

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY

MANAGEMENT

SEARCH AND RESCUE PROGRAM

STANDARDS FOR VIRGINIA

TRAILING CANINE TEAMS

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PREREQUISITES

In order to be eligible to test to become a "Trailing Canine Team" the handler shall:

- a) Be at least 18 years of age.
- b) Be an active member in good standing with a Canine Search and Rescue group currently operating under a 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. Training log shall include at least one entry in which the canine team successfully completed a trail at least one mile in length and aged at least 8 hours.
- e) Provide documentation of current canine immunizations.

TERMINOLOGY

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

- 1) **Active Trailing Committee Members:** A member who has attended at least 50% of the trailing committee meetings.
- 2) **Aggressive Canine Behavior** - Biting or lunging and growling at people or other controlled animals.
- 3) **Air scent canine** - A canine that will detect airborne human scent.
- 4) **Alert** - The canine's natural response, recognizable to the handler, to its detection of human scent.
- 5) **Area search** - Search of a specific geographical area. The area could be urban, suburban, rural or wilderness.
- 6) **Article search** - Search for any object or article that may contain human scent which may be above or below ground.
- 7) **Cadaver search** - Search for human remains, bodily fluids, articles or the areas on which they may have rested.
- 8) **Cadaver Canine** - A canine that will detect and indicate on human remains including human decomposition scent.
- 9) **Canine team** - 1 trained handler with 1 trained canine.
- 10) **Disaster Search** - Search for humans in rubble or debris, such as collapsed buildings and debris piles that are a result of natural or human-caused disasters.
- 11) **Event** - Training, mission, test or other activity, where search teams may gather.
- 12) **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 for 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.
- 13) **Group** - The organization that a team represents
- 14) **Handler** - The person who controls and directs the canine during a search.
- 15) **Heeling** - The canine walking with the handler, on command, at the handler's side, either on or off lead.
- 16) **ID** – Off lead canine's trained response to the identification of the subject.

- 17) **Indication** - Canine's trained method of communicating to the handler that the subject or scent has been found.
- 18) **Operational Team** – One trained handler and one trained canine that have passed all requirements set forth by these standards and have been issued a certification by Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
- 19) **PLS** – Place last seen
- 20) **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.
- 21) **Refind** - When the canine has made a find, it returns to the handler and directs the handler back to the subject.
- 22) **Rural** - Country often given to farming or to woodland and sparsely to moderately populated.
- 23) **SAR**- Search and Rescue.
- 24) **SAR Dog Standards Committees** - Committees of representatives of each search canine group that has an MOU with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Each canine group may have up to two voting members on the committee. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management may also appoint a member to the committee.
- 25) **Scent discriminating canine** - A canine that will locate the scent of a specific individual.
- 26) **Tracking canine** - A canine that will follow almost exactly the ground scent track of a person.
- 27) **Trailing canine** - A canine that will follow the scent of a person, but not necessarily precisely where that person has walked. Trailing canines are almost always scent discriminating.
- 28) **Urban or Suburban** - Moderately to heavily populated areas given primarily to business and residential development.
- 29) **Virginia Trailing Canine Team** – A team certified in both the urban and wilderness environments.
- 30) **Water search** - Search for human scent under water, such as a drowned victim.
- 31) **Wilderness** - An area generally uncultivated and uninhabited, and often inaccessible by road.

SCOPE

- a) These standards are intended to define minimum qualification requirements for searching by a trailing canine team.

- b) The team should be capable of performing these functions anytime of the year, day or night, and in all weather conditions experienced in the Commonwealth of Virginia. 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 theory of missing person searches.
 - 3) Plan, execute, document and debrief a variety of canine search tasks.
 - 4) Navigate accurately on land.
 - 5) Survive an unexpected emergency.

- c) 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 the knowledge and ability to perform the skills listed. Specific tests designed for some items are described in “TEST METHODS”, and are included as part of these standards. See Appendix M for reference material.

1) SAR Operations

- a) Understand how state missions are originated.
- b) List several resources that might be utilized during a SAR event.
- c) Articulate the development of trailing canine 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

Understand the basic principals of clothing and equipment selection for the search environment:

See APPENDIX K for guidelines for a personal equipment list.

4) Understand the characteristics of scent**5) Land Navigation**

- a) Define the following terms or concepts:
 - 1) True north and magnetic north
 - 2) Declination
- b) Demonstrate the ability to read and interpret topographic map border information, colors and symbols.
- c) Demonstrate the ability to use a compass to plot and follow a course on a map.
- d) Demonstrate the ability to draw on a map, the area traveled.
- e) Demonstrate the ability to perform the following navigational functions:
 - 1) Obtain and follow a simple compass bearing.
 - 2) Determine a reciprocal.
 - 3) Move around obstacles.
 - 4) Measure distance by pacing.
 - 5) Determine position by terrain feature identification.
- g) Describe how to use these land navigation concepts:
 - 1) Catching features
 - 2) Collecting features
 - 3) Aiming off

6) Search Strategy

- a. Given a trailing canine scenario, discuss and demonstrate the ability to plan and perform the task.
- b) Demonstrate the ability to accurately debrief and map the task.

7) Clue and Site Procedures

- a) Describe correct method of scent collection.
- b) Describe the proper way to approach and handle clues and subjects.
- c) Describe methods to preserve and secure a crime scene.
- d) Explain the importance of accurate documentation of clues and victim's location.

8) Helicopter Operations

- a) Understand the hazards to ground personnel working around a helicopter.
- b) Understand the proper approach to a helicopter, including direction of approach and communication with the crew.

9) 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.

10) First Aid**Canine**

- a) The handler must recognize symptoms of and, if possible, know how to treat the common but severe conditions which may result in significant injury or death of the canine including but not limited to:
 - 1) Excessive bleeding
 - 2) Hypothermia
 - 3) Hyperthermia
 - 4) Bloat
 - 5) Shock
 - 6) Dehydration
- b) The handler must know which human medications may not be shared with a canine.

11) Additional required training

- a) Field Team Member or state approved equivalent.
- b) Virginia approved crime scene preservation class.
- c) Basic First Aid with CPR

CANINE PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

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

Specific tests designed for this purpose are described in “TEST METHODS”.

1. Behavior

Aggression:

Each handler shall be responsible for assuring his/her canine does not exhibit aggressive 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.

Repercussions:

Following an attack on a person or controlled canine, the offending canine will be removed from the test area. At that time the state evaluator will review the incident and determine if the canine is fit to continue or if the team must retest at a later date.

All such incidents must be documented. Documentation by the state evaluator 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. Copies of the report should be given to the handler, a group officer and the State SAR office.

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.

3) Agility:

The canine must demonstrate the ability to: negotiate obstacles, crawl under a fence or gate, and go through a tunnel.

4) Search Skills:

The canine must demonstrate the ability and stamina to follow a trail 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.

Required Tests:

Handler Written Evaluation

Canine Behavior Evaluation

Canine Obedience Evaluation

Canine Agility Evaluation

20-Acre Navigation Evaluation

Urban Evaluation

Wilderness Evaluation

If already completed within existing canine disciplines, behavior, obedience, agility, 20-acre tests do not need to be repeated.

Handler Written Test

- a) The handler will complete a comprehensive written or oral test and will achieve a score of at least 80%.
- b) The test of 50 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 group's Training Officer, certifying handler and VDEM.

CRITERIA FOR TRAILING CANINE STATE EVALUATORS

In order to evaluate canine teams to these Virginia Trailing Canine Team Standards, the evaluator must participate in a mandatory statewide evaluators' seminar, *be a member in good standing of a SAR Group currently operating under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Emergency Management in the Commonwealth of Virginia*, and satisfy one of the three following criteria:

- a) At the implementation of these standards, active trailing committee members will serve as state trailing evaluators.
- b) Need to have been a trailing group evaluator of a SAR group currently operating under a trailing Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Emergency Management in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- c) Be an operational Trailing team and participate as a group evaluator or observer on a minimum of 3 trailing evaluations with a current trailing canine state evaluator.

EVALUATOR INSTRUCTIONS

- a) The State SAR Coordinator upon request will issue written test materials to the evaluator(s). All test materials are confidential and security is the responsibility of the 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.
- d) The objectives of these tests are to evaluate safety, planning ability search techniques and team stamina.
- e) Evaluators should remember the trailing problems are tests of the dog/handler team's ability to work out a scent trail, not an exercise in mantracking or land navigation. Evaluators shall not stop the team during the trail to perform map and compass evaluation.
- f) Field 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 trailing evaluator. At least one of the evaluators must be an operational canine handler.
- g) 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.
- h) Performance will be rated as either "Pass" or "Fail". Both evaluators must agree on the rating for the test to be valid.
- i) 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".
- j) If any one of the field tests is scored "Fail" by both evaluators, the procedures described under "Retesting" will apply.
- k) Tests should be set up and conducted following the Evaluator instructions.

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 candidate 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" must be notified and may observe the retest, but will have no input on the evaluation results. This request for retest must be submitted by the candidate, in writing, to any of the group's officers.

Method of Conducting State Recognized Evaluations

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

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

CANINE BEHAVIOR EVALUATION

For evaluation form see Appendix A

Definition:

Aggressive Behavior – biting or lunging and growling at people or other controlled animals.

Requirement: The canine must not display aggressive behavior.

- a) The canine and handler will load into the back of 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 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 lead, passing within two feet of each of the post teams. The post teams will remain still and not interfere with the testing team.

OBEDIENCE EVALUATION

For evaluation form see Appendix B

Definition:

For purposes of this evaluation, Heeling is defined as the canine walking with the handler, on command, at the handler's side, either on or off lead.

Requirements:

The canine must respond appropriately to handler commands.

The canine must demonstrate the ability to walk with the handler in the heeling position.

- a) The canine will heel through a straight walk, a right turn, a left turn, and a 180-degree turn.
- b) The canine will sit, stand or down in the heeling position on command when the handler stops.

Off lead canine teams must also complete C and D of the Obedience Evaluation.

- c) The canine may be placed next to the handler's pack and at least 10 feet away from any other person or canine. The lead may be removed from the canine. If the lead is used, it may be attached to a fixed object or held by the handler but must remain loose. 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. 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.
- d) 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.

AGILITY EVALUATION

For evaluation form see Appendix C

Requirements: The canine must demonstrate the ability to negotiate obstacles, and through a tunnel.

- a) Canine demonstrated ability to negotiate an obstacle such as a fence or gate.
- b) The canine will go through a 36" diameter tunnel at least 8 feet long.
- c) The canine will perform steps a and b physically unaided, but may be on a loose lead.

20-Acre NAVIGATION EVALUATION

For evaluation form see Appendix D

Purpose:

The navigation course will demonstrate the handler's ability 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. Demonstrate the ability to provide accurate coordinates of a specific location to within four digits. (i.e. 1234/5678)
- c. Be able to measure distance in paces, state distance in meters and relate it on a map.
- d. Identify terrain features.

Evaluation:

The evaluators will pick four points within the search area and mark them on the handler's map. The handler, accompanied by the evaluators, must navigate to all four points and then return to base. The handler will identify and describe terrain features within sight if requested by evaluator. Time limit is 1.5 hours for this step.

Urban (On Lead) Trailing Evaluation

For evaluation form see Appendix E

Purpose:

The objective of the Urban Evaluation is to assess the ability of the canine/handler team to search for a subject in populated areas that are highly contaminated.

Handler Skills:

- a) Assess the scenario provided by the evaluators and ask appropriate questions.
- b) Outline and carry out an effective search based on the scenario.
- c) Accurately articulate direction of travel.
- d) Demonstrate proper radio skills.
- e) The handler must debrief at the end of the task.
- f) Demonstrate proper techniques for handling and collecting scent article.

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 distractions associated with the search environment.

Test Procedure:

- a) 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 a failure of the test. If either canine or handler fails, both must be retested.
- b) The handler being tested shall not provide subject or bystanders.
- c) The trail shall be approximately one mile. The trail will also contain multiple turns.
- d) The site should include a combination of shopping centers, subdivisions etc...
- e) The trail shall be aged for a minimum of eight (8) hours and a maximum of (12) twelve hours.
- f) The subject shall not be in plain sight for either the handler or canine.

- g) The start and end of the trail will be at highly contaminated areas.
- h) The handler will be given a brief scenario, the location of the PLS, and a scent article the same age as the trail.
- i) There will be a (2) two-hour time limit to find the subject. However, at the discretion of the evaluators the time may be extended due to the variability of search areas provided the team is actively working.
- j) The evaluators shall assess the effectiveness of the canine and handler as a team. Strengths and weaknesses should be included in the critique. The evaluators shall assign a pass or fail which will be recorded in the Candidate's training records.
- k) The handler for safety purposes may utilize evaluators. (traffic, crowd control etc.).

Wilderness/Rural Trailing Evaluation

For evaluation form see Appendix G

Purpose:

The objective of the Trailing Evaluation is to assess the ability of the handler/canine team to search for a subject in a wilderness/rural environment.

Handler Skills:

- a) Assess the scenario provided by the evaluators and ask appropriate questions.
- b) Outline and carry out an effective search based on the scenario.
- c) Describe the off lead canine's trained indication (ID) prior to the test
- d) Accurately articulate direction of travel.
- e) Demonstrate proper radio skills.
- f) The handler must debrief at the end of the task.
- g) Demonstrate proper techniques for handling and collecting scent articles.

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 distractions associated with the search environment.
- c) The off lead canine shall provide its trained indication (ID) on the subject only. Providing the trained indication (ID) on scent other than the subject shall result in failure of test.

Test Procedure:

- a) The canine must locate and follow the subject's scent trail. A handler/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 a failure of the test. If either canine or handler fails, both must be retested.
- b) The handler being tested shall not provide subject.
- c) The trail shall be approximately one mile. The trail will also contain multiple turns.
- d) The site may include farmland, fields with high grass, wooded areas, (ridges, drainages, knolls, etc.), water crossings, and trails.
- e) The trail shall be aged for a minimum of eight (8) hours and a maximum of twelve (12) hours
- f) The subject shall not be in plain sight for either the handler or canine.
- g) The start of the trail will be at a contaminated area.
- h) The handler will be given a brief scenario, the location of the PLS, and a scent article the same age as the trail.
- i) There will be a (2) two-hour time limit to find the subject. However, at the discretion of the evaluators the time may be extended due to the variability of search areas provided the team is actively working.
- j) The evaluators shall assess the effectiveness of the canine and handler as a team. Strengths and weaknesses should be included in the critique. The evaluators shall assign a pass or fail which will be recorded in the Candidate's training records.
- k) The handler for safety purposes may utilize evaluators.

RECERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Purpose:

The objective of the Trailing Recertification Evaluation is to ensure that the team has maintained the skills necessary to be an effective trailing search team.

- a) Each team must recertify every 2 years.
- b) The team must be an active member in good standing within his/her group that has a current trailing MOU.
- c) Provide current canine team training log.
- d) Take, and successfully complete the Recertification Field Evaluation within six months before or after the anniversary date.
- e) The recertification field evaluation will consist of either the urban or wilderness or a combination test at the handler's discretion.
- f) An officer of the team's group, and the evaluators must complete the Recertification Form, APPENDIX J and submit it to Virginia Department of Emergency Management within one month of the team passing his/her recertification.
- g) Upon receipt of the form requesting recertification, Virginia Department of Emergency Management will renew the team's certification for two additional years at which time "conditions of certification" described in Certification Procedures will apply.

Failure To Recertify

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

APPENDIX A

Trailing Behavior Evaluation Form

Canine Handler _____ (Date) _____
 Location _____ Canine _____
 Evaluator _____ and _____

Behavior

1.) The canine and handler were loaded into the back of a vehicle with at least two other canine teams. Vehicle was driven for a distance of at least one mile. Canine did not display aggressive or uncontrolled behavior.

Pass Fail

2.) The handler stood with the canine in the heeling position. A stranger approached and engaged the handler in conversation. Canine did not display aggressive or uncontrolled behavior.

Pass Fail

3.) The 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 lead, passing within two feet of each of the post teams. The post teams will remain still and not interfere with the testing team.

Pass Fail

All skills must be passed

Evaluator Signature _____ (Date) _____

Evaluator Signature _____ (Date) _____

**** Requirement satisfied via operational Wilderness, Water Recovery, or
 Cadaver status.**

Date Satisfied _____

APPENDIX B

Trailing Obedience Evaluation Form

Canine Handler _____ (Date) _____
 Location _____ Canine _____
 Evaluator _____ and _____

1) Heel:

The canine must heel on lead or off-lead.

- a) Straight walk
- b) Right turn
- c) Left turn
- d) 180 degree turn
- e) Stop (sit, stand or down on command)

Pass Fail

2 and 3 must also be completed if testing an off lead trailing canine team

2) Stay:

The canine remained in place without correction for a minimum of five minutes with the handler at least 50 feet away out of sight. 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.

NA Pass Fail

3) Stop in Motion:

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

Canine responded appropriately to command. NA Pass Fail

Remained in position until release NA Pass Fail

All skills must be passed

Evaluator Signature _____ (Date) _____

Evaluator Signature _____ (Date) _____

**** Requirement satisfied via operational Wilderness, Water Recovery, or
Cadaver status.**

Date Satisfied _____

APPENDIX C

Trailing Agility Evaluation Form

Canine Handler _____ (Date) _____
 Location _____ Canine _____
 Evaluators _____ and _____

1.) Canine demonstrated ability to negotiate an obstacle such as a fence or gate.

Pass Fail

2.) Canine went through a 36" diameter passageway at least 8 feet long.

Pass Fail

The canine will perform steps a and b physically unaided, but may be on a loose lead.

All skills must be passed

Evaluator Signature _____ Date _____

Evaluator Signature _____ (Date) _____

**** Requirement satisfied via operational Wilderness, Water Recovery, or
 Cadaver status.**

Date Satisfied _____

APPENDIX D

Twenty-Acre Navigation Evaluation Form (Trailing)

Canine Handler _____ **(Date)** _____

Location _____

Evaluators _____ **and** _____

Weather Conditions _____

Time Started _____ **Time Completed** _____

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

- | | | |
|---|------|------|
| 1) Handler was adequately attired and equipped for conditions. | Pass | Fail |
| 2) *Handler demonstrated good land navigational field skills using map and compass. | Pass | Fail |
| 3) Handler accurately measured distance between two points on a topo map, as directed by the evaluators. | Pass | Fail |
| 4) *Handler located all four points marked on the test map. | Pass | Fail |
| 5) *Handler demonstrated basic Virginia SAR Council radio procedures. | Pass | Fail |
| 6) Handler demonstrated the ability to provide accurate coordinates of a specific location to within four digits. | Pass | Fail |

Overall Score: Passed _____ Failed _____

Evaluator Signature _____ (Date) _____

Evaluator Signature _____ (Date) _____

Comments _____

**** Requirement satisfied via operational Wilderness, Water Recovery, or Cadaver status.**

Date Satisfied _____

APPENDIX E

Urban (On Lead) Evaluation Form

Handler _____ Canine _____ Date _____
 Location _____
 Evaluators _____ & _____
 Weather Conditions _____
 Time Started _____ Time Completed _____ Scent Article used _____

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

Handler Skills

	Pass	Fail
1) *Handler was adequately attired and equipped for conditions.	Pass	Fail
2) Handler demonstrated the ability to obtain enough information from the briefing to adequately plan a strategy.	Pass	Fail
3) * Handler acquired scent article correctly.	Pass	Fail
4) Handler initiated an effective start from the PLS.	Pass	Fail
5) Handler articulated direction of travel utilizing available resources.	Pass	Fail
6) *Handler debriefed the task.	Pass	Fail
7) Handler demonstrated Virginia SAR Council radio procedures.	Pass	Fail
8) Handler was in tune with canine's needs.	Pass	Fail
9) *Handler had adequate control over the canine.	Pass	Fail

Canine Skills

1) Canine stayed focused on search.	Pass	Fail
2) Canine was refocused after being distracted.	Pass	Fail
3) Canine searched effectively.	Pass	Fail
4) *Canine made a self-directed find.	Pass	Fail
5) *Canine and handler made an effective team.	Pass	Fail

Overall Score: Passed _____ Failed _____

Comments from Evaluators

Comments from Handler

Evaluator Signature _____ (Date) _____

Evaluator Signature _____ (Date) _____

APPENDIX F

Wilderness Trailing Evaluation Form

Handler _____ Canine _____ Date _____
 Location _____
 Evaluators _____ & _____
 Weather Conditions _____
 Time Started _____ Time Completed _____ Scent Article Used _____

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

Handler Skills

	Pass	Fail
1) *Handler was adequately attired and equipped for conditions.	Pass	Fail
2) Handler demonstrated the ability to obtain enough information from the briefing to adequately plan a strategy.	Pass	Fail
3) * Handler acquired scent article correctly.	Pass	Fail
4) Handler initiated an effective start from the PLS.	Pass	Fail
5) Handler articulated direction of travel utilizing available resources.	Pass	Fail
6) *Handler debriefed the task.	Pass	Fail
7) Handler demonstrated Virginia SAR Council radio procedures.	Pass	Fail
8) Handler was in tune with canine's needs.	Pass	Fail
9) *Handler had adequate control over the canine.	Pass	Fail
10) <i>For Off-Lead Teams, Handler articulated the canine's indication.</i>	Pass	Fail

Canine Skills

1) Canine stayed focused on search.	Pass	Fail
2) Canine was refocused after being distracted.	Pass	Fail
3) Canine searched effectively.	Pass	Fail
4) *Canine made a self-directed find.	Pass	Fail
5) *Canine and handler made an effective team.	Pass	Fail

Overall Score: Passed _____ Failed _____

Comments from Evaluators

Comments from Handler

Evaluator Signature _____ Date _____

Evaluator Signature _____ Date _____

APPENDIX G

CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

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

Team Certification Application Instructions:

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

Conditions of Certification:

- a) Provided that all requirements are met, the team will be issued a certification by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management as a certified “Virginia Trailing Canine Team”.
- b) This certification 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 certification 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, must be repeated with the new canine.
- d) The certification will be valid as long as the group’s “Memorandum Of Understanding” with the state is in good standing, and as long as the team is in good standing and meets the requirements of their group.
- e) The parent group must promptly notify Virginia Department of Emergency Management of a change of status of any operational team member.

APPENDIX H
APPLICATION for CERTIFICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia Trailing Canine Team

Handler's Name _____ Canine's Name _____

Group Affiliation _____ (Date) _____

Type of Test	Date Passed	Evaluator(s) Present
Written		
Behavior		
Obedience		
Agility		
Field Skills		
Navigation		
Urban Trailing		
Wilderness Trailing _____ On Lead _____ Off Lead		

The handler has the following: First Aid / CPR _____

FTM or Equivalent _____

Crime Scene Preservation Class _____

Overnight Bivouac _____

Does canine have all current immunizations required by his/her group? Yes _____ No _____

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Group Officer Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____

The team listed above qualifies as a Virginia Trailing Canine Team under these standards in knowledge and ability. Therefore, we recommend that the team be allowed to participate on searches as a state resource in the capacity of a Virginia Trailing Canine Team. On Lead _____ Off Lead _____

State Evaluator _____ Date _____

Team Evaluator _____ Date _____

APPENDIX I

Re-Certification Evaluation Form

Handler _____ Canine _____ Date _____
 Location _____
 Evaluators _____ & _____
 Weather Conditions _____
 Evaluation: Wilderness _____ On Lead _____ Off Lead _____ Urban _____ Multi _____
 Time Started _____ Time Completed _____ Scent Article _____

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

<u>Handler Skills</u>	Pass	Fail
1) *Handler was adequately attired and equipped for conditions.	Pass	Fail
2) Handler demonstrated the ability to obtain enough information from the briefing to adequately plan a strategy.	Pass	Fail
3) * Handler acquired scent article correctly.	Pass	Fail
4) Handler initiated an effective start from the PLS.	Pass	Fail
5) Handler articulated direction of travel utilizing available resources.	Pass	Fail
6) *Handler debriefed the task.	Pass	Fail
7) Handler demonstrated Virginia SAR Council radio procedures.	Pass	Fail
8) Handler was in tune with canine's needs.	Pass	Fail
9) *Handler had adequate control over the canine.	Pass	Fail
10) <i>For Off-Lead Teams, Handler articulated the canine's indication.</i>	Pass	Fail
Canine Skills		
1) Canine stayed focused on search.	Pass	Fail
2) Canine was refocused after being distracted.	Pass	Fail
3) Canine searched effectively.	Pass	Fail
4) *Canine made a self-directed find.	Pass	Fail
5) *Canine and handler made an effective team.	Pass	Fail

Overall Score: Passed _____ Failed _____

Comments from Evaluators

Comments from Handler

Evaluator Signature _____ Date _____

Evaluator Signature _____ Date _____

APPENDIX J

APPLICATION for RECERTIFICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia Trailing Canine Team

Handler Name _____ Canine Name _____

Group Affiliation _____ Date _____

Evaluators _____ & _____

The team above successfully completed the recertification evaluation on _____

Expiration Date of Handler's First Aid/CPR certification: _____

Does canine have all immunizations required? Yes _____ No _____

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Group Officer Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____

The team listed above has re-certified as a Virginia Trailing Canine Team under these standards in knowledge and ability. Therefore, we recommend that the team be recertified as a state resource in the capacity of a Virginia Trailing Canine Team.

On Lead _____ Off Lead _____

State Evaluator _____ (Date) _____

Group Evaluator _____ (Date) _____

APPENDIX K

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

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

- 1) Compass
- 2) Water
- 3) Whistle
- 4) First aid kit
- 5) Knife
- 6) Food - At least a day's supply for handler and canine.
- 7) Fire starter
- 8) Trash bags
- 9) Paper and pencil
- 10) Flashlight - with extra batteries

Additional suggested list of clothing and equipment is provided below.

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

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

APPENDIX L

REFERENCE MATERIAL

- 1.) Tweedie, Jan, 1998, On the Trail!: a practical guide to the working bloodhound and other search and rescue dogs. ISBN: 1-57779-005-7
- 2.) American Rescue Dog Association, 2002, Search and Rescue Dogs: Training the Canine Hero ISBN: 0-7645-6703-9
- 3.) Kocher, Kevin, and Robin Kocher, 2010 How to Train a Police Bloodhound and Scent Discriminating Patrol Dog ISBN: 9-78057-806986-9
- 4.) Virginia Search and Rescue Council, Policies and Standard Operating Procedures, Available at www.vasarco.org
 - a. Bylaws, 2009
 - b. Articles of Incorporation, 2006
 - c. EOC Guidelines, 2007
 - d. Virginia State Operating Procedures for Search and Rescue, 1990
 - e. Procedures for Vetting and Approving Proposed Standards, 2005
- 5.) Schettler, Jeff, 2011, K9 Trailing, The Straightest Path, ISBN: 978-1-57779
- 6.) Schettler, Jeff, 2009, Red Dog Rising, ISBN: 978-1-57779-104-1

APPENDIX M

IMPLEMENTATION

In order for groups to be considered as Agents of the Commonwealth, all persons within a group, working in this discipline, must at 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 Division
will publish and maintain these standards**