

## **NNCDS HRD Water Certification – Approved by Board 2/3/2018**

This test is designed to evaluate:

- The canine's ability to recognize the odor.
- The canine's ability to respond to the odor.
- The handler's ability to recognize the canine's alert.
- The handler's ability to articulate where the material is located.

For successful certification, the canine team shall achieve a 90% confirmed alert rate with no false alerts.

A canine team that fails the certification process shall complete a corrective action plan before making another attempt to certify.

The canine and handler must demonstrate the ability to search an assigned area effectively for the search for human remains.

The handler will develop a search plan based on the scenario presented as well as the terrain features and weather conditions and articulate that plan to the evaluator. The handler may deviate from the initial search plan but must advise the evaluator as to when and why he/she has changed the search strategy.

The handler must advise the evaluator of the dog's trained final response. This should be freely offered by the canine without prompt from the handler. The handler must call the source location correctly.

The dog must search independently.

The handler must maintain control of his/her dog at all times.

The dog and handler must make an effective search team.

The handler may utilize a GPS.

An aerial map of the search area will be provided to the handler with relevant GPS coordinates.

The handler will return all maps to the evaluator with final responses of the canine marked as appropriate.

Handler and Evaluator must wear Coast Guard Approved PFD at ALL Times while testing when on boat, pier, or near water.

### **Sources, Distractors, and Placement:**

Human decomposition material (tissue, adipocere). Human Bone (wet and dry). Burned human tissue.

The size or amount of the source utilized in the evaluation can be no more than one to two (1-2) pounds, and bone fragments no longer than seven (7) inches in length.

The evaluator will ensure remains are secured in such a manner that they cannot be consumed by the testing canine.

Animal remains found within the test area will be considered part of the environment. Any placement of distracters will be done in such a manner to prevent contamination. No human waste will be utilized as a distraction.

Source placement can consist of hidden burial or surface concealed. The buried source will be placed between six (6) and twenty-four (24) inches deep, dependent upon soil type, source amount and type. Within the building source may be placed in an elevated position not to exceed nine (9) feet.

Minimum set time for training aids shall be no less than thirty (30) minutes and no more than 24 hours. Maximum set time may be extended as needed.

### **Phase 1: Odor Recognition for Land and Water**

Six (6) objects will be placed/hidden in a wilderness environment in an area no more than .25 acres. The six objects will include human tissue and human bone, with the remaining four (4) objects being selected by the evaluator from the following:

- Dog Food
- Odoriferous Material (Fish Bait, Cheese, etc.)
- Latex or Nitrile Glove
- Handler hand odor on gauze pad
- Containers consisting of Glass or Plastic
- Clean Garbage Bag
- Clean Zip-Lock Bags
- PVC Pipe

Handler may elect for the canine to work on or off lead. The odor recognition assessment shall be completed in twenty (20) minutes, at the end of twenty (20) minutes the evaluator will stop the assessment. The evaluator will know the outcome of the assessment. A false alert on a non-target odor will constitute failure of Odor Recognition.

### **Phase 2: Comprehensive Water Assessment**

#### **Shoreline assessment**

- No less than 46 meters (50 yd) in length, no more than 4 meters (≈12 ft) from shore, and no greater than 1 meter (≈3ft) in depth.
- Maximum time is 5 minutes to search the area.
- Will be worked as a double-blind

#### **Boat assessment:**

- In calm water (lake or pond) no less than 90 x 90 meters (≈100 by 100 yd) assessment area with the area divided into four quadrants.
- Scent material shall be placed in a depth of between 3.0 to 3.5 meters (≈10 to 11 ft) in one of the quadrants.

- The canine's response shall be within a radius of 2 meters ( $\approx 6$  ft) of the highest concentration of the target odor.

Search time in the boat shall be no more than 45 minutes per 90-meter<sup>2</sup> area.