ Weather/Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluated For: Type1

<b>Mandatory Prerequisites (must be completed prior to evaluation)</b>		✓
1.	All Proficiency Checklist items have been signed by the team's trainer	
2.	Team has the appropriate uniform and equipment for search conditions	

<b>Mandatory Performance Requirements: Handler Skills</b>		✓	
No.	Handler Skills	Yes	No
1.	Conducts an initial interview		
2.	Implements an initial plan of action		
3.	Articulates the canine's alert		
4.	Adjusts search patterns to meet conditions		
5.	Demonstrates a working knowledge of scent theory		
6.	Directs and controls canine		
7.	Recognizes the canine's alert and interests		
8.	Rewards the dog properly		
9.	Demonstrates adequate stamina		

<b>Mandatory Performance Requirements: Cadaver Canine Skills</b>		✓	
No.	Canine Skills	Yes	No
1.	Obeys handler's commands		
2.	Stays on task		
3.	Stays motivated		
4.	Demonstrates a readable alert		
5.	Remains committed to each scent source		
6.	Demonstrates adequate stamina		

**Item 1: Buried Cadaver Scent**

Time Buried: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Passed: \_\_\_\_\_ Failed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Item 2: Surface or Hanging Source** (*circle one*)

Time Placed: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Passed: \_\_\_\_\_ Failed: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

# Appendix E FIELD OBSERVATION RECORD

**Handler** \_\_\_\_\_

**Canine** \_\_\_\_\_

Search Date _____	Location _____
Type of Search Observed (area, training, HRS) _____	
Observed by _____	Field Hours _____

Search Date _____	Location _____
Type of Search Observed (area, training, HRS) _____	
Observed by _____	Field Hours _____

Search Date _____	Location _____
Type of Search Observed (area, training, HRS) _____	
Observed by _____	Field Hours _____

Search Date _____	Location _____
Type of Search Observed (area, training, HRS) _____	
Observed by _____	Field Hours _____

Search Date _____	Location _____
Type of Search Observed (area, training, HRS) _____	
Observed by _____	Field Hours _____

## **Appendix F EQUIPMENT LIST**

- Crate
- Collars (flat, prong, lighted)
- Leashes/Long Lines (6-foot, 20-foot, 30-foot)
- Shabrack (Search Dog Vest)
- Harness
- Canine First Aid Kit

### **Suggested and/or Shared Items**

- Repelling Harness
- Floatation Vest for Dogs
- PFD for Handlers
- Cooling Shade Cover for Cars / Cooling Pads for Canine
- Pop ups for Shade
- Dog Rewards (Tugs, Balls, Etc.)
- Bells
- Booties for Dogs
- Canine Decontamination Kit