

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT  
SEARCH AND RESCUE PROGRAM  
STANDARDS FOR VIRGINIA  
LAND CADAVER CANINE TEAMS

JULY 2005

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## **Prerequisites**

In order to be eligible to test to become a certified "Virginia Land Cadaver Canine Team" the handler shall:

- a) Be 18 years of age.
- b) Be an active member in good standing with a Canine Search and Rescue group currently operating under a Canine Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Emergency Management in the Commonwealth of Virginia, or be a member of a team that has an application pending for a canine MOU with the Department of Emergency Management in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- c) Have no felony convictions.
- d) Provide current canine team training log.
- e) Have taken a Virginia approved crime scene preservation class.
- f) Provide documentation of current canine immunizations.

## Terminology

The definitions listed here are for the purpose of these standards only. They may or may not reflect the definitions used by other individuals, groups, or agencies.

- 1) **Air scent dog** - A canine that will detect airborne human scent.
- 2) **Aggressive Canine Behavior** - Canine aggression is an attempted or actual unprovoked attack on another canine or person. A canine may also be evaluated as aggressive if it exhibits significant warning signs of imminent unprovoked attack (continuous growling, snarling, fear-barking, etc.).
- 3) **Alert** - The canine's natural response, recognizable to the handler, to its detection of human scent.
- 4) **Area search** - Search of a specific geographical area. The area could be urban, suburban, rural, or wilderness.
- 5) **Article search** - Search for any object or article that may contain human scent which may be above or below ground.
- 6) **Cadaver search** - Search for human remains, bodily fluids, or the areas on which they may have rested.
- 7) **Cadaver Canine** - A canine that will detect and indicate on human remains including human decomposition scent.
- 8) **Critical Incident Stress**- Natural emotional reaction to destruction, injury and death related to a disaster environment.
- 9) **Canine team** – One (1) trained handler with one (1) trained dog certified together as a team.
- 10) **Event** - Training, mission, test or other activity, where search teams may gather.
- 11) **Good Samaritan Law** - Any person who, in good faith, renders emergency medical care or assistance to an injured person at the scene of an accident or other emergency without the expectation of receiving, or intending to receive compensation from such injured person, shall not be liable in civil damages for any act or omission, not constituting gross negligence, in the course of such care or assistance. Good Samaritan Laws do not prevent subjects from filing civil suits and do not take the burden of proof off of the responder.
- 12) **Handler** - The person who controls and directs the canine during a search.
- 13) **Heeling** - The canine walking with the handler, on command, at the handler's side, either on or off lead.
- 14) **Indication** - Canine's trained method of communicating to the handler that the subject or scent source has been found.

- 15) **MOU** - Memorandum of Understanding.
- 16) **Operational Handler** – An individual who has completed the requirements of an operational team in any canine discipline in the state of Virginia.
- 17) **Operational Team** – One (1) trained handler and one (1) trained canine that together have passed all requirements set forth by these standards and have been issued an authorization by Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
- 18) **Probability of Detection (POD)** - The percentage of probability that if a subject were actually in the search area that he would have been located (detected) by the search effort.
- 19) **Refind** - When the canine has made a find, it returns to the handler and directs the handler back to the subject or article.
- 20) **Rural** - Country often given to farming or to woodland and sparsely to moderately populated.
- 21) **SAR**- Search and Rescue.
- 22) **SAR Dog Standards Committee** - A committee of representatives of each search dog unit that has an MOU with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Each canine unit may have up to two voting members on the committee.
- 23) **Unit** - The organization that a team represents.
- 24) **Urban or Suburban** - Moderately to heavily populated areas given primarily to business and residential development.
- 25) **VDEM** – Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
- 26) **Water search** - Search for human scent or remains under or along water, such as a drowned victim.
- 27) **Wilderness** - An area generally uncultivated and uninhabited, and often inaccessible by road.

## Scope

- a) These standards are intended to define minimum qualification requirements for area search by a land cadaver canine team.
  
- b) The Land Cadaver Canine Team should be able to perform the following functions in the general environment of the Commonwealth of Virginia:
  - 1) Search for human remains or deceased persons in wilderness, rural, suburban, and urban areas.
  - 2) Assist with the evaluation and organization of a cadaver search.
  
- c) The team should be capable of performing these functions any time of the year, day or night, and in all weather conditions experienced in the Commonwealth. The team may work with a variety of individuals and organizations, including law enforcement, fire and rescue, casual volunteers, and family members of the missing subject(s). In order to do this the handler should be able to:
  - 1) Understand the search and rescue system used in the Commonwealth.
  - 2) Understand the search theory of disarticulated human remains and deceased person search.
  - 3) Plan, execute, debrief, and document a variety of dog search tasks.
  - 4) Navigate accurately on land.
  - 5) Survive an unexpected emergency.
  
- d) These standards do not address any particular breed of canine since many breeds can be trained to do search work. However, it is important that the canine have the stamina for long hours of searching in all kinds of weather. In addition, the canine must be sociable and controllable in situations involving crowds, noise, other canines, and a variety of distractions.

## Handler Knowledge and Performance Expectations

Handler will demonstrate an understanding of the items listed under each subject and the ability to perform the skills listed. Specific tests designed for this purpose are described in “TEST METHODS”, and are included as part of these standards.

### 1) SAR Operations

- a) Understand how state missions are originated.
- b) List several resources that might be utilized during a SAR event.
- c) Demonstrate the ability to develop basic search dog assignments for a search incident, and provide appropriate recommendations for additional resource support to the incident.
- d) Understand the functions of these field team positions:
  - 1) Field Team Member
  - 2) Field Team Leader
- e) Understand proper searcher conduct as it relates to law enforcement, the family of the missing subject(s), and the media.
- f) Understand general safety considerations in SAR operations, including dealing with critical incident stress.
- g) Understand the provisions of the Virginia Search and Rescue Council’s “Standard Operating Procedures”.

### 2) Legal Aspects of Search and Rescue

- a) Understand SAR responsibilities at the state level.
- b) Understand several methods of reducing liability exposure.
- c) Understand the circumstances when entry upon private property may be justified.

### 3) Survival

- a) Understand the basic principals of clothing and equipment selection for the search environment:
  - 1) Choice of clothing material
  - 2) Waterproof / windproof
  - 3) Layering
- b) Bivouac overnight in the out-of doors.  
See APPENDIX N for guidelines for the overnight bivouac.

**Bivouac is not required if already completed as a wilderness or water team**

- c) See APPENDIX M for guidelines for a personal equipment list.

**4) Scent Transport Theory - understand the following concepts**

- 1) Lofting
- 2) Pluming
- 3) Fumigating
- 4) Coning
- 5) Looping
- 6) Fanning

**5) Land Navigation**

- a) Define the following terms or concepts:
  - 1) True north, Grid north, and magnetic north
  - 2) Declination
- b) Read and interpret topographic map border information, colors, and symbols.
- c) Demonstrate how to use a compass to plot a course on a map.
- d) Draw a map of an area searched.
- e) Perform the following navigational functions:
  - 1) Obtain and follow a simple compass bearing.
  - 2) Determine a reciprocal.
  - 3) Navigate around obstacles.
  - 4) Measure distance by pacing.
  - 5) Determine position by terrain feature identification.
  - 6) Determine position using UTM coordinates on a map.
- f) Describe how to use these land navigation concepts:
  - 1) Catching features
  - 2) Collecting features
  - 3) Aiming off

## **6) Search Skills**

- a) Demonstrate an understanding of these search tactics:
  - 1) Contour Search
  - 2) Ridge/Drainage Search
  - 3) Perimeter Search
  - 4) Building Search
  - 5) Grid Search
- b) Given a search dog task, discuss and demonstrate the ability to plan the task considering wind direction and other weather conditions, visibility, terrain characteristics, time of day, vegetation density, safety, and desired POD.
- c) Perform the task planned above.
- d) Translate field activity onto a map, including route taken, areas searched and not searched, alerts, clues located, wind direction, times for all of the above, and estimated POD for the task.
- e) Demonstrate the ability to accurately debrief the task and map area searched, providing the debriefer with all of the information listed in (6 a-d).

## **7) Clue and Site Procedures**

- a) Describe the proper way to approach clues, articles, or victim.
- b) Describe methods to preserve and secure a site.
- c) Explain the importance of accurate documentation of clues and location of human remains.

## **8) Field Communications**

- a) Define the common problems associated with the field use of portable radios and list some possible solutions.
- b) Describe basic Virginia SAR Council radio procedures.

**9) First Aid****Human**

- a) The handler must have current basic first aid, or equivalent, or higher certification.
- b) The handler must have current CPR certification.

**Canine**

- c) The handler must recognize and, if possible, know how to treat the following:
  - 1) Excessive bleeding
  - 2) Hyperthermia
  - 3) Bloat
  - 4) Shock
  - 5) Dehydration
- d) The handler must know which human medications carried in his pack may be shared with the canine and which may not.

**10) Additional suggested training**

- a) Field Team Member
- b) Forensic evidence class
- c) Blood borne pathogen safety awareness
- d) Handling and storage of training aids

## **Canine Performance and Expectations**

The objectives of the behavior, obedience, and agility evaluations are to help ensure that both the canine and the handler can work together as a team safely, efficiently and in conjunction with other teams and personnel.

The canine will demonstrate compliance with the expectations of this section. Specific tests designed for this purpose are described in "TEST METHODS", and are included as part of these standards.

### **1) Behavior**

#### **Aggression:**

Each handler shall be responsible for assuring his or her canine does not exhibit aggressive canine behavior, or the canine shall not be eligible for certification.

#### **Policy:**

- a) Aggressive canine behavior toward people or other canines shall not be considered acceptable behavior.
- b) A canine must allow another person to move it to a different location in the absence of its owner. The canine must not show aggression.

#### **Repercussions:**

Following an unprovoked attack on a person or controlled canine, the offending canine will be removed from the event area and will not be allowed to participate in any future events outside their own team training, until such time as a state evaluator reviews the incident and deems the canine fit to continue.

All such unprovoked attacks must be documented. Documentation shall include the date and time of the incident, a description of what happened including all parties and animals involved, and signatures by at least one witness and the person filing the report.

**2) Obedience:**

The canine must be under the control of the handler at all times, capable of heeling through crowds; non-aggressive to both people and other canines; must be responsive to an emergency stop command; and a long stay, with distractions

**3) Agility:**

The canine must demonstrate the ability to negotiate obstacles, jump onto and off of an elevated surface, walk across an elevated surface three-foot off the ground, and go through a tunnel eight foot long.

**4) Indication:**

The canine must indicate to the handler that it has located the scent.

**5) Search Skills:**

The canine must demonstrate the ability and stamina to search an assigned area effectively.

## **Test Methods**

The following testing procedures are designed to provide a representative evaluation of the expectations listed in Handler Knowledge and Performance Expectations and Canine Performance Expectations.

At no time during an evaluation is the handler permitted to move anything without permission of the evaluator.

### **Required Tests:**

Handler Written Evaluation

Canine Behavior Evaluation

Canine Obedience Evaluation

Canine Agility Evaluation

20-Acre Evaluation

Above Ground Evaluation

Buried Evaluation

Urban Evaluation

Overnight Bivouac

**If testing a current operational team, behavior, obedience, agility, bivouac, 20-acre tests do not need to be repeated.**

**If testing a previously operational handler, bivouac and 20-acre tests do not need to be repeated.**

## **Handler Written Evaluation**

- a) The handler will complete a comprehensive written test and will achieve a score of at least 70%.
- b) The test of 100 multiple choice questions will be provided by VDEM and will be randomly selected from questions supplied by the SAR Dog Standards Committee.
- c) A state evaluator will administer the test, and copies of the results will be given to the unit's Training Officer and the certifying handler.

## **Evaluator Information**

- a) Evaluations will be conducted on an individual team basis. Each team test will be observed by a minimum of two (2) evaluators, one of which is a state evaluator. At least one of the evaluators must be an operational cadaver handler.
- b) Each evaluator will have a checklist for scoring each of the field teams. At the conclusion of each test, the evaluators will compare their scoring.
- c) Performance will be rated as either "Pass" or "Fail". Both evaluators must agree on the rating for the test to be valid.
- d) In the event there are conflicting ratings that the evaluators cannot resolve, the handler may be given a "NO TEST" rating and asked to repeat that test following procedures under "Retesting".
- e) If any one of the field tests is scored "Fail" by both evaluators, the procedures described under "Retesting" will apply.
- f) Tests should be set up and conducted following the Evaluator instructions given in Appendix A.

### **Retesting**

- a) If the score on any test is below the passing score, the handler may arrange for a retest. A retest may not be repeated on the same day as the original test.
- b) In the case of retesting a field evaluation because of a "Fail" rating, at least one of the evaluators that originally tested the team must participate in the retest.
- c) If, after receiving a failed rating on a retest, the evaluatee feels that he/she is being unfairly rated, he/she may request a retest with two different evaluators. The evaluators who rated the team "fail" may observe the retest, but will have no input on the evaluation results. This request for retest must be submitted by the evaluatee, in writing, to any of the unit's officers.

### **Method of Conducting State Recognized Evaluations**

Groups whose internal evaluation procedures meet or exceed these standards may use those procedures for authorization testing provided the following conditions are met:

- 1) The evaluations are observed and scored by at least one state authorized evaluator.
- 2) The SAR Dog Standards Committee approves the checklist/evaluation form used by that group.
- 3) The approved checklist/evaluation form is completed and signed by both evaluators for each evaluation.

## **Canine Behavior Evaluation**

**For evaluation form see Appendix C**

**Requirement:** The canine must not display aggressive behavior.

- a) The canine and handler will load into a vehicle along with at least two other canine teams. The vehicle will then be driven for a distance of at least one mile during which time the canine must not display aggressive or uncontrolled behavior.
- b) The handler will stand with the canine in the heeling position. A stranger will approach and engage the handler in conversation. The canine must not show aggressive behavior toward the stranger.
- c) The canine will be tethered to a stationary object by a 6-foot lead. Another handler, with a canine at heel, will walk within 10 feet of the point where the canine is tied. The canine will show no aggressive behavior.
- d) The canine search team will complete a Figure "8" around two team handlers with their canines on lead, sitting at their sides positioned about eight feet apart. The testing team shall complete the pattern, on loose lead, passing within two feet of each of the post teams. The post teams will remain still and not interfere with the testing team.

## Canine Obedience Evaluation

**For evaluation form see Appendix D**

**Requirements:** The canine must respond appropriately to handler commands.

The canine must demonstrate the ability to walk with the handler in the heeling position, maintain a sit-stay or a down-stay when the handler is not present, stop while in motion and return to the handler when called.

- a) Heeling - The canine will heel on command through a straight walk, a right turn, a left turn, and a 180-degree turn. The canine will sit or stand in the heeling position when the handler stops. The canine can be off lead or on a loose lead.
- b) Out of sight stay - The canine may be placed next to the handler's pack and at least 10 feet away from any other person or canine. Upon direction from the evaluator, the handler shall give the canine the stay/wait command and the handler will move a minimum of 50 feet away, out of site. Time starts when the evaluator states "leave the canine". The canine may sit, stand or shift position, but shall not move more than a body length in any direction from where the canine was placed. Distractions will be present. After five (5) minutes, the evaluator will direct the handler to return to the canine. Handlers may signal the canine to stay, if needed, while returning. The exercise is complete when the handler has returned to his/her canine and the evaluator states, "exercise complete". No rewarding will be allowed until the exercise is complete.
- c) Stop on recall - The canine shall be placed on a stay/wait command a minimum of 40 feet from the handler and the evaluator. Upon direction from the evaluator, the handler shall call his/her canine. The handler will then stop the canine when directed by the evaluator. Once the stop command has been given, an immediate change in gait is required and the canine must then come to a stop within 20 feet. The canine may drop, sit, or stand. The handler may give multiple commands. The canine shall remain stationary until handler returns to canine or is recalled by the handler, at the direction of the evaluator.

## **Canine Agility Evaluation**

**For evaluation form see Appendix E**

**Requirements:** The canine must demonstrate the ability to negotiate obstacles and walk on elevated surfaces.

The canine must demonstrate the ability to jump onto and off of elevated surfaces.

- a) The canine will jump onto and off of an object having a minimum height of 20 inches.
- b) The canine will walk across a board that is at least 12 feet long, no more than 12 inches wide, and is at least 3 feet above the ground and stable.
- c) The canine will go through a 36" diameter tunnel at least 8 feet long.
- d) The canine will perform steps (a) through (c) physically unaided, but may be on a loose lead.

## **20-Acre Evaluation**

For evaluation form see Appendix F

### **Purpose:**

To demonstrate the handler's ability, without his/her canine, to traverse unfamiliar areas by using map and compass skills.

### **Handler Skills:**

- a) Be familiar with the use of a map and compass and how to use each in conjunction with one another.
- b) Assess the scenario provided by the evaluators and ask appropriate questions to aid in the formulation of a search strategy.
- c) Outline and carry out an effective search strategy based on the scenario, the search area, wind conditions, time of day, etc.
- d) Demonstrate the ability to provide accurate coordinates of a specific location to within six digits.
- e) Be able to measure distance in paces, state distance in meters and relate it on a map.

### **Evaluation:**

- a) An evaluator shall choose the 20-acre site. The area shall consist of a variety of terrain features in order for handler to effectively use the map & compass. The area will be drawn on the base map and the handler must be able to transfer the area to their map. The handler will have 15 minutes to look over the area and come up with a search strategy based on temperature, wind direction, etc. The handler must be able to explain the search strategy that they have chosen and why.
- b) The handler will then walk the area without their canine, identify and describe terrain features within sight as requested by evaluator within sight. The evaluators will pick four points within the search area and mark them on the handlers map. The handler must navigate to all four points and then return to base. Time limit is 1.5 hours for this step.

## **Above Ground Evaluation**

For evaluation form see Appendix G

### **Purpose:**

The objective of the three above ground 2-acre sites is to assess the ability of the team to search for human remains or articles over an extended period of time in a large area.

### **Criteria**

- a) Canine must locate all scent sources.
- b) Canine may search on or off lead.
- c) Handler must be able to determine the location of all scent sources to within four (4) feet.
- d) No scent source shall be higher than four feet off the ground.
- e) The following definitions for scent material shall be used but is not limited to.

#### 1. Scent sources may include:

- a) Soil sample from where a body has decomposed
- b) Clothing items or cloth from a decomposing body
- c) Bone with tissue
- d) Tissue
- e) Decomposing blood
- f) Hair or teeth mixed with other approved scent material

#### 2. Scent sources may not include:

- a) Dry, bleached bone only
- b) Ashes
- c) Synthetic scent
- d) Teeth only
- e) Hair only

### **Handler Skills:**

- a) Assess the scenario provided by the evaluators and ask appropriate questions to aid in the formulation of a search strategy.
- b) Outline and carry out an effective search strategy based on the scenario, the search area, wind conditions, time of day, etc.
- c) Describe the canine's alert and indication prior to the test and shall advise the evaluators when the canine alerts and indicates during the test.

- d) Be able to differentiate when the canine is alerting on cadaver scent versus when the canine is reacting to a distraction scent.
- e) If the canine cannot pinpoint the source of scent, the handler must be able to read the canine and identify the scent source location within four (4) feet.
- f) Demonstrate crime scene preservation techniques.
- g) Demonstrate adequate land navigation skills.
- h) Accurately mark on a map the direction of travel, wind direction, clues, alerts, and finds.
- i) Demonstrate proper radio skills.
- j) The handler must debrief at the end of the task and give a realistic POD of the search area.

**Canine Skills:**

- a) Must be actively searching. Canine should move out in front of (away from) the handler and should not be consistently behind or close to the handler.
- b) Canine must be focused during the search and should continue to search despite common distractions associated with the search environment. Brief registering of interest is permissible as long as it does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the search.
- c) Must give a recognizable indication to the handler.
- d) Upon finding each scent source, the canine must give the previously described indication of a find, even if unable to pinpoint the exact location of the source. Based on the canine's indications, the handler must identify the scent source location within four (4) feet.
- e) The canine shall not indicate on the dead animal scent. Doing so shall result in failure of the test.

**Test Procedure:**

- a) To pass the evaluation, the canine team must locate all scent sources. The handler must be able to determine the location within a radius of four (4) feet based on the dog's indication. A team must pass eighty percent (80%) of the skills listed on the evaluation form. Failure of either dog or handler to pass eighty percent (80%) of the skills shall result in failure of the test. A failing mark on any starred (\*) skill on the evaluation form shall result in a failure of the test. Indicating on a dead animal distraction shall result in failure of the test. If either dog or handler fails, both must be retested.
- b) The handler being tested shall not provide the scent sources.
- c) The evaluators shall locate three non-contiguous (2) acre sites for the test no fewer than 100 feet apart. Area shall have clearly delineated boundaries or be marked by flagging tape. The sites should include fields, wooded areas, and a variety of vegetation and terrain features (ridges, drainages, knolls, etc).
- d) One sector shall contain no scent source. The remaining sectors shall contain one to two scent sources per sector at the discretion of the evaluators. All scent sources will have been placed a minimum of 24 hours and a maximum of 48 hours prior to the test. Scent sources may be placed on the ground and out of plain sight, or hung at a height no less than two (2) feet, but not more than four (4) feet off the ground out of plain sight. No scent sources shall be buried. One sector shall contain one dead animal scent source.
- e) The handler will be given a brief scenario, at which time the handler can ask questions, which may aid in the location of the scent sources. Scent sources shall be consistent with the scenario given.
- f) There will be a one-hour time limit to search each sector with a 15-minute rest period in between. Each sector will be debriefed, including estimation of POD after the 15-minute rest and prior to proceeding to the next sector.
- g) The evaluators shall assess the effectiveness of the canine and handler as a team in searching a large area for an extended period of time. Strengths and weaknesses should be included in the comment section. The evaluators shall assign a pass/fail, which will be recorded in the handler's training record kept by his/her unit.
- h) Should the canine not find all sources, the handler has the right to request a demonstration of the validity of the scent sources using an operational land cadaver canine. Canine should be available within 15 minutes or a no-test will be declared.

## **Buried Evaluation**

For evaluation form see Appendix H

### **Purpose:**

The objective of the Buried Evaluation is to assess the ability of the team to search for scent sources buried in shallow graves.

### **Criteria**

- a) Canine must locate all scent sources.
- b) Canine may search on or off lead.
- c) Handler must be able to determine the location of all scent sources to within four (4) feet.
- d) The following definitions for scent material shall be used but is not limited to
  1. Scent sources may include:
    - a) Soil sample from where a body has decomposed
    - b) Clothing items or cloth from a decomposing body
    - c) Bone with tissue
    - d) Tissue
    - e) Decomposing blood
    - f) Hair or teeth mixed with other approved scent material
  2. Scent sources may not include:
    - a. Dry, bleached bone only
    - b. Ashes
    - c. Synthetic scent
    - d. Teeth only
    - e. Hair only

### **Handler Skills:**

- a) Assess the scenario provided by the evaluators and ask appropriate questions to aid in the formulation of a search strategy.
- b) Outline and carry out an effective search strategy based on the scenario, the search area, wind conditions, time of day, etc.
- c) Describe the canine's alert and indication prior to the test and shall advise the evaluators when the canine alerts and indicates during the test.
- d) Be able to differentiate when the canine is alerting on cadaver scent versus when the canine is reacting to a distraction scent.

- e) If the canine cannot pinpoint the source of scent, the handler must be able to read the canine and identify the scent source location within four (4) feet.
- f) Demonstrate crime scene preservation techniques.
- g) Demonstrate adequate land navigation skills.
- h) Accurately mark on a map the direction of travel, wind direction, clues, alerts, and finds.
- i) Demonstrate proper radio skills.
- j) The handler must debrief at the end of the task and give a realistic POD of the search area.

**Canine Skills:**

- a) Must be actively searching. Canine should move out in front of (away from) the handler and should not be consistently behind or close to the handler.
- b) Canine must be focused during the search and should continue to search despite common distractions associated with the search environment. Brief registering of interest is permissible as long as it does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the search.
- c) Must give a recognizable indication to the handler.
- d) Upon finding each scent source, the canine must give the previously described indication of a find, even if unable to pinpoint the exact location of the source. Based on the canine's indications, the handler must identify the scent source location within four (4) feet.
- e) The canine shall not indicate on the dead animal scent. Doing so shall result in failure of the test.

**Test Procedure:**

- a) To pass the evaluation, the canine team must locate all scent sources. The handler must be able to determine the location within a radius of four (4) feet based on the dog's indication. A canine team must pass eighty percent (80%) of the skills listed on the evaluation form. Failure of either canine or handler to pass eighty percent (80%) of the skills shall result in failure of the test. A failing mark on any starred (\*) skill on the evaluation form shall result in failure of the test. Indicating on a dead animal distraction shall result in failure of the test. If either dog or handler fails, both must be retested.
- b) The handler being tested shall not provide the scent sources.

- c) The evaluators shall locate two (2) half-acre non-contiguous sites for the test, no fewer than 100 feet apart. Areas shall have clearly delineated boundaries, or be marked by flagging tape. The sites shall include fields, wooded areas, and a variety of terrain features (ridges, drainages, knolls, etc).
- d) One sector shall contain one scent source. The second sector may or may not contain a scent source, at the discretion of the evaluators. All scent sources will be placed a minimum of 24 hours and a maximum of 48 hours prior to the test. Each source should be buried a minimum of six (6) inches and a maximum of ten (10) inches from the top of the ground. The area around the source should blend in with the surrounding soil and vegetation. Both sectors shall contain false holes dug at the time the samples were placed. One sector shall contain one above ground dead animal scent source. Handler may use a probe.
- e) The handler will be given a brief scenario, at which time the handler can ask questions, which may aid in the location of the scent sources.
- f) There will be a 1-hour time limit to search each sector, with a 20-minute rest in between. Each sector will be debriefed, including estimation of POD after the 20-minute rest and prior to proceeding to the next sector.
- g) The evaluators shall assess the effectiveness of the canine and handler as a team in searching an area and in locating buried human remains scent sources. Strengths and weaknesses should be included in the comment section. The evaluators shall assign a pass/fail, which will be recorded in the handler's training record kept with his/her unit.
- h) Should the canine not find all the sources, the handler has the right to request a demonstration of the validity of the scent sources using an operational cadaver canine. Said canine should be available within 15 minutes or a no-test will be declared.

## **Urban Evaluation**

For evaluation form see Appendix I

### **Purpose:**

The objective of the urban evaluation is to assess the ability of the team to search for scent sources in confined urban sites.

### **Criteria**

- a) Canine must locate all scent sources.
- b) Canine may search on or off lead.
- c) Handler must be able to determine the location of all scent sources to within four (4) feet.
- d) No scent source shall be higher than four (4) feet off the ground.
- e) The following definitions for scent material shall be used but is not limited to
  1. Scent sources may include:
    - a. Soil sample from where a body has decomposed
    - b. Clothing items or cloth from a decomposing body
    - c. Bone with tissue
    - d. Tissue
    - e. Decomposing blood
    - f. Hair or teeth mixed with other approved scent material
  2. Scent sources may not include:
    - a. Dry, bleached bone only
    - b. Ashes
    - c. Synthetic scent
    - d. Teeth only
    - e. Hair only

### **Handler Skills:**

- a) Assess the scenario provided by the evaluators and ask appropriate questions to aid in the formulation of a search strategy.
- b) Outline and carry out an effective search strategy based on the scenario, the search area, wind conditions, time of day, etc.
- c) Describe the canine's alert and indication prior to the test and shall advise the evaluators when the canine alerts and indicates during the test.

- d) Be able to differentiate when the canine is alerting on cadaver scent versus when the canine is reacting to a distraction scent.
- e) If the canine cannot pinpoint the source of scent, the handler must be able to read the canine and identify the scent source location within four (4) feet.
- f) Demonstrate crime scene preservation techniques.
- g) Demonstrate adequate land navigation skills.
- h) Accurately mark on a map the direction of travel, wind direction, clues, alerts, and finds.
- i) Demonstrate proper radio skills.
- j) The handler must debrief at the end of the task and give a realistic POD of the search area.

**Canine Skills:**

- a) Must be actively searching. Canine should move out in front of (away from) the handler and should not be consistently behind or close to the handler.
- b) Canine must be focused during the search and should continue to search despite common distractions associated with the search environment. Brief registering of interest is permissible as long as it does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the search.
- c) Must give a recognizable indication to the handler.
- d) Upon finding each scent source, the canine must give the previously described indication of a find, even if unable to pinpoint the exact location of the source. Based on the canine's indications, the handler must identify the scent source location within four (4) feet.
- e) The canine shall not indicate on the dead animal scent. Doing so shall result in failure of the test.

**Test Procedure:**

- a) To pass the evaluation, the canine team must locate all scent sources. The handler must be able to determine the location within a radius of four (4) feet based on the dog's indication. Canine team must pass eighty percent (80%) of the skills listed on the evaluation form. Failure of either canine or handler to pass eighty percent (80%) of the skills shall result in failure of the test. A failing mark on any starred (\*) skill on the evaluation form shall result in failure of the test. Indicating on a dead animal distraction shall result in failure of the test. If either dog or handler fails, both must be retested.

- b) The handler being tested shall not provide the sources.
- c) The evaluators shall locate an urban test site. This site must include two of the following: building, lumber pile, crawl space, debris pile, vehicles or dumpsters. Test site should be 400 to 800 square feet total.
- d) The evaluators shall set out one to three cadaver scent sources, in the search site. These sources shall be placed a minimum of 24 hours and a maximum of 48 hours prior to the test and shall be placed out of plain sight. The source shall not be placed at a height more than 4 feet. One dead animal distraction must be placed inside the search site.
- e) The handler will be given a brief scenario. The handler may then ask questions which may aid in the location of the scent sources.
- f) There will be a one-hour time limit to find all scent sources. However, at the discretion of the evaluators, the time may be extended due to the variability of available test search sites and provided the team is actively working.
- g) The evaluators shall assess the effectiveness of the dog and handler as a team in searching the interior and exterior of a building and in appropriately finding and pinpointing the source of human remains scent. Strengths and weaknesses should be included in the comment section. The evaluators shall assign a pass/fail, which will be recorded in the handler's training record kept with his/her unit.
- h) Should the canine not find the sources, the handler has the right to request a demonstration of the validity of the scent sources using an operational cadaver dog. Said canine should be available within 15 minutes or a no-test will be declared.

## **Recertification Procedure**

- a) Each team must recertify every 2 years.
- b) The team must be considered an active member in good standing within his/her organization/unit.
- c) Take, and successfully complete, the Recertification Field Evaluation within six months before or after the anniversary date.
- d) An officer of the team's unit, and the evaluators must complete the Application for Recertification, APPENDIX L and submit it to Virginia Department of Emergency Management within four months of the team passing his/her recertification.
- e) Upon receipt of the form requesting recertification, Virginia Department of Emergency Management will renew the team's authorization for two additional years at which time "conditions of authorization" described in Authorization Procedures will apply.

### **Failure To Recertify**

If a team fails to recertify within six (6) months of the expiration date, the authorization is dropped and the candidate will be required to complete the entire application and testing process for certification again.

## **Recertification Evaluation**

### **Purpose:**

The objective of the evaluation is to assess the ability of the team to search for scent sources above, on or below ground.

### **Criteria**

- a) Canine must locate all scent sources.
- b) Canine may search on or off lead.
- c) Handler must be able to determine the location of all scent sources to within four (4) feet.
- d) No scent source shall be higher than four feet off the ground.
- e) Buried scent sources shall be between six to ten inches underground.
- f) The following definitions for scent material shall be used but is not limited to.

#### 1. Scent sources may include:

- a) Soil sample from where a body has decomposed
- b) Clothing items or cloth from a decomposing body
- c) Bone with tissue
- d) Tissue
- e) Decomposing blood
- f) Hair or teeth mixed with other approved scent material

#### 2. Scent sources may not include:

- a) Dry, bleached bone only
- b) Ashes
- c) Synthetic scent
- d) Teeth only
- e) Hair only

### **Handler Skills:**

- a) Assess the scenario provided by the evaluators and ask appropriate questions to aid in the formulation of a search strategy.
- b) Outline and carry out an effective search strategy based on the scenario, the search area, wind conditions, time of day, etc.
- c) Describe the canine's alert and indication prior to the test and shall advise the evaluators when the canine alerts and indicates during the test.
- d) Be able to differentiate when the canine is alerting on cadaver scent versus when the canine is reacting to a distraction scent.

- e) If the canine cannot pinpoint the source of scent, the handler must be able to read the canine and identify the scent source location within four (4) feet.
- f) Demonstrate crime scene preservation techniques.
- g) Demonstrate adequate land navigation skills.
- h) Accurately mark on a map the direction of travel, wind direction, clues, alerts, and finds.
- i) Demonstrate proper radio skills.
- j) The handler must debrief at the end of the task and give a realistic POD of the search area.

**Canine Skills:**

- a) Must be actively searching. Canine should move out in front of (away from) the handler and should not be consistently behind or close to the handler.
- b) Canine must be focused during the search and should continue to search despite common distractions associated with the search environment. Brief registering of interest is permissible as long as it does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the search.
- c) Must give a recognizable indication to the handler.
- d) Upon finding each scent source, the canine must give the previously described indication of a find, even if unable to pinpoint the exact location of the source. Based on the canine's indications, the handler must identify the scent source location within four (4) feet.
- e) The canine shall not indicate on the dead animal scent. Doing so shall result in failure of the test.

**Test Procedure:**

- a) To pass the evaluation, the canine must locate all scent sources and the handler must be able to determine the location within a radius of four (4) feet based on the dog's indication and behavior. A dog team must pass eighty percent (80%) of the skills listed on the evaluation form. Failure of either dog or handler to pass eighty percent (80%) of the skills shall result in failure of the test. A failing mark on any starred (\*) skill on the evaluation form shall result in failure of the test. Indicating on a dead animal distraction shall result in failure of the test. If either dog or handler fails, both must be retested.

- b) The handler being tested shall not provide the scent sources.
- c) The evaluators shall locate two (2) half-acre non-contiguous sites for the test, no fewer than 100 feet apart. Areas shall have clearly delineated boundaries, or be marked by flagging tape. The sites shall include fields, wooded areas, and a variety of terrain features (ridges, drainages, knolls, etc).
- d) One sector shall contain at least one scent source. The second sector may or may not contain scent sources, at the discretion of the evaluators. All scent sources will be placed a minimum of 24 hours and a maximum of 48 hours prior to the test. Scent sources may be placed on the ground and out of plain sight, or hung at a height no less than two (2) feet, but not more than four (4) feet off the ground out of plain sight. Scent sources may be buried a minimum of six (6) inches and a maximum of ten (10) inches from the top of the ground. The area around the source should blend in with the surrounding soil and vegetation. Both sectors may contain false holes dug at the time the samples were placed. One sector shall contain one above ground dead animal scent source. Handler may use a probe.
- e) The handler will be given a brief scenario, at which time the handler can ask questions, which may aid in the location of the scent sources.
- f) There will be a 1-hour time limit to search each sector, with a 20-minute rest in between. Each sector will be debriefed, including estimation of POD after the 20-minute rest and prior to proceeding to the next sector.
- g) The evaluators shall assess the effectiveness of the dog and handler as a team in searching an area and in locating human remains scent sources. Strengths and weaknesses should be included in the comment section. The evaluators shall assign a pass/fail, which will be recorded in the handler's training record kept with his/her unit.
- h) Should the canine not find all the sources, the handler has the right to request a demonstration of the validity of the scent sources using an operational cadaver canine. Canine should be available within 15 minutes or a no-test will be declared.

## **Authorization Procedures**

### **Prerequisites**

The applicant must have satisfactorily completed all of the written and practical evaluations described in TEST METHODS.

### **Team Authorization Application Instructions:**

- a) The candidate must submit an application for certification to the office of the State SAR Coordinator.
- b) The applicant, a state evaluator, and a unit officer must sign the application form in Appendix J.
- c) Upon receipt of the above documentation of requirements, the State SAR Coordinator will send confirmation of certification to the individual canine handler.
- d) Upon completion of all of the requirements outlined in this document, the certified team is eligible to respond as a “Virginia Land Cadaver Canine Team”, on a State Mission with a valid mission number designation, as a representative of the canine unit holding the MOU.

### **Conditions of Authorization:**

- a) Provided that all requirements are met, the team will be issued an authorization by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management as a certified “Virginia Land Cadaver Canine Team”.
- b) This authorization does not constitute a license to practice the skills tested, but signifies only that the team holding the certificate has met an established basic standard of knowledge and performance and has demonstrated competency.
- c) The authorization will be for the handler and canine (team) that completed the testing together. If the handler wishes to certify as a team with another canine, the entire testing procedure, with the exception of the written test and the 20-acre must be repeated with the new dog.
- d) The authorization will be valid as long as the organization’s “Memorandum Of Understanding” with the state is in good standing, and as long as the team is in good standing and meets the requirement of the parent organization.
- e) The parent unit must promptly notify Virginia Department of Emergency Management of a change of status of any operational team member.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Evaluator Instructions**

- a) The SAR Dog Standards Committee is responsible for maintaining and updating testing material. All test materials are confidential, and security is the responsibility of the state evaluator(s) to whom it is issued.
- b) All tests and evaluations will be scored on forms approved by the SAR Dog Standards Committee and will be signed by the evaluator(s).
- c) The objectives of the behavior, obedience and agility evaluations are to help ensure that both the canine and the handler can work together as a team safely, efficiently, and in conjunction with other teams and personnel. Performances on these evaluations do not have to be to competition (dog trial) standards.
- d) The following definitions for scent material shall be used but is not limited to
  1. Scent sources may include:
    - a) Soil sample from where a body has decomposed
    - b) Clothing items or cloth from a decomposing body
    - c) Bone with tissue
    - d) Tissue
    - e) Decomposing blood
    - f) Hair or teeth mixed with other approved scent material
  2. Scent sources may not include:
    - a) Dry, bleached bone only
    - b) Ashes
    - c) Synthetic scent
    - d) Teeth only
    - e) Hair only

- e) The objectives of the urban, above ground and buried search evaluations are to evaluate safety, planning ability, search techniques and team stamina.
- f) The articles should be placed in the search area far enough apart that the team has to search a substantial portion of the area before all of the articles are located.
- g) In the event of a validity challenge, it is the evaluator's responsibility to provide an operational cadaver canine.
- h) The goal is to locate the scent sources and to evaluate safety, planning and technique.
- i) The team being evaluated must pass 80% of the evaluation criteria and must pass all starred (required) items on the evaluation form.
- j) As scent sources are located, they should be left in place until the exercise is completed.
- k) At the discretion of the evaluators, the time may be extended due to the variability of test search sites, provided the team is actively working.

## **Appendix B**

### **Criteria for State Cadaver Evaluators**

In order to evaluate canine teams to these Virginia Land Cadaver Canine Team Standards, the evaluator must participate in a mandatory statewide evaluators' seminar and satisfy one of the two following criteria:

1. Be a wilderness evaluator of a canine SAR group currently operating under a Memorandum Of Understanding with the Department of Emergency Management in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. Be an operational Land Cadaver team for a minimum of two years and be a member in good standing of a Canine SAR Group currently operating under a Memorandum Of Understanding with the Department of Emergency Management in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Appendix C**  
**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Search and Rescue Council**  
**SAR Dog Standards Committee**

**Land Cadaver Behavior Evaluation Form**

**Canine Handler** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Location** \_\_\_\_\_ **Canine** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Evaluators** \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_

**Behavior**

- 1.) The canine and handler are loaded into the back of a vehicle with at least two other canine teams.
  - a) The vehicle was driven for a distance of \_\_\_\_\_ mile(s). (Must be at least one mile.)
  - b) The canine shows no aggressive behavior. Pass    Fail
  
- 2.) Handler stands with the canine in the heeling position. A stranger approaches and engages the handler in conversation.
  - a) Canine remains in the heel position. Pass    Fail
  - b) Canine shows no aggressive behavior toward stranger. Pass    Fail
  
- 3.) Canine is secured to a stationary object by a 6-foot lead. The handler moves out of sight of the canine. Another handler, with his/her canine at heel will walk past the canine being tested. This handler and canine will be 10 feet from the point where the canine being tested is tethered.
 

Canine shows no aggressive behavior. Pass    Fail

Overall Score: Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Requirement satisfied via operational wilderness, water or  
 land cadaver status (date) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Appendix D**  
**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Search and Rescue Council**  
**SAR Dog Standards Committee**

**Land Cadaver Obedience Evaluation Form**

**Canine Handler** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Location** \_\_\_\_\_ **Canine** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Evaluators** \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_

**1) Heel:**

The canine must heel on command on a loose lead or off-lead.

- |  |      |      |  |
|--|------|------|--|
| a) Walk straight line                    |      |      |  |
| Responded appropriately to command.      | Pass | Fail |  |
| Remained in position.                    | Pass | Fail |  |
| b) Right turn                            |      |      |  |
| Responded appropriately to turn command. | Pass | Fail |  |
| Remained in position.                    | Pass | Fail |  |
| c) Left turn                             |      |      |  |
| Responded appropriately to turn command. | Pass | Fail |  |
| Remained in position.                    | Pass | Fail |  |
| d) 180 degree turn                       |      |      |  |
| Responded appropriately to turn command. | Pass | Fail |  |
| Remained in position.                    | Pass | Fail |  |
| e) Stop/Halt                             |      |      |  |
| Remained in position.                    | Pass | Fail |  |

**2) Stay:**

The canine remained in place (sitting or down) without correction for a minimum of five minutes with the handler at least 50 feet away. Distractions will be present.

- |                                     |      |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|
| Responded appropriately to command. | Pass | Fail |
| Remained in position.               | Pass | Fail |

**3) Stop in Motion:**

While the canine was in motion, it was given a stop/halt command.

- |  |      |      |
|--|------|------|
| Canine responded appropriately to command. | Pass | Fail |
| Remained in position until release.        | Pass | Fail |

Overall Score: Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Requirement satisfied via operational wilderness, water or  
land cadaver status (date) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Appendix E**  
**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Search and Rescue Council**  
**SAR Dog Standards Committee**

**Land Cadaver Agility Evaluation Form**

**Canine Handler** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Location** \_\_\_\_\_ **Canine** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Evaluators** \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.) On command, the canine jumped onto an object having a minimum height of 20 inches.  
 Canine shows no undue fear. Pass    Fail  
 Canine completed task without physical aid from handler. Pass    Fail

- 2.) On command, the canine walked across a board that was at least 12 feet long, no more than 12 inches wide and at least 3 feet above the ground.  
 Canine shows no undue fear. Pass    Fail  
 Canine completed task without physical aid from handler. Pass    Fail

- 3.) On command, the canine went through a 36" diameter tunnel at least 8 feet long.  
 Canine shows no undue fear. Pass    Fail  
 Canine completed task without physical aid from handler. Pass    Fail

Overall Score: Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Requirement satisfied via operational wilderness, water or  
 land cadaver status (date) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Appendix F**  
**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Search and Rescue Council**  
**SAR Dog Standards Committee**

**Twenty-Acre Evaluation Form**

**Canine Handler** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location** \_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluators** \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time Started** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time Completed** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Starred items denote skills, which must receive a passing score.**

- |  |      |      |
|--|------|------|
| 1) Was handler adequately attired and equipped for conditions?   | Pass | Fail |
| 2) Was handler alert to visual clues?  | Pass | Fail |
| 3) *Does handler demonstrate good land navigational skills using map and compass?                                  | Pass | Fail |
| 4) Did handler demonstrate basic Virginia SAR Council radio procedures?  | Pass | Fail |
| 5) *Did handler provide accurate coordinates to within 100 meters of a specific location without the use of a GPS. | Pass | Fail |

Overall Score: Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Requirement satisfied via operational wilderness, water or  
land cadaver status (date) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Appendix G**  
**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Search and Rescue Council**  
**SAR Dog Standards Committee**

**Above Ground Land Cadaver Evaluation Form**

Handler \_\_\_\_\_ Canine \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location \_\_\_\_\_ Weather Conditions \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time Started \_\_\_\_\_ Time Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Site No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Scent Source Used \_\_\_\_\_ Distracting Scent \_\_\_\_\_

**One of these must be completed for each site**

**\* Starred items denote skills, which must receive a passing score.**

**Handler Skills**

	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>
1. Was handler adequately attired and equipped for conditions?	Pass	Fail
2. Did handler demonstrate the ability to obtain enough information from the briefing to adequately plan a strategy?	Pass	Fail
3. Did handler develop an appropriate strategy based on information acquired in the interview including terrain, current conditions, time of day, etc?	Pass	Fail
4. Did handler follow strategy?	Pass	Fail
5. Did handler adjust strategy appropriately based on new information?	Pass	Fail
6. Did handler articulate canine's alerts?	Pass	Fail
7. Did handler inform the evaluator each time he saw canine alert?	Pass	Fail
8. Did handler articulate the dog's indication?	Pass	Fail
9. Was handler alert to visual clues?	Pass	Fail
10. Does handler demonstrate good land navigation skills?	Pass	Fail
11. Did handler cover area adequately?	Pass	Fail
12. Did handler map area with appropriate pertinent information?	Pass	Fail
13. *Did handler accurately debrief the task?	Pass	Fail
14. Did handler demonstrate basic Virginia SAR Council radio procedures?	Pass	Fail
15. Was handler in tune with canine's needs?	Pass	Fail

**Canine Skills**

1. Did the canine stay focused on search?	Pass	Fail
2. Was the canine easily refocused after being distracted?	Pass	Fail
3. Was the canine willing to leave the handler to follow up a scent?	Pass	Fail
4. Does the canine search effectively?	Pass	Fail
5. *Did the canine make a self-directed find on each scent source?	Pass	Fail
6. *Did the canine indicate to the handler that it had found each scent source?	Pass	Fail
7. *Did the canine direct the handler to each scent source?	Pass	Fail

**Team Skills**

1. Does the handler have adequate control over the canine?	Pass	Fail
2. Do the canine and handler make an effective team?	Pass	Fail

Overall Score: Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

### Above Ground Land Cadaver Evaluation Form Back Page

Comments from Evaluators

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Comments from Handler

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Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix H**  
**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Search and Rescue Council**  
**SAR Dog Standards Committee**

**Buried Land Cadaver Evaluation Form**

Handler \_\_\_\_\_ Canine \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location \_\_\_\_\_ Weather Conditions \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time Started \_\_\_\_\_ Time Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Sector \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Scent Source Used \_\_\_\_\_ Distracting Scent \_\_\_\_\_

**One of these must be completed for each sector**

**\* Starred items denote skills that must receive a passing score.**

<b><u>Handler Skills</u></b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>
1. Was handler adequately attired and equipped for conditions?	Pass	Fail
2. Did handler demonstrate the ability to obtain enough information from the briefing to adequately plan a strategy?	Pass	Fail
3. Did handler develop an appropriate strategy based on information acquired in the interview including terrain, current conditions, time of day, etc?	Pass	Fail
4. Did handler follow strategy?	Pass	Fail
5. Did handler adjust strategy appropriately based on new information?	Pass	Fail
6. Did handler articulate canine's alert?	Pass	Fail
7. Did handler inform the evaluator each time he saw canine's alert?	Pass	Fail
8. Did handler articulate the canine's indication?	Pass	Fail
9. Was handler alert to visual clues?	Pass	Fail
10. Does handler demonstrate good land navigation skills?	Pass	Fail
11. Did handler cover area adequately?	Pass	Fail
12. Did handler mark map area with appropriate pertinent information?	Pass	Fail
13. *Did handler accurately debrief the task?	Pass	Fail
14. Did handler demonstrate basic Virginia SAR Council radio procedures?	Pass	Fail
15. Was handler in tune with canine's needs?	Pass	Fail
<b><u>Canine Skills</u></b>		
1. Did the canine stay focused on search?	Pass	Fail
2. Was the canine easily refocused after being distracted?	Pass	Fail
3. Was the canine willing to leave the handler to follow up a scent?	Pass	Fail
4. Does the canine search effectively?	Pass	Fail
5. *Did the canine make a self-directed find on each scent source?	Pass	Fail
6. *Did the canine indicate to the handler that it had found each scent source?	Pass	Fail
7. *Did the canine direct the handler to each scent source?	Pass	Fail
<b><u>Team Skills</u></b>		
1. Does the handler have adequate control over the canine?	Pass	Fail
2. Do the canine and handler make an effective team?	Pass	Fail

Overall Score: Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

### Buried Land Cadaver Evaluation Form Back Page

Comments from Evaluators

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Comments from Handler

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Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix I**  
**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Search and Rescue Council**  
**SAR Dog Standards Committee**

**Urban Land Cadaver Evaluation Form**

Handler \_\_\_\_\_ Canine \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location \_\_\_\_\_ Weather Conditions \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time Started \_\_\_\_\_ Time Completed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Scent Source Used \_\_\_\_\_ Distracting Scent \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Starred items denote skills that must receive a passing score.**

<b><u>Handler Skills</u></b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>
1. Was handler adequately attired and equipped for conditions?	Pass	Fail
2. Did handler demonstrate the ability to obtain enough information from the briefing to adequately plan a strategy?	Pass	Fail
3. Did handler develop an appropriate strategy based on information acquired in the interview including terrain, current conditions, time of day, etc?	Pass	Fail
4. Did handler follow strategy?	Pass	Fail
5. Did handler adjust strategy appropriately based on new information?	Pass	Fail
6. Did handler articulate canine's alert?	Pass	Fail
7. Did handler inform the evaluator each time he saw canine's alert?	Pass	Fail
8. Did handler articulate the canine's indication?	Pass	Fail
9. Was handler alert to visual clues?	Pass	Fail
10. Does handler demonstrate good navigation skills?	Pass	Fail
11. Did handler cover area adequately?	Pass	Fail
12. Did handler map area with appropriate pertinent information?	Pass	Fail
13. *Did handler accurately debrief the task?	Pass	Fail
14. Did handler demonstrate basic Virginia SAR Council radio procedures?	Pass	Fail
15. Was handler in tune with canine's needs?	Pass	Fail
<b><u>Canine Skills</u></b>		
1. Did the canine stay focused on search?	Pass	Fail
2. Was the canine easily refocused after being distracted?	Pass	Fail
3. Was the canine willing to leave the handler to follow up a scent?	Pass	Fail
4. Does the canine search effectively?	Pass	Fail
5. *Did the canine make a self-directed find?	Pass	Fail
6. *Did the canine indicate to the handler that it had found each scent source?	Pass	Fail
7. *Did the canine direct the handler to each scent source?	Pass	Fail

**Team Skills**

1. Does the handler have adequate control over the canine?	Pass	Fail
2. Do the canine and handler make an effective team?	Pass	Fail

Overall Score: Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

### Urban Land Cadaver Evaluation Form Back Page

Comments from Evaluators

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Comments from Handler

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Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix J**  
**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Search and Rescue Council**  
**SAR Dog Standards Committee**  
**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION**  
**Virginia Land Cadaver Canine Team**

Handler's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Canine's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Test	Test Score	Date Taken	Evaluator(s) Present
Written			
Behavior			
Obedience			
Agility			
20 Acre			
Above Ground			
Below Ground			
Urban			

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The handler has the following first aid certification: \_\_\_\_\_

Does canine have all immunizations required by his/her unit current \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Officer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

The team listed above has, in my opinion, qualified as a Virginia Land Cadaver Canine Team under the standards of the State of Virginia. Therefore, I recommend that the team be allowed to participate on searches as a state resource in the capacity of a Virginia Land Cadaver Canine Team.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ State Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix K**  
**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Search and Rescue Council**  
**SAR Dog Standards Committee**

**Recertification Evaluation Form**

Handler \_\_\_\_\_ Canine \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location \_\_\_\_\_ Weather Conditions \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time Started \_\_\_\_\_ Time Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Sector \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Scent Source Used \_\_\_\_\_ Distracting Scent \_\_\_\_\_

**One of these must be filled out for each sector**

**\* Starred items denote skills, which must receive a passing score.**

**Handler Skills**

	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>
1. Was handler adequately attired and equipped for conditions?	Pass	Fail
2. Did handler demonstrate the ability to obtain enough information from the briefing to adequately plan a strategy?	Pass	Fail
3. Did handler develop an appropriate strategy based on information acquired in the interview including terrain, current conditions, time of day, etc?	Pass	Fail
4. Did handler follow strategy?	Pass	Fail
5. Did handler adjust strategy appropriately based on new information?	Pass	Fail
6. Did handler articulate canine's alert?	Pass	Fail
7. Did handler inform the evaluator each time he saw canine's alert?	Pass	Fail
8. Did handler articulate the canine's indication?	Pass	Fail
9. Was handler alert to visual clues?	Pass	Fail
10. Does handler demonstrate good land navigation skills?	Pass	Fail
11. Did handler cover area adequately?	Pass	Fail
12. Did handler mark map area with appropriate pertinent information?	Pass	Fail
13. *Did handler accurately debrief the task?	Pass	Fail
14. Did handler demonstrate basic Virginia SAR Council radio procedures?	Pass	Fail
15. Was handler in tune with canine's needs?	Pass	Fail

**Canine Skills**

1. Did the canine stay focused on search?	Pass	Fail
2. Was the canine easily refocused after being distracted?	Pass	Fail
3. Was the canine willing to leave the handler to follow up a scent?	Pass	Fail
4. Does the canine search effectively?	Pass	Fail
5. *Did the canine make a self-directed find on each scent source?	Pass	Fail
6. *Did the canine indicate to the handler that it had found each scent source?	Pass	Fail
7. *Did the canine direct the handler to each scent source?	Pass	Fail

**Team Skills**

1. Does the handler have adequate control over the canine?	Pass	Fail
2. Do the canine and handler make an effective team?	Pass	Fail

Overall Score: Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

**Recertification Evaluation Form Back Page**

Comments from Evaluators

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Comments from Handler

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Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix L**  
**APPLICATION FOR RECERTIFICATION**

**Commonwealth of Virginia Land Cadaver Canine Team**

Handler Name \_\_\_\_\_ Dog Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The team above successfully completed the recertification test on

Date \_\_\_\_\_.

The evaluators were \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

The handler has the following first aid certification: \_\_\_\_\_

Does canine have all immunizations required by his/her unit current \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Officer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

The team listed above is in good standing in this unit, and in my opinion, qualified as a Virginia Cadaver Canine Team under the standards of the State of Virginia. Therefore, I recommend that the team be recertified as a state resource in the capacity of a Virginia Land Cadaver Canine Team.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ State Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix M

### PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

This list contains items that you are required to have to go into the field on a search.

1. WATER
2. COMPASS
3. FLASHLIGHT - with extra batteries.
4. TRASH BAGS
5. FIRST AID KIT
6. FIRE STARTER
7. SEALABLE PLASTIC BAGS
9. WHISTLE
10. NYLON CORD or EQUIVALENT
11. KNIFE
12. FOOD - At least a day's supply for handler and canine.
13. PAPER and PENCIL

#### **OTHER SUGGESTED PERSONAL EQUIPMENT**

These items are not required but are suggested equipment.

1. Wind shell jacket with hood
2. Water resistant jacket or parka with hood. - A Gore-Tex or similar jacket can serve for both items 1 and 2
3. Rain pants or rain chaps - add gaiters for winter
4. Heavy \*wool shirts or sweaters as required
5. \* Wool pants
6. Long underwear of \*wool, silk, polypro or other suitable synthetic material - cotton thermal underwear is not acceptable
7. \*Wool stocking cap or balaclava - a scarf is recommended if a stocking cap is used
8. Heavy \*wool socks with lightweight liner socks
9. Leather gloves with \*wool liners - mittens suggested for extremely cold weather
10. Backpacking or mountaineering boots appropriate to the terrain and conditions
11. Storm shelter: Tube tent, space blanket, lightweight tarp
12. Sleeping bag or similar sleeping pad, and a suitable shelter
13. Probe or shovel
14. Disposable camera

\*Wool or a comparable fabric that retains insulating properties when wet. Down is not acceptable.

## Appendix N

### CANINE LAND CADAVER TEAM GUIDELINES

#### FOR OVERNIGHT BIVOUAC

- a) The purpose of the overnight bivouac is to test the individual team's ability to spend the night in the out-of-doors in a bivouac and still be able to function adequately the next day.
- b) The reason for this requirement is that search and rescue people may find themselves in a situation in the field where they are forced to spend the night with whatever equipment they happen to have with them.
- c) In order to simulate this situation for an evaluation, the following guidelines should apply:
  - 1) The individual's equipment should be restricted to what they normally carry in a "day pack" during an actual search.
  - 2) The bivouac area should be typical terrain found in searches and far enough from roads and vehicles to create some sense of realism.
  - 3) Access to vehicles and equipment caches during the bivouac should be denied.
  - 4) The individual must demonstrate the ability to build a fire and shelter.
- d) The bivouac should not become an exercise in raw survival. The evaluators should inspect each team's equipment and help ensure that it is at least minimally adequate for the environment.
- e) Safety is of paramount importance. The participating individuals should be monitored carefully during the night to ensure that problems such as hypothermia do not develop. The evaluators should have a contingency plan for such emergencies.

**\*\*Requirement satisfied via operational wilderness, water or land cadaver status (date)\_\_\_\_\_**

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix O

### REFERANCE MATERIAL

*Field Team Member Manual, By: Dave Carter March 1,2002 Fourth Edition  
Search and Rescue Training Associates, Inc.*

*Cadaver Dog Handbook, Forensic Training and Tactics for the Recovery of Human Remains,  
By: Andrew Rebmann, Edward David and Marcella H. Sorg: 2000.by CRC Press LLC  
ISBN 0-8493-1886-6*

*Scent Training to Track Search and Rescue, By: Milo d Pearsall, Hugo Verbruggen: 1982  
Alpine Publications Inc. ISBN 0-931866-11-1*

*Search And Rescue Dog, American Rescue Dog Association: 1991  
Howell Book House, ISBN 0-87605-733-4*

*Be Expert With Map & Compass, By: Bjorn Kjellstrom 1994  
ISBN 0-02-029265-1*

*American Red Cross Pet First Aid, By: Bobbie Mammate. 1997  
ISBN.1-57857-000-X*

*Edition Mountaineering First Aid- a Guide to Accident Response and First Aid Care from  
American Red Cross, By: Jan d Carline, Martha Lentz, Steven Macdonald, 1996,*

*Bones - A Forensic Detectives Casebook, By: Dr. Douglas Ubelaker &Henry Scammell, 1992  
ISBN. 0-06016-328-3*

*The Essential Wilderness Navigator, How to find your way in the great outdoor, By: David  
Seidman, 2000, ISBN 0-07136-110-3*

*Surviving the unexpected Wilderness Emergency; By: Gene Fear 1972  
ASIN B-0007120k-64*

*Search Dog Training; By: Sandy Bryson, 1984  
ISBN 0-91028-694-9*

## **Appendix P**

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Unit Recognition: Upon implementation of these standards, the units initially recognized as being state authorized organizations qualified to field state authorized canine handlers are:

- 1) Blue & Gray Search and Rescue Dogs, Inc.
- 2) Dogs-East, Inc.
- 3) Greater Atlantic Rescue Dogs, Inc.
- 4) K-9 Alert Search and Rescue Dogs, Inc.
- 5) Mid-Atlantic D.O.G.S., Inc.
- 6) Northern Virginia Search and Rescue Dogs, Search Services America Inc.
- 7) Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Association, Inc.

#### **Team Recognition:**

Upon implementation of these standards, for each of the identified organizations above, each individual canine team that has met their unit's requirement for operational status as a cadaver team will be recognized as a Virginia Land Cadaver Canine Team. From the effective date of these standards, each of the teams will recertify as required by these standards and their organizations.

In order for groups to be considered as Agents of the Commonwealth, all persons within a group working in this discipline, must at the very least, adhere to these minimum standards and are encouraged to go above and beyond this level of training.

**The Virginia Department of Emergency Management Operations Department  
will maintain these Standards**