

## Search and Rescue Council of New Jersey

### TRAINING STANDARDS For AIR SCENTING K-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG and HANDLER

Canine (K9) teams (handler and dog) who are members of Search and Rescue organizations affiliated with the Search and Rescue Council of New Jersey (SARCNJ) shall comply with the requirements of these minimum standards.

#### K-9 HANDLER

- a. The handlers must be at least 18 years of age and physically fit.
- b. The handler must have a current certification in SAR Tech – Type III or equivalent, CPR and Basic First Aid.
- c. The handler must be trained to the level of NIMS/ICS as required by the agency.
- d. The handler must be trained to the “Awareness” level in Hazardous Materials, IS-5 Hazardous Materials: A Citizen’s Orientation or equivalent.
- e. The handler must have the knowledge and ability to evaluate hazards, select safe routes and follow safe work procedures within their assigned work environment.
- f. The handler must be able to use a map and compass effectively to navigate between two points.
- g. The handler must be competent with USGS Topographical maps and be able to read a back azimuth.
- h. The handler must demonstrate basic competency in land navigation and provide documentation of formal classroom and field training.
- i. The handler must be able to estimate distances in the outdoors and across water.
- j. The handler must be competent with portable radio operations.
- k. The handler must have an appropriate field pack containing all items listed in the current NASAR SARTECH™ Pack List. (Attached as an Appendix to this document)
- l. The handler must be able to explain and demonstrate knowledge of K-9 health maintenance and first aid.
- m. The handler must be able to translate field activity to the command post at the end of their search, including the route taken, areas left uncovered, alerts, wind direction, and probability of detection of victim.
- n. The handler must be able to communicate to the dog the end or conclusion of a search or operation period in a positive manner.
- o. The handler must attend formal classroom instruction for preservation of a crime scene.
- p. The handler must be able to report the location of a find using map coordinates (UTM, Lat-Long, topomap markings, etc.), without assistance from electronic equipment.

## AIR SCENTING SEARCH DOG

- a. The dog may be any suitable breed of sound physical structure and temperament and of adequate size and strength to negotiate the terrain encountered in wilderness areas.
- b. The dog must be non-aggressive toward people and other dogs.
- c. The dog shall have received appropriate in-team training to meet the standards set forth in this document. A minimum of 6 months of training log details shall be available for review.
- d. The dog shall have an annual veterinary check-up and medical record, including but not limited to: current vaccinations (rabies mandatory) as recorded by a licensed veterinarian, annual municipal licensing and examinations.
- e. The dog shall display positive qualities that will aid in completing the assigned mission, i.e., energy, curiosity, confidence, solid work ethic and obedience.
- f. The dog shall be under the control of the handler in a manner that allows the dog to participate in SAR operations without interfering with other search operations.
- g. Dog shall be able to work and travel quietly in all types of vehicles, including boats.
- h. Dog shall be acclimated to vehicle, generator and similar noises.
- i. Dog must have a trained recognizable indication upon finding the subject.
- j. The dog, on command, shall be able to leave a person found to search for additional subjects.
- k. Agility requirements shall be established according to team standards. Minimum requirements are in Appendix III.

## K9 TEAM

- a. A K9 team shall be composed of one handler and dog.
- b. The team shall respond to search with enough food and water to supply themselves, including K9, for at least 24 hours.
- c. The team shall be physically capable of searching in all types of terrain for 8 to 10 hours with adequate rest periods.
- d. The team shall have adequate equipment for overnight stay and complete clothing changes.
- e. The team must be able to complete field and agility problems listed at the end of this document. See Appendix III & IV.
- f. Each search team shall have a programmable VHF portable radio with SARCNI frequencies.
- g. The team must take measures to recognize and protect a possible crime scene.
- h. The team shall have the ability to navigate, day or night, and in all types of weather and terrain.

## APPENDIX I - MINIMUM K9 OBEDIENCE

[Refer to ASTM F1847 – 98 (2005)]

- a. Heeling on a loose lead
- b. Able to sit or lie quietly in a group of people or other dogs.
- c. Come immediately when called by handler. (Recall from a sit or down stay)
- d. Demonstrate right, left, about turns, slow, fast and stop with the dog in a heel position, off lead.
- e. Drop on recall (Emergency down) starting from a distance of 50 feet.
- f. Demonstrate a down-stay for 3 minutes with the handler out of sight.

## APPENDIX II— FIELD PACK

Field pack to include, but not limited to, the items listed in the current NASAR Canine SARTECH™ Pack List. (Appendix VI)

## APPENDIX III — AGILITY TEST

The dog shall complete the following agility elements:

- a. Pass through a barrel type tunnel at least 6 feet in length and has a 90 degree bend.
- b. Walk an inclined plank to a landing at least 4 feet above the ground.
- c. Jump onto a platform 2.5 feet high on command.
- d. Swimming in open water for 50 ft.
- e. Crawl under an obstacle that is not higher than 3/4 the dog's height.
- f. Long jump over a ditch, which is as wide as the height of the dog's withers.

## APPENDIX IV — FIELD TEST

- a. The K9 Team shall have completed a minimum of two night search problems in order to qualify for this evaluation.
- b. Search area shall be at least 60 acres.
- c. Evaluation shall be conducted during daylight hours.
- d. The area should have variety of topography and cover terrain.
- e. The victim shall be placed at least one half hour before the start.
- f. The victim shall be stationary for air scenting search dogs.
- g. A defined search area shall be given to the handler.
- h. The team has 4 hours to make a find.

## APPENDIX V — EVALUATION

The handler must complete the following to the satisfaction of the evaluation team:

- a. The handler gathers data properly and develops a search plan. The handler may deviate from the search plan and make adjustments for changing conditions.
- b. The handler must demonstrate appropriate land navigation skills.
- c. Handler periodically checks wind direction and direction of travel with compass.
- d. The dog works under control and works the area for scent.
- e. The handler can describe and define coverage at end of search.
- f. The dog has an identifiable trained indication upon find or leads handler to find.
- g. Handler reports find correctly via portable radio.
- h. Handler carries proper gear and is in appropriate attire.
- i. Evaluations shall be conducted with an “outside evaluator” (not on the same team) and at least one other evaluator. The “outside evaluator” shall be selected from a list of approved evaluators provided by the K9 Standards Committee or a recognized K9 certifying organization. Evaluations for certification shall be conducted by evaluators who have expertise in the discipline being evaluated.
- j. The K9 Standard Committee shall approve and create a list of other acceptable evaluations meeting these requirements.
- k. The K9 Team operational status shall only be designated by the organizational unit when the K9 Team meets the organizational unit requirements and these K9 Standards.

## APPENDIX VI – LIST OF ACCEPTABLE EVALUATIONS

1. NASAR SARTECH II K9
2. International Police Working Dog Association (IPWDA)
3. ARDA
4. GSSARDA

## APPENDIX VII - EQUIPMENT LIST

### PERSONAL medications as required

Ten	Acetaminophen, ibuprophen or aspirin
Four	Antacid tablets
Ten	Antihistamine doses such as 25 mg Benadryl
Six	Antiseptic cleansing pads
One	Antiseptic ointment
Six	Band aids, various sizes
One	Candle, long burning
Two	Cotton swabs, non-sterile
One	Duct tape, 5-10 feet
One	Eye wash bottle (Normal Saline)
One	Eye protection
Ten	Imodium tablets or equivalent
One	Insect repellent
Three	Leaf bags, large
Eight	Matches in waterproof container
One	Moleskin
One	Muzzle or other item to improvise one
One	Plastic bag, zip-locked, quart size for kit
One	Change for two phone calls
Four	Pair of medical exam gloves
One	Razor blade, single edge
Two	Roller gauze bandages
Two	Rolls of 2 inch "Vet" wrap
Four	Safety pins, large
One	Scissors, multipurpose
One	Space type blanket or space type sleeping bag
One	Splinter forceps, tweezers
Four	Sterile dressings (4x4 gauze pads)
One	Super glue (bottle, tube)
Two	Towelette, clean
One	Whistle
Six	Water purification tabs in sealed container or commercially approved purification device
Two	Water containers, at least liter size, will be carried by the handler. A total of five gallons will be available for the handler and canine. (72 hours per NIMS Typing)
One	Instant cold or heat packs (based on environment)
Four	Bags, various sizes, zip locked
One	Bandana, hanker chief
One	6 foot canine lead
One	Cap or other headgear
Two	Carabineers, locking gate
One	Clothes bag, waterproof
One	Clothing adequate for climate and environment
One	Clothing, extra set, suitable for climate and environment
Two	Socks, extra pairs
One	Compass, orienteering
One	Flagging tape, roll
One	Flashlight or lantern
One	Flashlight extra, extra batteries and bulb (Extra bulb not required for high intensity LED lights.)
One	Footwear, sturdy, adequate for climate

- One Pair gloves, even in summer
- One Grid reader, 1/24000 scale
- One Food, Canine, one days supply in sealed bag or can, carried in pack. Total amount available sufficient to last 72 hours per NIMS Typing.
- One Food, Handler, 3700 calories minimum in pack. Total 9000 calories available. (72 hours per NIMS Typing)
- Two ICS 214 Forms
- One Knife, multi-purpose
- One Lip balm with sunscreen
- One Measuring device, 18-inch minimum
- One Metal cup or pot, 8 oz minimum
- One Nylon twine or small rope, 50 feet
- One Pack, 1800 cubic inches (minimum)
- One Pad and pencil
- Two Prussik slings (suitable for 9mm to 11mm)
- One Rainwear, durable
- One SAR personal identification
- One Shelter material, 8x10 plastic or coated nylon
- One Sunscreen lotion, SPF 15 or higher
- One Package tissue paper or baby wipes (recommended)
- One Tracking stick, minimum 42 inches long
- One Accurate method of telling time (watch)
- One Webbing, 1 inch tubular, 15 to 20 feet
- One Wire, 5-10 feet woven steel
- Eight Wire ties, plastic self-locking

**OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT NOT REQUIRED BUT RECOMMENDED**

- One Foam pad
- One Gaiters, pair
- One Goggles, clear
- One Canine harness with optional bell or light
- One Rain cover, pack
- One Sunglasses, 97% UV protection
- One Trail snack in addition to primary food