

# K9 Search and Rescue Team Inc.

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## AIR SCENT RE-CERTIFICATION, LEVELS 1 - 3

All teams shall take a yearly small area mission ready recertification evaluation no earlier than six (6) months before their anniversary date and no later than the anniversary date. The anniversary date is defined as and calculated from the month and year of the first mission ready test. If a team fails to take a re-certification test prior to the end of their anniversary month, there will be a one-month grace period allowed for testing. If the dog is out of service and is taken off the callout list, whenever the dog is ready to resume service and passes testing, that date shall become the new anniversary date. It is the handler's responsibility to request evaluation 30 calendar days prior to evaluation.

1. The teams shall be evaluated using the small area search dog parameters. There shall be one target, and a two-hour time limit. To pass the test the search dog must find the target in the time allowed. The evaluation shall be over as soon as the target is found.
2. An important part of the evaluation shall be a review of the logbook. It is important to review the training records and discuss the training program.
3. The evaluations shall be conducted by the team leader, training officer or their designee.
4. The property used for the evaluation should be as convenient as possible in location, but should not be familiar (not well known) to the team being evaluated. The terrain should be varied, such as: a combination of timber, brush, gullies, drainages, ridges, some steep, and some open areas.
5. The dog shall be evaluated and critiqued on the following:
  - ranging ability
  - response to handler
  - alert/report/refind behavior
  - motivation
  - stamina and agility
6. This shall be a pass/fail evaluation. The evaluator shall critique strength and weaknesses of the team with the handler.
7. If the team fails to find the target, then the team shall be taken off the callout list until such time as the team passes *an* air scent mission ready *level 1* test.