

Evaluators

The evaluation shall be conducted by a primary evaluator and another primary or associate evaluator as the co-evaluator. The evaluators are responsible for setting up the test in a manner that allows the dog to locate the victim before it encounters the exit trail.

Mandatory Prerequisites

Teams must have completed all the handler skills requirements and the trailing dog requirements prior to testing.

Setting Up the Test

The evaluation shall be set up out of the normal training area of the team being tested. The trail shall be one to one and one-half miles in length, with one subject. The trail shall have turns and wander around such that the team being evaluated shall have six to nine opportunities to make decisions and have choices in determining the "trail the subject has walked." The trail shall also include three to six turns/changes of direction. Turns are considered to be changes of direction at an intersection, trail junction or deviation from a specific path. The trail shall be at least 24 hours old.

Terrain Type and Search Conditions

The trail should be laid in a wilderness environment and should be a combination of fire roads, dirt paths/trails and meadow-type cross country setting. The trail may cross paved roads or surfaces, but should be laid in a fashion to avoid any distances on those types of surfaces. One or more persons and one or more dogs shall cross the trail after the trail is laid and at least one hour before the test commences. At least one of the evaluators, who is also a field qualified trailing handler, shall walk with the subject while the trail is being laid. The evaluators must take care in marking where the subject is to be placed for the test so that the subject may return to the exact spot. The subject placement should follow a natural course that reduces the chance of the dog following a valid scent trail around the subject. The subject should not be covered and the handler should not be able to see the subject from beyond 50 feet.

Trailing Problem

The team has a maximum of two hours to locate the subject. Timing of the test shall commence when the handler has scented the dog.

Evaluators should remember that the trailing problem is a test of the dog/handler team's ability to work out a scent trail, not an exercise in mantracking or land navigation. Evaluators may ask the handler to indicate on a map the general location of the subject after the test is completed but should not stop the team during the trail to perform map and compass evaluations.

The team shall find the subject to pass. Under special circumstances trail conditions may provide the dog a valid scent trail past the subject and cause the team to pass by the subject. If the evaluators determine that this has occurred and the team still gets within 50 feet of the subject, then this will also be considered a find for the purposes of the test. The evaluators should place the subject along the trail so that this is an unlikely event.

Mandatory Performance Requirements

The team will be evaluated on essential trailing skills as listed below. The report on the team's performance will be either YES, NO or N/A where N/A indicates not applicable or not observed. A NO rating by both evaluators on any of the performance parameters will result in failure of the test. A NO rating by only one of the evaluators will result in a "No Test."

Handler: _____ **SWSD #:** _____ **Date:** _____

Dog: _____ Location: _____

Start Time: _____ Stop Time: _____ Pass: Fail:

Test Type: _____ Length of Trail: _____

Weather: _____ Temperature: _____

Age of Trail: _____

Trailing Problem Description: _____

Mandatory Prerequisites

No.	Mandatory Prerequisite (Must be checked prior to performing test)	✓
M1.	Handler certifications in CPR and first aid are current	
M2.	Handler Preliminary Requirements complete	
M3.	Dog Preliminary Requirements and 48 hour test complete	
M4.	Physical Fitness requirement current	
M5.	Training Log current	

Mandatory Performance Requirements: Handler Skills

No.	Handler Skill	Yes	No	N/A
H1.	Conduct of Initial Interview			
H2.	Demonstration of Working Knowledge of Scent			
H3.	Ability to Read Dog			
H4.	Demonstration of Adequate Stamina			

Mandatory Performance Requirements: Trailing Dog Skills

No.	Trailing Dog Skill	Yes	No	N/A
D1.	Dog Trails to General Area of Subject			
D2.	Dog Stays On Task			
D3.	Dog Seems Motivated			
D4.	Dog Demonstrates Adequate Stamina			

Evaluator: _____ Co-Evaluator: _____

Subject: _____