

## **NCDS HRD Land 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.

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

Human blood (fresh and old). Human decomposition material (tissue, adipocere, fluid).  
Human Bone (wet and dry). Burned human tissue.

The size or amount of the source utilized in the evaluation can be between several drops (.1mL) of blood to no more than one to two (1-2) pounds, and bone fragments no smaller than a quarter (.25) to 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 of 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 Assessment for Land with Double-Blind**

Land evaluations will consist of five (5) stations:

- Two (2) wilderness areas (fields, wooded areas, and a variety of vegetation and terrain features)
  - Each wilderness sector will be not less than 1 acre and not more than 2 acres. The size of the sector may change depending on the terrain available.
  - A minimum of thirty (30) minutes per acre will be allowed and adjusted accordingly for terrain and environmental conditions.
- One urban area (side of buildings, parking lot, roadway, grass, and landscaping)
  - An urban sector will cover a minimum of 1 acre and is not to exceed 1.5 acres. The size of the sector may change depending upon the terrain and conditions.
  - A minimum of 30 minutes will be provided for every acre.
- Building

- The building portion, due to the difficulty in locating suitable sites, the size and condition of the building may vary. The building must consist of a minimum of two rooms not to exceed 1000 sq. feet, excluding the bathroom. The test may be performed in one building or may consist of two buildings if need be.
- This portion of the test will be limited to thirty (30) minutes.
- Vehicles
  - Interior and exterior of the vehicle shall cover a minimum of three to six vehicles.
  - Search time should be three minutes per vehicle.

There may be 0-3 sources per area.

A minimum of one area will be blank with freshly disturbed soil.

One area will be searched as a double blind.