



## TRAILING CERTIFICATION

**Test:** Trailing – Type I, Type II, Type III, Type IV

**Search Capabilities:** Capable of trailing individuals' specific scent in wilderness terrain, suburban/rural or urban settings; Aged .5 – 24 hours; 1 mile or longer; in applicable terrain, scent contamination, surface substrate.

Law Enforcement positive indication of subject at end of trail.

**Task Book:** All items in Trailing Certification Task Book must be demonstrated for certification.

### TESTING STANDARD

**WILDERNESS TEST-** LARGE AREA OF MOSTLY UNINHABITED TERRAIN; NATURAL VEGETATION; TYPICALLY USED FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES; RECREATION AREAS; WILDERNESS; TRAILS; TRAILHEADS; CAMPGROUNDS; LAKES; RIVERS; AGRICULTURAL AREAS

- Start of test in vegetation in area of contamination such as trailhead, picnic area or road
- Trail enters into area with low contamination, in natural vegetation.
- Trail crosses at least one area of higher contamination with a newer cross-trail such as road or hiking trail.
- A minimum of four (4) changes of direction will occur as terrain dictates.

**SUBURBAN/RURAL TEST-** COMBINATION OF INHABITED AND UNINHABITED TERRAIN; NEIGHBORHOODS; PARKS; FIELDS; OPEN SPACE; SCHOOLS; URBAN/WILDLAND INTERFACE; SOME NATURAL VEGETATION, PLANTED VEGETATION SUCH AS BLUE GRASS, AND HARD SURFACE.

- Trail begins in vegetation in area such as park, schoolyard, open space, or field.
- Trail transitions through different levels of scent contamination.



- 50% trail in vegetation, 50% trail on hard surface such as blacktop, cement, dirt or gravel roads or parking lots.
- At least four turns placed in trail, two perpendicular with the wind, one into wind and one with wind. The turns do not have to be 90 degrees.

**URBAN TEST-** INHABITED URBAN TERRAIN; CITIES; TOWNS; NIEGHBORHOODS; BUSINESS PARKS; DOWNTOWN AREAS; PARKING LOTS; ROADS; SIDEWALKS; HARD SURFACE

- Trail begins on hard surface such as blacktop, cement, dirt or gravel roads or parking lots.
- 80% of trail on hard surface such as blacktop, cement, dirt or gravel roads or parking lots.
- At least four turns placed in trail, two perpendicular with the wind, one into wind and one with wind. The turns do not have to be 90 degrees.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT-** LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES MAY REQUIRE THE IDENTIFICATION OF A POTENTIAL SUSPECT AT THE END OF A TRAIL. IF THIS IS REQUESTED THE SUBJECT AND AT LEAST ONE OTHER SUBJECT WILL BE PLACED AT THE END OF THE TRAIL REQUIRING THE DOG TEAM TO IDENTIFY THE SUBJECT THAT MATCHES THE TRAIL THAT WAS FOLLOWED.

### **TYPE I TRAILING: WILDERNESS, SUBURBAN/RURAL, OR URBAN**

1. Aged 24+ hours.
2. 1 mile or longer.
3. Last seen point given.
4. Scent article provided.
5. Subject does not regularly train with dog team and is unknown to Handler.
6. Team must determine direction of travel, work through scent pool and locate subject at end of trail

### **TYPE II TRAILING: WILDERNESS, RURAL OR URBAN**

1. Aged 4- 12 hours
2. 1 mile or longer



3. Last seen point given.
4. Scent article provided.
5. Subject does not regularly train with dog team and is unknown to Handler.
6. Team must determine direction of travel, work through scent pool and locate subject at end of trail.

### **TYPE III TRAILING: WILDERNESS, RURAL, OR URBAN**

1. Aged 1.5 – 4 hours: wilderness, rural or urban
2. 1 mile or longer
3. Last seen point given.
4. Scent article provided.
5. Subject does not regularly train with dog team and is unknown to Handler.
6. Team must determine direction of travel, work through scent pool and locate subject at end of trail.

### **TYPE IV TRACKING: WILDERNESS, RURAL OR URBAN**

1. Aged 0- 1.5 hours
2. .25- .5 miles or longer
3. Last seen point given.
4. Scent article provided.
5. Subject does not regularly train with dog team and is unknown to Handler.
6. Team must determine direction of travel, work through scent pool and locate subject at end of trail.

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE EVALUATION**

THE TEAM HAS TWO (2) HOURS TO COMPETE EACH TEST. THIS TIME LIMIT MAY BE EXTENDED IF THE TEAM IS MAKING SUBSTANTIAL MOVEMENT IN THE CORRECT DIRECTION OF THE TRAIL. DIFFICULT TRAILS MAY TAKE SUBSTANTIALLY LONGER THAN TWO HOURS AND A TEAM MUST BE EXECUTING A CLEARLY VERBALIZED STRATEGY AND CORRECTLY ABLE TO READ THEIR DOGS ALERT, INDICATIONS OR FINAL RESPONSES TO CONTINUE BEYOND THE TWO HOUR TIME LIMIT.



AN INITIAL SCENT MAP MUST BE CREATED AT THE TIME THE TRAIL IS LAID. THIS MAP WILL INDICATE WHERE THE EVALUATOR ESTIMATES THE SCENT TO HAVE SETTLED ONTO THE GROUND. DISTANCE OF SCENT TRAVEL SHOULD NOT BE ESTIMATED TO BE GREATER THEN THE DISTANCE A DOG COULD AIRSCENT AN INDIVIDUAL ON THE TRACK. THE MAP MUST INDICATED WIND DIRECTION AND STRENGTH, TEMPERATURE, RELATIVE HUMIDITY, AND OTHER FACTORS THAT MAY INFLUENCE DISPERSAL OF SCENT, INCLUDING TRAFFIC, WATER SOURCES, AND CHANGES IN SUBSTRATE. ANY CHANGES IN WEATHER DURING THE TIME THE TRAIL AGES SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED.

THE EVALUATORS WILL COMPARE THE ABILITY OF THE TEAM TO WORK THROUGH SCENT WITH THE ESTIMATION OF WHERE SCENT SETTLED INTO THE ENVIRONMENT. THIS WILL BE DOCUMENTED ON THE MAP.

CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO BEGIN EACH TEST AT A LOCATION THAT IS NOT IN A SCENT POOL CAUSED BY THE SUBJECTS VEHICLE OR WHERE THE BRIEFING FOR THE SUBJECT OCCURRED. A CLEAR DIRECTION OF TRAVEL MUST BE AVAILABLE TO THE DOG TEAM AND SHOULD BE IN AREA WITH MULTIPLE POSSIBILITIES. THE DOG TEAM WILL BE GIVEN A POINT THE SUBJECT WAS LAST SEEN WITH NO DIRECTION OF TRAVEL.

CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO NOT CROSS-CONTAMINATE THE TRAIL WITH OTHER PORTION OF THE TRAIL. TURNS SHOULD BE A SUFFICIENT DISTANCE APART WHERE DOGS WILL NOT CUT OUT PORTION OF THE TRIAL BY SKIPPING AHEAD. SHOULD THIS OCCUR IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A FAILURE OF THE DOG TEAM.

CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO PLACE THE SUBJECT AT AN END POINT THAT MINIMIZES THE POSSIBILITY OF THE TEAM AIRSCENTING THE SUBJECT. SHOULD A TEAM CORRECTLY AIRSCENT A SUBJECT THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A FAILURE OF THE TEST.

CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO LOCATE A TESTING AREA THAT IS NOT USED BY THE SUBJECT IN THEIR ROUTINE LIVES. CONTAMINATION MUST BE AVOIDED WHEN TRANSPORTING THE SUBJECT TO AND FROM THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE TRAIL.

EVALUATORS MAY TERMINATE A TEST WHEN A TEAM FAILS TO MAKE MEANINGFUL MOVEMENT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE TRAIL. EVALUATORS MUST BE ABLE TO ARTICULATE THAT A TEAM IS COMPLETELY OUT OF AN AREA WHERE SCENT IS PRESENT AND THE TEAM DOES NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO RETURN TO THE AREA WHERE THE TRAIL IS LOCATED GIVEN INADEQUATE STRATEGY, UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THAT DOG IS NOT IN SCENT OR PHYSICAL FACTORS MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE TEAM TO RETURN TO THE TRAIL. ALL EVALUATORS MUST AGREE TO TERMINATION OF A TEST.

SUCCESSFULLY PASSING TWO TESTS IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A TRAILING CERTIFICATION. A PRETEST MUST BE PASSED AT THE SAME LEVEL AS THE REQUESTED TEST OR ONE LEVEL BELOW AND WILL BE OBSERVED BY AT LEAST ONE SARDUS EVALUATOR. THE PRETEST WILL FOLLOW THE SAME GUIDELINES AS THE CERTIFICATION TESTS. WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF THE PRETEST, A FULL CERTIFICATION TEST IS REQUIRED TO BE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AT THE REQUESTED LEVEL WITH TWO EVALUATORS OBSERVING TO OBTAIN A TRAILING CERTIFICATION.

**RECERTIFICATION**-REQUIRED AFTER 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR. ONE TEST REQUIRED AT REQUESTED RECERTIFICATION LEVEL. ONE EVALUATOR IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE TEST.

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Search and Rescue Dogs of the United States  
Trailing **Certification Evaluation (CE) Scoresheet**



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Handler: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Canine: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Team: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evaluator (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator (signature): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evaluator (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator (signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Test Type: Type I Type II Type III TypeIV pretest/certification	Site Type: Urban Suburban Wilderness		
Environmental conditions trail laid: Temp: Wind: Humidity:	Environmental conditions trail start: Temp: Wind: Humidity:		
Time start: Time end:	Poss.	Neg.	Comments
Ground Rules:			
No abuse of canine			
No aggressive behavior to humans or other canines by canine			
Canine under control at all times			
Team Demonstrated:			
Ability to determine direction of travel			
Ability to work through a scent pool			
Ability to follow scent through turns			
Located subject at end of trail			
Handler ID's correct person ID (LE only)			
Dog works through distractions			
Personally equipped for 24 hours dog/handler			
First aid for human/canine			
Radio communications			
<b>Proper collection of scent article</b>			

Additional Skills:

- Ability to formulate and articulate an appropriate search strategy
- Appropriate interview of witness or briefing with Incident Command
- Handler demonstrates proper navigation skills
- Appropriate debriefing to Incident Command
- Provides accurate map of search area

**\*\*EVALUATOR MUST ALSO PROVIDE MAP OF TRAIL\*\***

Comments: