

# K9 Search and Rescue Team Inc.

35 Railroad Avenue, Dolores, CO, 81323 | (970) 882-4746 | Email: k9@k9team.org

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## AIR SCENT PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS

The following list of canine skills and tasks are to be completed in the apprentice period of training. The team must successfully complete the Preliminary Requirements before progressing to the small area evaluation, level 3.

### PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS - DOG SKILLS

#### 1. OBEDIENCE

All dogs must be American Kennel Club “Good Citizens” to proceed with the following requirements. All of the following exercises are to be performed off lead. The use of prong collars or electronic collars shall not be permitted during the evaluation.

##### 1.1 Heeling off-leash

The dog must heel off-leash in a controlled manner through a scattered group of people and dogs. The dog should be responsive to the handler, who may talk or give repeated commands as necessary.

##### 1.2 Directed send out

Handler should exhibit the ability to send the dog a minimum of 25 meters, as directly as possible, to an assigned location such as a gully, some bushes, a small hill, or *some other* designated area.

#### 2. SWIMMING

The handler may use any method he/she chooses to demonstrate the dog’s ability to enter a body of water and swim a total distance of 30 meters.

#### 3. HELICOPTER TRAINING

The handler and dog shall participate in helicopter safety training. The handler will attempt to *arrange* demonstrate the dog’s ability to be safely loaded on and off from an operating helicopter with rotors in motion. This requirement may be waived for the small area test, but shall be completed before the Area Search Mission Ready Test is taken.

#### 4. NIGHT SEARCH TRAINING

The team shall participate in two night search-training exercises to give the team search experience at night. The handler will have an opportunity to observe the dog work in new and different scent conditions, and the experience of searching in the dark, reading the dog, and seeing how the dog reacts to people and animals in the dark. The target may be placed in a location known or unknown to the handler. A mission ready handler will accompany the handler and dog on two different night search trainings. Each night search problem shall be a minimum of

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twenty minutes during which the dog shall locate the target and perform the alert sequence.

### **5. HUMAN REMAINS SCENT EXPOSURE**

The intent of the cadaver exercise is for the handler to gain knowledge of how the dog will respond to the scent of a decomposing human body. It is not intended as a human remains training exercise nor does it in any way certify or qualify the dog for human remains search work. In a natural environment, human remains scent shall be placed at ground level, but inaccessible to the dog. Wind direction must be given careful consideration in setting up the exercise. The scent shall be placed one hour before the exercise begins. The human remains scent shall be contained in a PVC canister or other appropriate container and should not be contaminated with fresh human scent. The scent item shall be placed so that it is not easily seen but the handler may know the location of the scent item.

The exposure exercise should be set up in such a way that the dog will discover the human remains scent rather than having the scent pointed out to the dog. The dog may be on or off leash. The handler shall document the dog's behavior in his/her logbook.

### ***PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS – HANDLER***

*The handler must pass a written examination showing their knowledge of search history, theory, strategy, tactics and ICS before EACH level of certification or re-certification. Passing shall be 70% or better.*