

**2.1 Area Search Preliminary Requirements****Effective Date 9/5/2013**

The following lists of dog skills must be completed before an area search team may take a field qualification test. Requirements must be signed off by SWSD primary evaluators.

**1. Obedience On Leash and Sociability - CGC**

The dog shall complete requirements for the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen.

**2. Confidence Agility Off Leash**

The dog and handler shall successfully negotiate the following obstacles with the dog on lead.

**2.1 Climb and Balance**

The handler and dog shall safely climb and balance on rocks such as large boulders, a wood pile or similar uneven terrain.

**2.2 Tunnel**

The team shall go through a culvert or tunnel

**2.3 Steep Terrain**

The team shall climb up a slope with some slippery/loose areas such as a patch of small rocks or gravel or leaves or loose dirt.

**2.4 Crawl Under Obstacle**

The dog shall demonstrate a crawl under an obstacle such as a barbed-wire fence or a gate.

**2.5 Lift Over Barrier**

The handler, with the assistance of two or three helpers, shall lift the dog over a three to four feet high fence or similar barrier. The dog shall be controlled throughout the exercise.

**2.6 Lift Down**

The handler, with the assistance of one or two helpers (if needed), shall demonstrate lifting the dog down from a four to five foot height, such as from a boulder, truck bed or helicopter. The dog shall be controlled throughout the exercise.

**3. Obedience Off Leash**

All of the following exercises shall be performed off-lead, except as noted. The use of electronic collars, food treats, or toys shall not be permitted during the demonstration.

**3.1 Directed Send Out**

The handler shall demonstrate the ability to send the dog a minimum of 25 yards, as directly as possible, to an assigned location such as a gully, some bushes, a small hill, or rock pile.

**3.2 Recall**

The handler and dog shall be moving through the field and when the dog is moving away from the handler (but not working scent from a subject), the handler shall call the dog and it shall return to the handler. The handler can use multiple commands.

**3.3 Emergency Stop**

The handler and dog shall be moving through the field and the handler shall stop the dog when it is either parallel to or coming toward the handler. The handler shall stop the dog at least 30 feet away. The handler can use multiple commands.

**3.4 Long Stay**

The dog must stay, with the handler in attendance, for five minutes. For this skill, the dog and handler can stay alone or in a group of dogs and/or people. The dog must be placed next to the handler and at least 10 feet away from any other dog. The handler may sit or stand. The dog may sit, stand, or shift positions, but may not move more than 6 feet from where he was placed. The handler may repeat commands.

**4. Transport**

The handler and his/her dog and pack shall be transported in a vehicle with other handlers and their dogs. There shall be not more than four nor less than two handlers and dogs per vehicle. The dogs shall be under control of their handlers at all times. The handlers and dogs shall be transported on a bumpy road for five minutes. The dogs shall remain calm and not struggle or show aggression.

**5. Animal/Animal Sociability**

The dog must be able to associate with other dogs, off leash and under voice control of the handler. The dog shall not exhibit behavior which is, in the opinion of the evaluator, aggressive to other dogs.

**6. 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, reading the dog, and seeing how the dog reacts to people and animals in the dark. The subject shall be placed in a location unknown to the handler. Each night search problem shall be a minimum of ten acres, during which the dog shall locate the subject and perform the alert sequence.

**7. Cadaver Scent Exposure**

The handler should use this skill to gain knowledge of how the area search dog may respond to deceased human scent. The exercise is not a cadaver training exercise nor does it in any way certify/qualify the dog for cadaver search work. In a natural environment, cadaver scent shall be placed at ground level, but in-accessible to the dog. Wind direction must be given careful consideration in setting up the exercise. The scent item shall be placed so that it is not easily seen but the handler shall know the location of the scent item.

The exposure exercise should be set up in such a way that the dog will discover the cadaver scent, rather than have the scent pointed out to the dog. The dog may be off or on leash. The handler shall document the dog's behavior on the sign-off sheet.

**8. On-lead Search Exposure**

There may be times when a dog must be leashed while searching for safety reasons. The intent of this exercise is for the handler to gain knowledge of how the dog may respond to the search command while on a lead. This exercise should not be done until the dog is well into its off-lead training. The dog is not required to find or indicate the location of the subject.

For the purpose of this exercise, the dog shall be attached to a lead of not more than 30 feet. The evaluator will have placed the subject out of view of the handler, along and upwind of a 100 yard section of road. In order to simulate a high-traffic area, the dog shall not be allowed to cross the center of the road to the side opposite the subject. The handler shall closely observe the dog's reactions and report them to the evaluator.

**9. Helicopter Training (Optional)**

The handler and dog shall participate in helicopter safety training. The dog shall demonstrate the ability to be safely loaded by the handler and one other team member or helicopter crew member on and off from an operating helicopter with rotors in motion.

Handler \_\_\_\_\_ SWSD # \_\_\_\_\_ Dog \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** It is the handler’s responsibility to have each of the skill requirements listed signed and dated by a primary evaluator.

**1. Obedience On Leash and Sociability - CGC**

CGC Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Confidence Agility**

2.1 Climb and Balance Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2.2 Tunnel Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2.3 Steep Terrain Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2.4 Crawl Under Obstacle Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2.5 Lift Over Barrier Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2.6 Lift Down Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Obedience Off Leash**

3.1 Directed Send Out Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

3.2 Recall Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

3.3 Emergency Stop Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

3.4 Long Stay Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Transport**

In a vehicle with 2-4 dogs, bumpy road, 5 minutes, under control

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Animal/Animal Sociability**

Dog must be able to associate with other dogs of the unit, off lead, without showing aggression.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Handler \_\_\_\_\_ SWSD # \_\_\_\_\_ Dog \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Night Search Dog Training**

Minimum of ten acres.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Cadaver Scent Exercise**

Dog exposed to decomposed human scent.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The dog's behavior/reactions were: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**8. On-lead Search Exposure**

Dog searches along a road, while leashed.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The dog's behavior/reactions were: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Helicopter Safety Training (Optional)**

Handler and dog shall participate in helicopter safety training. The dog shall demonstrate the ability to be safely loaded on and off of an operating helicopter (rotors in motion).

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Dog Has Completed All Requirements**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_