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**Standard for Training and Certification of Canine
Detection of Humans: Location Check Using Pre-scented
Canines**



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Standard for Training and Certification of Canine Detection of Humans: Location Check Using Pre-scented Canines

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410 North 21st Street
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Foreword

Since there are no consensus standards for canine teams (canine and handler), this document is specifically dedicated to specialized protocols for trailing canines to conduct location checks. This standard promotes consistency across agencies, departments and organizations utilizing Pre-Scented Canines – Location Check searches and relieve the judicial system of conflicting protocol.

This document provides requirements for training, certification and documentation pertaining to Pre-Scented Canines – Location Check within the detector dog community. This document serves as the progression of that effort. The goal is for the canine to use a specific person's scent on a scent article to check a location and to either follow an associated scent trail to this specific person or a location connected with this person while discriminating from all non-associated scent trails, or to correctly demonstrate the absence of an associated scent trail. Canines used in this discipline are typically deployed in search and rescue and forensic investigative functions, and typically not in immediate apprehension functions.

This document was revised, prepared, and finalized as a standard by the Dogs and Sensors Consensus Body of the AAFS Standards Board. The draft of this standard was developed by the Dogs and Sensors Subcommittee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science based on the Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detector Guidelines (SWGDOG) approved document SWGDOG SC 9 – Human Scent Dogs – Pre-scented canines.

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All hyperlinks and web addresses shown in this document are current as of the publication date of this standard.

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Standard for Training and Certification of Canine Detection of Humans: Location Check Using Pre-scented Canines

1 Scope

This document provides the requirements for pre-scented canine - location check search using a canine team to search for and identify a specific person's (target) scent at a given location. This standard promotes consistency across agencies, departments, and organizations utilizing pre-scented canines – location check search and provide the judicial system optimized protocol.

2 Normative References

There are no normative reference documents. Annex B, Bibliography, contains informative references.

3 Terms and Definitions

For purposes of this document, the following discipline specific definitions apply. Please refer to ASB Technical Report 025, *Crime Scene/Death Investigation – Dogs And Sensors – Terms And Definitions*, First Edition, 2017^[1] for a comprehensive listing of detailed general canine detection definitions.

3.1

active alert

A type of response that the canine displays/indicates in a manner that may disturb the environment and or forensic evidence (i.e., dig, bark, scratch, paw, jump, and bite after the detector canine has detected a trained scent).

3.2

aged scent

Specific human scent that has been present for a period longer than 24 hours.

3.3

aged trail

A specific human scent pathway that has been present for a period longer than 24 hours.

3.4

alert

A characteristic change in ongoing behavior in response to a trained scent, as recognized by the canine handler. The components of the alert may include: change of behavior (COB), interest, and final response or indication. (See [3.31 final response](#).)

3.5

article

(1) A particular item or object, typically one of a specified type used to present to the canine for scent discrimination.

(2) Scented objects left on the track or in a search area at various intervals to which the canine is expected to indicate.

3.6

assessments

An evaluation during training and/or certification process; a tool to assess canine team ability.

3.7

assessment record

A record of the assessments of the canine team, i.e., evaluations during either the training or certification to assess the canine team's ability and proficiency. The assessment records may be combined with training and certification records or maintained separately. A record documenting the performance of the canine team, especially an account of an act or occurrence kept in writing or some other permanent form, i.e., digital format, which is discoverable.

3.8

assessor

(See **3.16 certifying official**).

3.9

associated scent trail

A pathway laid by a human subject whose scent is associated with the scent on the article presented to the canine.

3.10

blank search

A training or certification exercise in which the target scent is not present.

3.11

canine

A dog, *Canis familiaris*, more commonly used to denote a working dog and sometimes abbreviated as K-9.

3.12

canine handler

A person who has successfully completed a recognized course of canine handling in a specific discipline and maintains those abilities through field applications, maintenance training, certification, recertification and agency or program required continuing canine education.

3.13

canine handler error

Any action or cue by the handler that causes the canine team to perform incorrectly.

3.14

certification

A process that attests to the successful completion of an examination of relevant skills for the canine team.

3.15

certifying authority

The organization authorizing the certification of a canine team.

3.16**certifying official
assessor**

A person who has been delegated the authority to conduct an evaluation (assessment and/or certification) and/or sign certificates on behalf of an organization or entity, that recognizes a canine team has been trained to a particular standard within the organization.

3.17**Change of Behavior
COB**

A characteristic pattern of behaviors, as recognized by the canine handler that occurs when the canine detects a trained scent. This differs from other olfactory interest that otherwise are exhibited by the canine in response to the daily environment. The initial change of behavior typically leads to following the scent to its source/target. The pattern of behavior may be unique to each canine.

3.18**cognitive bias**

A set of influences that may affect the reliability and validity of one's observations and conclusions.

3.19**competent canine trainer**

A person having suitable or sufficient skill, knowledge, and experience to train canines and canine handlers, who has demonstrated, through education, training, and operational experience, extensive skills and knowledge in the subject field or discipline. This person would normally perform the maintenance training and proficiency training in the field and may train canines in preparation for a formal course of instruction.

3.20**confirmed operational outcome**

Verification of search results following a deployment of a canine team(s).

3.21**contamination**

An odor/scent that is inadvertently or purposefully introduced. Contamination can include the following: contamination of a search area with a target scent or contamination of a target aid with competing odor/scent.

3.22**controlled search**

An experiment/training/testing exercise in which any defined variable(s) is consistent within specific parameters.

3.23**direction of travel**

The route in which a subject laid a trail as indicated by the canine.

3.24**discoverable**

Documentation that pertains to an investigation that can be requested and must be produced by the prosecution or the defense for trial purposes. For example, notes, records, certifications, photographs or digital media.

3.25**discrimination**

The ability to recognize differences between two or more stimuli. Operational usage: The ability to recognize differences between two or more scents.

3.26**distractor**

Non-target stimuli placed or naturally occurring within a search area. These can include: humans, toys, food, animal odor, etc.

3.27**double-blind assessment/double-blind testing**

In the evaluation of a canine neither the assessor nor the canine handler knows the location of the target scent or whether target scent is present (i.e., a blank/null search).

3.28**evidence**

A body of facts, information, or material objects indicating whether a theory or proposition is true or valid.

3.29**false negative**

Operational usage: A response indicating that something is not true or not present when it is true or present. Scientific usage: Type II error.

3.30**false positive**

A response indicating that something is true or present when it is not true or absent. Scientific usage: Type I error.

3.31**final response**

A behavior that a canine has been trained to exhibit in the presence of a target scent source. This behavior may be either passive (sit, stare, down, point, etc.) or active (bite, bark, scratch, jump, etc.). Also known as a trained final response. (See [3.4 alert.](#))

3.32**handler error**

Any action or cue made by the handler that causes the canine to perform incorrectly. (See [3.13 canine handler error.](#))

3.33**human distractor**

Non-target person placed within a search area.

3.34

human scent evidence

A particular person's scented article collected for use for investigative purposes.

3.35

human target

Individual that laid a track/trail for a canine to follow to the exclusion of all other trails.

3.36

initial training

The fundamental training associated with detector canine training which consists of, but not limited to: bonding/relationship building, obedience, basic scent discrimination, and basic search techniques.

3.37

location check

Utilization of a trailing canine to determine if an associated scent is located at a specific site or not by using a scent article.

3.38

maintenance training

Continuing training conducted beyond the initial training of a discipline, designed to maintain a level of proficiency by ensuring the canine team's capability to perform desired tasks.

3.39

mission requirement

Performance demanded of a person or canine team in accordance with certain fixed regulations, needs of the department or agency. Compulsory pre-requisites needed before deployment.

3.40

negative control

A known scent sample that is used to assess the canine's proficiency in a non-associated scent scenario. The canine is expected to give a negative response.

3.41

negative location check

A type of site check in which there is no existing scent associated to the human scent on the article presented to the canine.

3.42

negative response

A behavior exhibited by a canine showing no association to target scent, i.e., no associated target trail. This may be a specifically trained behavior or the absence of a positive response.

3.43

non-associated scent trail

A pathway laid by a human subject whose scent is not associated with the scent on the article presented to the canine, or the absence of an associated scent pathway.

3.44**non-productive response**

A change of behavior of the canine followed by a positive indication which cannot be confirmed by the canine handler. This may be the result of residual scent that the canine can detect but which cannot be confirmed by technology or direct observation. A non-productive response may also be an error—a false positive—but these outcomes cannot be distinguished in an operational environment.

3.45**operational assessment**

A test conducted (single- or double-blind) in an operational environment in which the canine team will be deployed or utilized.

3.46**operational proficiency**

Training conducted beyond the initial training of a discipline and designed to maintain a high level of competence or skill by ensuring the canine team's capability to perform desired tasks.

3.47**passive alert**

A trained final response given by the canine that requires an inactive behavior such as sitting, staring or lying down. These types of behaviors are typically trained so as not to disturb the environment and/or forensic evidence.

3.48**positive alert**

A trained detection alert in the presence of the target scent.

3.49**positive location check**

A type of search conducted in a specific area in which an existing human scent in the environment is associated with the scent article presented to the canine.

3.50**pre-scenting**

A representative target scent that is presented to the canine prior to deployment. The canine's objective is to associate the scent article to the target scent. This is commonly used in tracking/trailing/location checks and/or scent discrimination line ups.

3.51**productive response**

A change of behavior of the canine followed by a positive indication that can be confirmed by the canine handler.

3.52**residual scent:**

Scent that originated from any subject that may or may not be physically recoverable or detectable by other means. The scent that originated from a target subject and lingers after the target subject has been removed or has totally decomposed (as in the case of human remains).

3.53

routine training

Canine training conducted with regularity that maintains the canine's operational capabilities.

3.54

scent

Volatile chemicals emitted from a live human that are perceived by the canine through olfaction. "Scent" has traditionally referred to canine detection of humans. "Odor" has traditionally referred to canine detection of a substance.

3.55

scent article

An item that has been exposed to the target scent source that is used to put the canine on task.

3.56

scent association

When a canine learns to identify a trained scent with a specific reward.

3.57

scent discrimination

The ability of the canine to use olfactory capabilities to differentiate one scent from another.

3.58

scent dispersion

Environmental conditions/factors/influences affecting the movement of scent from a fixed scent source.

3.59

scent plume

Dispersion of scent in a given environment. (See [3.58 scent dispersion](#).)

3.60

scent recognition

Demonstration of the canine's olfactory ability to alert on a target scent(s).

3.61

scent recognition assessment

A test of the canine's olfactory ability to alert to target scent(s) in a controlled environment.

3.62

scent trail

Scent pathway left by an individual moving.

3.63

set time

The length of time between the target placement and when the canine is deployed to detect the target scent.

3.64**single-blind assessment/testing**

An evaluation of the canine team's ability to complete an exercise where the evaluator knows the outcome and the canine team does not.

3.65**split trail**

A training exercise in which two subjects walk the same pathway and then split into two different directions. When the canine is presented with a scent article from one of the subjects, the canine commences to trail and associate the correct person to the scent article. Despite the contamination of scent from the other person on the trail the canine is still able to discriminate between scents and identify the correct subject.

3.66**target**

The scent for which the canine is trained to respond.

3.67**target trail**

A pathway that was laid by a target subject that is associated with the scent article presented to the canine. (See [3.9 associated scent trail](#).)

3.68**track/trail**

The scent pathway left by an individual moving.

3.69**trailing**

The propensity or learned ability of a canine to methodically follow the target scent. The canine may follow a scent plume which could be either air borne or settled on the ground/vegetation. The canine will use whichever technique will get them to the target the most efficiently. Canines are typically pre-scented on an object.

3.70**unconfirmed operational outcome**

Lack of verification of search results following a deployment of a canine team(s).

4 Canine Team Requirements**4.1 Initial Training of Canine Handler**

4.1.1 The canine handler training shall be conducted by a competent trainer from an organization that utilizes a structured curriculum with specific training and learning objectives.

4.1.2 Canine handler training shall include, but not limited to the following:

- a) the ability to “read the canine” (recognizing the canine’s change of behavior to particular stimuli);
- b) the acquisition and processing of scent by the canine;

- c) education on the various environmental conditions affecting scent dispersion;
- d) canine handling techniques (e.g., voice inflection and lead handling);
- e) rewarding the canine;
- f) education on cognitive bias;
- g) first aid for canine and handler;
- h) fitness for canine and handler; and
- i) relevant legal aspects to include:
 - effect of human scent dispersion;
 - relevant case law;
 - preparation of legal documentation; and
 - preparation for courtroom testimony.

4.1.3 The training shall be structured to meet the typical mission requirements of the canine team's department, agency or organization, herein referred to as organization.

4.1.4 Canine handler training may include techniques for collecting, handling, storing and disposing of articles and human scent evidence as required by the canine handler's organization.

4.1.5 In order to maximize search efficiency, canine handler training shall include search techniques.

4.2 Initial Training of the Canine

4.2.1 The canine training shall be conducted by a competent canine trainer from an organization that utilizes a structured curriculum with specific training and learning objectives. The training shall include, but not be restricted to the following.

4.2.1.1 Initial training shall include sufficient obedience training to ensure the canine will operate safely and effectively based on mission requirements. Obedience training should include on- and/or off-lead control and responsiveness to verbal commands.

4.2.1.2 The canine shall be trained to perform a pre-determined specific final response (active or passive alert) upon locating the trained scent (positive alert).

4.2.1.3 The canine shall be trained to perform a consistent negative response when no associated scent(s) are located.

4.2.1.4 Initial training shall include exposing the canine to a variety of locations, expected situations, and searches.

4.2.1.5 Training shall progressively include scent articles, aged scent, trail distances, locations and environmental conditions typically expected in an operational search.

4.2.1.6 The canine shall be exposed to varying concentration/amounts of available scent.

4.2.1.7 Training shall include exposing the canine to a variety of different noise, visual, and odor/scent distractors.

4.2.1.8 The training shall be structured to meet the typical mission requirements of the canine team's organization.

4.3 Initial Training of Canine Team

4.3.1 The canine team's training shall be structured to meet the typical mission requirements of the canine team's organization.

4.3.2 The bond between the handler and canine shall be developed through training, social interaction, and husbandry.

4.3.3 The canine team shall be trained to perform a safe, effective, and controlled search.

4.3.4 The canine team's initial training shall be continued until the required level of operational proficiency is achieved and the canine team is certified. (See Sections 5, 6, and 7).

5 Canine Team Assessments

5.1 Assessments are part of certification, maintenance training, and proficiency testing.

5.2 Each assessment is the evaluation of a search.

5.3 The canine handler shall articulate the canine's final response prior to the start of the assessment. The canine may not be able to make a final response due to the components and parameters of the assessment. Reasonable consideration by the assessor shall be given in these instances (e.g., the target is inaccessible for the canine to make a final response).

5.4 Each trail should be used by only one canine team.

5.5 Each non-associated trail should be used by only one canine team.

5.6 The canine team shall be assessed in the following ways.

5.6.1 The assessments in this section are intended for *single-blind assessments*.

5.6.1.1 *Scent recognition assessments* shall test the following.

5.6.1.1.1 The ability of the canine to detect and use a specific person's scent on a scent article to follow the associated scent trail while discriminating from non-associated scent track/trails.

5.6.1.1.2 The ability of the canine to demonstrate the absence of an associated scent track/trail.

5.6.1.1.3 The canine handler's recognition of the canine's behavior while searching.

5.6.1.1.4 The canine's final response.

5.6.1.1.5 The canine handler's recognition of the canine's final response.

5.6.1.1.6 The scent recognition assessment shall consist of four individual track/trails with the following components and parameters.

5.6.1.1.6.1 For each scent recognition track/trail, one human target and two human distractors are utilized to lay human scent track/trails in an environment similar to where the canine usually works (e.g., urban, suburban, or rural environment). Both target and human distractors shall not be visible.

5.6.1.1.6.2 Each scent recognition track/trail shall be between \approx 100 yds to 200 yds. (90 m to 183 m) in length with a single split track/trail involving one human target and two human distractors (see Figure 1).

5.6.1.1.6.3 Target track/trails shall be laid on a minimum of two surfaces (dirt, grass, concrete, asphalt, etc.).

5.6.1.1.6.4 The target track/trail and one human distractor track/trail shall be aged a minimum of 30 minutes, and one distractor track/trail shall be aged a maximum of 15 minutes.

5.6.1.1.6.5 At least half, but not all of the scent recognition track/trails shall be conducted with non-associated scents to demonstrate the absence of an associated scent track/trail (see Figure 2). The order of the associated and non-associated scent recognition track/trails shall be randomized.

5.6.1.1.6.6 Each scent recognition track/trail shall be completed within 15 minutes.

5.6.1.1.6.7 Prior to the assessment, the start of the scent track/trail shall be marked by the assessing agency.

5.6.1.1.6.8 The canine handler shall be directed to the start marker, but not given the target's direction of travel.

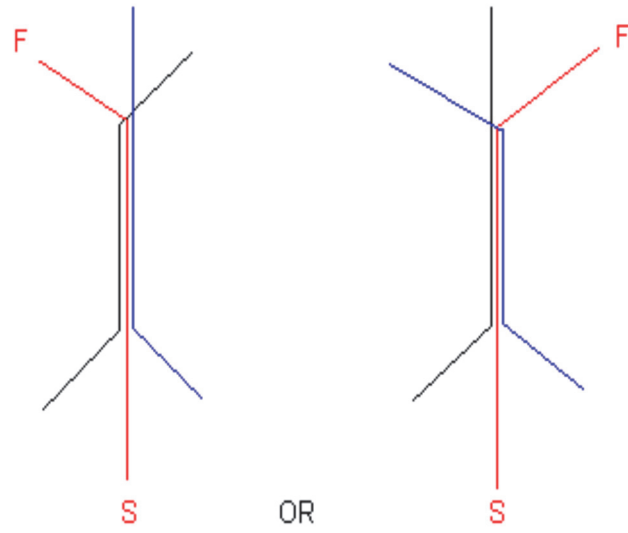
5.6.1.1.6.9 The canine handler shall be provided a scent article from the target or a non-associated scent article as a negative control.

5.6.1.1.6.10 The assessor shall know the correct outcome of each track/trail.

5.6.1.1.6.11 The canine handler shall not know the correct outcome of any track/trail.

5.6.1.1.6.12 The assessor shall observe the canine team. At the conclusion of the assessment, the assessor shall compare the search results with the parameters of the search. This comparison may be done immediately after the handler determines the canine has made its final response, or at the conclusion of the entire assessment.

5.6.1.1.6.13 The assessing agency may take into consideration the environmental influences on the scent in determining whether or not the canine team has successfully completed the scent recognition assessment.



S is starting point human target, F is finishing point

FIGURE NOTE The target track/trail is indicated by the red, the distractor track/trails are indicated by the blue and black.

Figure 1—Diagram Split Track/Trail



Scent or a scent track/trail present, but the human scent traces on the pre-scenting article is not associated with the scent track/trail.

Figure 2—Negative Location Check

5.6.1.1.6.14 A successful completion of the scent recognition assessment shall be the ability to find the correct direction of travel and follow the scent track/trail and correctly demonstrate the final response at the target or demonstrate the absence of an associated scent track/trail.

5.6.1.1.6.15 The canine team shall properly scent discriminate in at least 75 % of the scent recognition track/trail.

5.6.1.1.6.16 The assessor can fail the canine handler team if it is determined that the canine is no longer actively searching.

5.6.2 *Operational assessments* shall test the following.

5.6.2.1 The ability of the canine to indicate the presence or absence of the human scent target.

5.6.2.2 Demonstration of the canine's ability to perform a systematic search.

5.6.2.3 Demonstration of the canine handler's control of the canine during the execution of a systematic search.

5.6.2.4 The canine's final response.

5.6.2.5 The canine handler's recognition of the canine's behavior while searching and including the canine's final response.

5.6.2.6 The operational assessment shall consist of the following components and parameters.

5.6.2.6.1 A mission-oriented assessment environment shall be used.

5.6.2.6.2 At least six location checks, with the scent of at least two different human targets, in at least three different areas, with different human distractors shall be performed in this assessment.

5.6.2.6.2.1 At least half of the location checks shall be negative.

5.6.2.6.2.2 The remaining portion of the location checks shall be split between fresh tracks and aged trails.

5.6.2.6.3 A negative location check shall have scent or a scent track/trail present, but the human scent traces on the pre-scenting article is not associated with the scent track/trail (see Figure 2).

5.6.2.6.4 A positive location check shall have scent or a scent track/trail present that is associated with the human scent traces on the pre-scenting article (see Figure 3).

5.6.2.6.5 Each target trail shall be aged in accordance with mission requirements for 30 minutes to 24 hours for location checks representing fresh tracks and greater than 24 hours for location checks representing aged trails.

5.6.2.6.6 If a track/trail is used, it shall be a minimum of \approx 50 yds (45 m) in length.

5.6.2.6.7 The canine handler shall be informed of the start location.



Scent or a scent track/trail present that is associated with the human scent traces on the pre-scenting article.

Figure 3—Positive Location Check

5.6.2.6.8 The canine handler shall be provided with a new scent sample from an associated target or a non-associated target at each location check.

5.6.2.6.9 Each location check shall be completed in less than 5 minutes.

5.6.2.6.10 The assessing agency shall know the correct outcome of location check assessment.

5.6.2.6.11 The canine handler shall not know the correct outcome of each location check, nor the number of checks to be conducted.

5.6.2.6.12 The canine handler must be able to discern the canine's final response and communicate this to the assessing agency.

5.6.2.6.13 The conclusion of the assessment shall be defined by the assessing agency.

5.6.2.6.14 Successful completion of the assessment includes the following.

5.6.2.6.14.1 The canine shall be required to correctly indicate the presence or absence of the associated scent at each start location.

5.6.2.6.14.2 Correctly following the target track/trail and correctly coming to a final response at the correct target or location (when target is not present).

5.6.2.6.14.3 In the case of a negative location check, the canine team must indicate that there is no associated track/trail.

5.6.2.6.14.4 At least 80% of the operational assessments shall be performed correctly. (Therefore, if only six location checks are performed, five must be done correctly).

5.6.2.6.15 Failure of the assessment includes the following.

5.6.2.6.15.1 Any canine team that is determined by the assessing agency to be more than 46 m (≈50 yd) off the target's track/trail may be failed. However, the assessing agency may take into consideration environmental influences on the scent in determining whether or not a canine team is still on track/trail.

5.6.2.6.15.2 Identifying a human distractor shall be considered a failure.

5.6.2.6.15.3 A canine team taking longer than 5 minutes to complete the assessment shall be considered a failure.

5.6.2.6.15.4 Following a track/trail on a negative location check shall be considered a failure.

5.6.2.6.15.5 The assessor can fail the canine handler team if it is determined that the canine is no longer actively searching.

5.6.2.6.15.6 If the canine fails to come to a final response, that constitutes a failure of the canine team in the assessment.

5.6.3 The assessment in this section are intended for *double-blind assessments*. When a double-blind assessment is conducted, it shall be conducted with considerations for safety.

5.6.3.1 Scent recognition and operational assessments can be conducted double-blind following the components and parameters described in 5.6.1.

5.6.3.2 Unlike the assessments described in 5.6.1, neither the canine handler, nor the assessor, nor any individual present with the canine team shall know the correct outcome of any portion of the assessment, including whether there is a scent association.

5.6.3.3 The canine team shall be required to successfully complete the assessment as defined by the assessing agency.

5.6.3.4 The assessor shall observe the canine team. At the conclusion of the assessment, the assessor shall compare the search results with the parameters of the search. This comparison may be done immediately after the handler determines the canine has made its final response, or at the conclusion of the entire assessment.

5.6.3.5 The canine team shall be required to complete a double-blind assessment every six months unless there is a double-blind assessment as a component of the certification.

5.6.3.6 Any double-blind assessment may be used for proficiency testing.

6 Canine Team Certification

6.1 Certification for the named canine team (one canine handler and one canine) shall be valid for up to one year (365 days or 366 days in a leap year). Canine handlers with more than one canine shall be required to independently certify with each canine.

6.2 The canine team shall perform regular documented maintenance training, periodic proficiency assessments, double-blind assessments, and follow other recommended local, state and/or federal guidelines. Certification does not remove the requirement for continued training.

6.3 The certifying official(s) shall not be routinely involved in the training (maintenance training, periodic proficiency assessments, double-blind assessment, etc.) of the canine team being evaluated.

6.4 The certifying authority may fail the canine team due to handler errors and breaches of safety, which may include, but are not limited to, the following.

- a) Not maintaining positive control of the canine, which may lead to safety issues.
- b) Allowing canine outside of search area.
- c) Not following directions of the assessor.

6.5 Deliberate compromise of an evaluation will not be tolerated. Any communication concerning specifics of the evaluation will constitute a compromise and will lead to termination of the canine team's certification.

6.6 A mission-oriented test environment shall be used.

6.7 The certification shall be comprised of a scent recognition assessment together with an operational assessment (single- and/or double-blind assessment, or a combination of both). Certification parameters are outlined in Section 5, Canine Team Assessments. If the canine is dual purpose, then the canine team shall pass all required assessment parameters outlined in Section 5, Canine Team Assessments in both this document and the corresponding detection discipline document.

6.8 Targets used in the certification process shall not have been used in the training activities (maintenance training, periodic proficiency assessments, double-blind assessment, etc.) of the canine team being certified.

6.9 The canine team shall properly scent discriminate in at least 75% of the scent recognition assessments (see 5.6.1.1) and 80% of the operational assessments (see 5.6.1.2) for successful certification.

6.10 A canine team that fails the certification process shall complete a documented corrective action plan developed by the canine team's trainer before making another attempt to certify.

6.11 Certifying official(s) shall identify the performance deficiency(ies) to the canine handler so that the trainer can determine the minimum amount of time for that deficiency(ies) to be remediated before another certification attempt.

During this remediation time frame, documentation should be provided by the canine trainer/handler to demonstrate that efforts have been enacted to correct the deficiency.

6.12 Organization(s) may enhance the standard's requirements in order to make the organizational requirements more stringent.

7 Canine Team Maintenance Training

7.1 The canine team shall conduct regular objective-oriented training sufficient to maintain and enhance operational proficiency that includes:

- a) enhancing the proficiency level of the canine team;
- b) maintaining the necessary level of fitness of the canine team;
- c) correcting identified deficiencies;
- d) a variety of search locations, environmental conditions, weather conditions, and search area sizes;
- e) a varied duration of search times at different times of day or night;
- f) a variety of blank searches;
- g) a variety of search areas that contain non-associated scent track/trails;
- h) a variety of odor/scent distractions and/or odor/scent distractors in the search area;
- i) a variety of set times;
- j) a variety of targets;
- k) a variety of articles used for pre-scenting the canine;
- l) a variety of degrees of concealment (behind a tree, behind a door, in a trunk of a car, above ground, in a tree, etc.); and
- m) a variety of noise distractors (traffic, sirens, children playing, verbiage over a PA system, etc.).

7.2 Routine training conducted solely by the handler to maintain the canine's proficiency is acceptable, but not a best practice, and shall be combined with supervised training on a regular basis.

Supervised training by a competent trainer is required in order to improve performance, identify and correct training deficiencies, and perform proficiency assessments.

7.3 A canine team shall conduct a minimum of 16 hours of training per month to maintain and improve the proficiency level of the canine team.

7.4 Training is meant to sustain, enhance, and promote the performance of the canine team.

7.5 The canine team shall perform periodic proficiency assessments throughout the certification period as outlined in Section 5, Canine Team Assessments, including a variety of scent recognition assessments, operational assessments, single and double-blind assessments.

7.6 Canine teams shall be challenged during the regular maintenance training sessions within the operational environments for which the canine team may be deployed.

8 Scent Article(s) Storage and Handling

- 8.1** Handling and storage of scent article(s) shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes odor/scent contamination.
- 8.2** Scent article(s) shall be stored in separate, individual, and labeled containers.
- 8.3** Scent article(s) shall be stored individually and separately from non-target and masking odor/scent.
- 8.4** Scent article(s) shall be appropriately disposed of and replenished as required and necessary to minimize odor/scent contamination and/or account for the perishable nature of the material.
- 8.5** Scent article(s) shall be maintained in a manner to avoid loss or destruction.
- 8.6** Scent article(s) should be signed in and out.
- 8.7** Scent article(s) should be inventoried monthly.
- 8.8** Documented training should take place on the acquisition, handling, storing and disposing of target scent.

9 Canine Team Records and Document Management

- 9.1** The canine handler/organization shall document training, certification, canine team assessments, and discipline - related deployment data as relevant.
- 9.2** Proficiency assessments and training records may be combined or separate documents.
- 9.3** Discipline-related deployment records shall be separated from training, proficiency assessment, and certification documentation.
- 9.4** Training and discipline-related records should be standardized within the organization.
- 9.5** Training records shall include, but are not limited to the following data.
 - a) Name of canine handler and canine.
 - b) Name(s) of individual(s) conducting or assisting with training.
 - c) Time and date of training.
 - d) Location, environment, and weather conditions of training (urban, rural, wilderness, etc.).
 - e) Training design (non-blind, single-blind, or double-blind).
 - f) Target descriptors and number of target(s) (gender, age, ethnicity, stature, etc.).
 - g) Set time.

- h) Type of scent article/source (if applicable).
- i) Length of scent track/trail.
- j) Concealment of the target (if applicable).
- k) Location of target(s).
- l) Length of training session.
- m) Canine team search results.
- n) Deficiencies and corrective measures implemented during training regimen.
- o) Other information required by organization.

9.6 Certification records shall be maintained by the certifying authority and the canine handler, and shall include, but are not limited to, the following data.

- a) Name of canine and canine handler.
- b) Name(s) of individual(s) conducting, assisting, or awarding certification.
- c) Date and time canine team certified.
- d) Location, environment, and weather conditions during certification (urban, rural, wilderness, etc.).
- e) Certification assessment design (non-blind, single-blind, or double-blind).
- f) Target descriptor(s) (gender, age, ethnicity, stature, etc.).
- g) Set time.
- h) Location of target(s).
- i) The concealment of the target(s) (if applicable).
- j) Length of scent track/trail.
- k) Type of scent article/source, e.g., leather, plastic, metal, textile (if applicable).
- l) Time taken to complete certification assessment.
- m) Canine team certification results.
- n) Deficiencies and corrective measures noted for future training.
- o) Other information required by canine team's organization.
- p) Assessing agency [i.e., agency, professional organization, and/or individual(s)].

q) The standard or guideline to which the canine team is certified.

9.7 Canine team assessment records maintained by the canine handler/organization shall include, but are not limited to the following data.

- a) Name of canine and canine handler.
- b) Name(s) of individual(s) conducting, assisting, or awarding assessment.
- c) Date and time of canine team assessment.
- d) Location, environment, and weather conditions during assessment (urban, rural, wilderness, etc.).
- e) Assessment design (non-blind, single-blind, or double-blind).
- f) Target descriptor(s) (gender, age, ethnicity, stature, etc.).
- g) Location of target(s).
- h) The concealment of the target(s).
- i) Set time.
- j) Type of scent article/source, e.g., leather, plastic, metal, textile, etc. (if applicable).
- k) Time taken to complete assessment.
- l) Canine team assessment results.
- m) Deficiencies and corrective measures noted for future training.
- n) Other information required by canine team's organization.
- o) The standard or guideline to which the canine team is assessed.

9.8 Deployment/utilization records maintained by the canine handler/organization shall document the specifics of the deployment to include, but are not limited to the following data.

- a) Name of canine and canine handler.
- b) Name(s) of organization(s) conducting search.
- c) Date and time of deployment.
- d) Requestor of deployment.
- e) Location check address (GPS coordinates are recommended but are optional) of deployment.
- f) Environmental conditions at deployment.

- g) Search area type (urban, rural, wilderness, etc.).
- h) Point last seen (PLS) (date, time, environmental conditions).
- i) Name of target (if available).
- j) Description of target ([gender, age, ethnicity, height, weight, dress, etc. (if available)]).
- k) Medical conditions/medications.
- l) Type of search (missing person, criminal, run away, armed, etc.).
- m) Type of scent article/source ([leather, plastic, metal, textile, etc. (if applicable)]).
- n) Back-up names.
- o) Search results.
- p) Information regarding search and final response(s).
- q) Other information required by the canine team's organization.

9.9 All documented training, assessment(s), and certification(s) shall be used to determine the canine team's proficiency.

9.10 Confirmed operational outcomes (identification of a known location associated with the target person after following the track/trail) can be used as a factor in determining canine team's experience.

9.11 Unconfirmed operational outcomes (identification of a potential location associated with the target person after following the track/trail) shall not be used as a factor in determining a canine team's proficiency. Unconfirmed operational outcomes, including a non-productive response, may be relevant for investigative/testimony purposes because of the following.

9.11.1 Target scent or residual scent may be present below the measurable level of detection for laboratory instrumentation.

9.11.2 There may be an environmental inability or external factors which prevent locating the scent source.

9.12 Supervisory review of all records is recommended.

9.13 Digitally formatted records (with appropriate back up), versus handwritten are recommended to facilitate compiling and analyzing data.

9.14 All documented training, assessments, certification, and deployments shall be documented to include final response, any false positives, and any false negatives.

9.15 Records may be discoverable in court proceedings and may become evidence of the canine team's reliability. Record retention policy shall be determined by the canine team's organization guidelines.

9.16 Training records are necessary to illustrate the type and amount of training that the canine team has experienced before and after certification.

9.17 Scent article(s) records.

9.17.1 Scent article(s) shall be clearly labeled in a manner to support accountability.

9.17.2 Appropriate records shall be maintained by the canine handler/organization in accordance with federal/state/local requirements.

9.18 Veterinary Records.

9.18.1 Veterinary records shall be maintained in a manner such as they are accessible to the handler/organization.

9.18.2 Vaccinations required by state or local law should be documented in the veterinary record of the canine.

Annex A **(informative)**

Foundational Principles

The use of canines to locate persons and objects that have a scent track/trail is a long-established practice. However, to ensure that the canines are properly trained and able to ‘communicate’ their tracking/trailing to their handlers in an efficient manner, proper training protocols are necessary. In addition, the canines need to be trained and evaluated based upon their ability to consistently follow established pre-scented tracks/trails. This is a discipline that requires periodic re-evaluation of the canines and of the handlers’ abilities to recognize the canine behavior.

This standard provides the critical foundation needed for the development and quality assurance for deployment of the use of the canine’s functioning within this discipline.

Many canine organizations have established internal standards and standard operating procedures. The intent of this document is to provide a minimum standard which may be exceeded and provide consistency in training, assessments, documentation and terms and definitions.

Annex B (informative)

Bibliography

This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list as the group recognizes other publications on this subject may exist. At the time this standard was drafted, these were the publications available for reference. Additionally, any mention of a particular software tool or vendor as part of this bibliography is purely incidental, and any inclusion does not imply endorsement.

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