

K9 Search and Rescue Team Inc.

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

TRACKING/TRAILING STANDARDS

PURPOSE: The Tracking/Trailing Standards are in place so that any agency that requests a tracking/trailing dog is assured that all the Team's dogs are trained to the same degree in each level. Dogs trained to these standards are tested and re-evaluated annually to establish and maintain professionalism and performance quality-control over both handler and dog.

K-9 Search and Rescue Team Inc. has adopted NASAR's Canine SARTECH Certification Standards. The Team does not require the handler and dog be certified through NASAR. They do require the handler and dog to be tested and re-evaluated by the Team annually. In addition to NASAR's standards, the Team requires additional standards for their tracking/trailing dogs.

Once Level I is reached successfully the handler may choose to cross train their dog in area, water, cadaver, or other specialized field. Tracking/trailing is recommended before other areas of search if cross training is desired. It is much easier to bring the dog's nose up then it is to bring it down.

A majority of these standards are the same standards that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Association K-9 Unit adheres to.

LEVEL III - WILDERNESS/RURAL

The track must be completed in the time it takes the target to lay the track, including:

- 1 - 1½ mile unknown track (through varied terrain)
- 60 minute old (time starts when target is in place)
- 2 road crossings (gravel, dirt, logging road, etc.)
- 4 right angle turns
- 1 cross track that is more recent than the track
- 4 target related articles (articles will be within 5' of either side of the track and can be clothes, shoes, pack, or anything a person might carry with them)
- 1 dead-end with a back-track (backtrack will be a maximum of 50')

Testing area can include light distractions such as but not limited to, another handler/dog team, animals, deer trails, squirrels, rabbits, etc. Track can go through or across shallow streams, puddles, or around the inside edge of a pond. Obstacles may also be present in the testing area. Such obstacles may include but are not limited to; fences, both field fence or barbed, rock or brick walls, deep drainages, cliffs, etc. These obstacles are things a handler/dog team might find on an actual search.

Handler must be able to recognize when the dog is actually working the correct track and must be able to recognize when the dog loses the track (gives a negative).

LEVEL II - SUBURBAN

The track must be completed in the time it takes the target to lay the track, including:

- ½ - 1 mile unknown track (through an industrial area on the edge of a town)
- 30 minute old (time starts when target is in place)
- 1 major road crossing (gravel, paved, etc.)
- 1 cross track that is more recent than the track
- 1 target related articles (articles will be within 5' of either side of the track and can be clothes, shoes, pack, or anything a person might carry with them)

Testing area can include light distractions such as but not limited to, another handler/dog team, animals, vehicles, heavy machinery, other loose dogs, cats, bystanders, etc. Track can go through or across shallow streams, puddles, or around the inside edge of a pond. Obstacles may

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also be present in the testing area. Such obstacles may include but are not limited to; fences, field fence, chain link, or barbed, rock or brick walls, etc. These obstacles are things a handler/dog team might find on an actual search in a suburban area.

Handler must be able to recognize when the dog is actually working the correct track and must be able to recognize when the dog loses the track (gives a negative).

LEVEL I - URBAN

The track must be completed in the time it takes the target to lay the track. Testing can be done in either daylight or dark conditions, including:

- ½ - 1 mile unknown track (in a residential, high traffic area in town)
- 30 minute old (time starts when target is in place)
- 2 major road crossing (gravel, paved, etc.)
- 3 right angle turns
- 2 blocks of alleys
- 1 cross track that is more recent than the track
- 1 target related articles (articles will be within 5' of either side of the track and can be clothes, shoes, pack, or anything a person might carry with them)
- Track will have a minimum of 25' laid on a hard surface such as asphalt, gravel road, sidewalk, etc.

Testing area can include light distractions such as but not limited to, another handler/dog team, animals, vehicles, heavy machinery, other loose dogs, cats, bystanders, etc. Track can go through or across shallow streams, puddles, or around the inside edge of a pond. Track will also include some areas of short grass. Obstacles may also be present in the testing area. Such obstacles may include but are not limited to; fences, field fence, chain link, or barbed, rock or brick walls, etc. These obstacles are things a handler/dog team might find on an actual search in a city.

Handler must be able to recognize when the dog is actually working the correct track and must be able to recognize when the dog loses the track (gives a negative).