

SWGDOG SC 9 - HUMAN SCENT DOGS

Pre-scented canine searches

Posted for Public Comment 6/3/07 – 8/1/07. Approved by the membership 8/15/07.

PRE-SCENTED CANINE SEARCHES

Pre-scented canine searches are ones in which the canine/handler team searches for and follows a specific person's odor trail over different surface types after the canine has been "scented" on an object containing the target's odor. The dog works from an article to either a person or a location associated with that person. The goal is for the canine to detect and follow the matching odor trail to the exclusion of all other odor trails which leads to a specific person and or location associated with that person, and correctly demonstrate the absence of a matching odor trail. These canines are used for finding a specific person and/or location associated with that specific person after scenting the canine on an object containing the target's odor.

3. CANINE/HANDLER TEAM CERTIFICATION

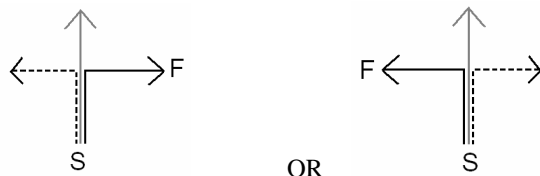
- 3.1. The odor recognition assessment shall contain the following:
 - 3.1.1. A test of the canine/handler team's abilities as listed below:
 - 3.1.1.1. The ability of the canine to discriminate scents and follow the odor trail belonging to the matching human target.
 - 3.1.1.2. The ability of the canine to demonstrate the absence of a matching odor trail.
 - 3.1.1.3. The canine's response.
 - 3.1.1.4. The handler's interpretation of the canine's response.
 - 3.1.2. An odor recognition assessment shall consist of four individual assessments.
 - 3.1.2.1. For each odor recognition assessment, one human target and two human distracters are utilized to lay human odor trails in an environment similar to where the canine usually works (e.g., urban, suburban and or rural environments).
 - 3.1.2.2. Each odor recognition assessment shall be between 91.4 m - 182.8 m (100 - 200 yds) in length with a single split turn₁ involving one human target and two human distracters.
 - 3.1.2.3. The target trail and one human distracter trail shall be aged a minimum of 1 hour, and one distracter trail shall be aged a maximum of 30 minutes.
 - 3.1.2.4. Prior to the test, the start of the odor trail shall be marked by the assessing agency.
 - 3.1.3. The handler shall be directed to the start marker, but not given the target's direction of travel.

- 3.1.4. The handler shall be provided an odor sample from the human target or a non-matching human odor sample as a negative control.¹
- 3.1.3. The handler shall specify the type of odor sample (object or scent pad) his or her canine used in training sessions prior to the assessment.
- 3.1.5. At least half, but not all of the odor recognition assessments shall be conducted with non-matching odors to demonstrate the absence of a matching odor trail.
- 3.1.6. The assessor shall know the correct outcome of each assessment.
- 3.1.7. The handler shall not know the correct outcome of any assessment.
- 3.1.8. A successful completion of the odor recognition assessment is the ability to find the correct direction of travel and follow the odor trail beyond the turn or to correctly demonstrate the absence of a matching odor trail.
- 3.1.9. The assessor may take into consideration environmental influences on odor in determining whether or not the canine handler team has successfully completed the odor recognition assessment.
- 3.1.10. The canine/handler team shall properly scent discriminate matching odor in at least 75 % of the assessments.

3.2. Comprehensive Assessment components follow:

- 3.2.1. This assessment tests the following canine/handler team skills:
 - 3.2.1.1. The ability of the canine/handler team to follow a specific person's odor trail along surface types appropriate to the canine/handler team's operational requirements and to identify a specific person or location at the conclusion of the assessment.
 - 3.2.1.2. The handler's interpretation of the canine's behavior.
 - 3.2.1.3. The canine's response.
 - 3.2.1.4. The handler's interpretation of the canine's response.
- 3.2.2. One or more different potential target trails shall be approximately 1.61 km (1 mile) in length in an environment similar to where the canine usually works.
- 3.2.3. Each target trail shall be aged in accordance with mission requirements.
- 3.2.4. Each target trail shall contain a minimum of ten turns.
- 3.2.5. Multiple human distracters, either placed or regularly occurring in the assessment area shall be present along the distance of the target trail.
- 3.2.6. The assessment location shall be unfamiliar to the handler.
- 3.2.7. The targets and distracters shall not be ones normally utilized in the training of the canine/handler team.
- 3.2.8. The handler shall be informed of the start location.
- 3.2.9. The handler shall be provided an odor sample from the target.

¹ Diagram single split turn: S is starting point human target, F is finishing point or



- 3.2.10. The handler shall specify the type of odor sample (object or scent pad) prior to the assessment.
- 3.2.11. The assessment should be completed in less than 60 minutes.
- 3.2.12. The assessor shall know the correct layout of each assessment.
- 3.2.13. The handler shall not know the correct layout of each assessment.
- 3.2.14. The handler shall articulate the canine's final response prior to the start of the assessment
- 3.2.15. The canine shall demonstrate the final response which must be communicated by the handler to the assessor.
- 3.2.16. A successful conclusion of the assessment shall be defined by the certifying agency.
- 3.2.17. The canine/handler team shall be required to successfully complete the assessment.
- 3.2.18. The assessor may take into consideration environmental influences on the odor in determining whether or not a canine/handler team is still on trail.
- 3.2.19. Any team that is determined by the assessor to be more than 45.72 m (50 yd) off the target's trail shall be failed.
- 3.2.20. Identifying a human distracter will be considered a failure.

3.3. Double-Blind Assessment

- 3.3.1. The double-blind assessment may only be used to fulfill a handler's operational certification if it meets or exceeds the standards in the comprehensive assessment.
- 3.3.2. Any double-blind assessment may be used for proficiency testing.
- 3.3.3. This assessment demonstrates the proficiency of the canine/handler team in an operational setting.
- 3.3.4. The handler will be advised of the start location.
- 3.3.5. The handler shall not know the location of the end point, nor the number of turns to be conducted.
- 3.3.6. The canine/handler team shall be required to successfully complete the assessment as defined by the certifying agency.
- 3.3.7. The handler shall articulate the canine's final response prior to the start of the assessment.
- 3.3.8. Identifying a human distracter will be considered a failure.
- 3.3.9. Neither the handler, assessor, nor any individual present with the canine handler team shall know the correct outcome of any portion assessment.
- 3.3.10. The assessment may or may not be timed.
- 3.3.11. The assessor, if present, shall observe the canine/handler 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 trained response, or at the conclusion of the entire assessment.