

Each requirement must be signed off by a SWSD primary evaluator. Dogs must be field qualified in area search or trailing prior to getting any cadaver search sign-offs. Dogs that will be worked off-lead must meet requirements under Area Search Preliminary Requirements 1 through 5, and dogs that will be worked on line must meet requirements under Trailing Dog Preliminary Requirements 1 through 3.

1. Log Book

The team shall have documented at least six months of current training in cadaver.

2. Cadaver Scent Exercises

The team must demonstrate the ability to find/locate the below-listed cadaver scent sources at a training session. The search area should not exceed 20 yards by 20 yards. Scent sources are to be placed 30 minutes before the dog begins searching. The team will have 20 minutes to complete each sign-off. These sign-offs may or may not be completed on the same day. The scent item location will not be known to the team. One of the sign-offs must include an animal distraction.

2.1. Surface Blood

The scent item will be a minimum of 3 cc of human blood on a sterile gauze pad. The item must have been exposed to the air for at least 48 hours. The item will be on the ground and covered with leaves, branches, etc. and should not be readily visible to the dog or the handler.

2.2. Buried Cadaver Scent

The cadaver scent material will be buried at an appropriate depth to the terrain in porous soil and should not be readily visible to the dog and handler. Porous soil can be made by mixing debris such as leaves, branches, and rocks into the dirt. One or two false holes must be made no closer than 20 feet from the scent source. In the event the dog digs up the scent item, the handler shall identify the alert before the item is visible.

2.3. Cadaver Hanging

The cadaver scent material will be suspended approximately three feet from the ground and shall not be readily visible to the dog or handler.

2.4. Cadaver Interior Environment

The cadaver scent material will be placed on or close to the floor (less than one foot above the floor) in an interior environment. The item will be inaccessible to the dog and not readily visible to the dog and handler. The interior shall be approximately the size of a standard two-car garage and not a confined space.

3. Animal Remains Distraction

A non-buried animal remains distraction shall be placed in one of the four sign-off areas. The dog shall not alert on the animal remains; to do so is to fail.

4. Wide Area Cadaver

The team shall locate a large scent source or group of scent sources, for example an opened container containing several opened sources, in an area of approximately 20 acres. The team shall have one hour to locate the source. The source(s) shall not be readily visible to the dog or the handler.

Southwest Search Dogs (SWSD) Cadaver Search Sign-Offs

Handler _____ Dog _____

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

Sign-Off	Date	Evaluator Signature
Obedience/Socialization Requirements		
1. Log Book		
2.1 Surface Blood		
2.2 Buried Cadaver Scent		
2.3 Cadaver Hanging		
2.4 Cadaver Interior Environment		
3. Animal Remains Distraction		
4. Wide Area Cadaver		