

EASTERN STATES WORKING DOG ASSOCIATION

SAR K-9 TRAILING/TRACKING DOG TEST

Objective: This test is designed to test the man trailing K-9 that is being used for search and rescue purposes. The purpose of this test is to examine the K-9 team's ability to work through a variety of surroundings and terrain surfaces. This test is to be closely simulative of working situations of the K-9 team.

Handlers: Handlers may use leads not less than 10 feet in length and no more than 30 feet in length. Tracking collars or harnesses are also permissible. The dog must be kept on lead during the entire test. No off-lead trailing/tracking is permitted.

Track/Trail Layer: The tracklayer will be unknown to the dog when possible. The tracklayer will receive instruction from the examining K-9 trainer for the method and direction that the track is to be laid.

Trail/Track Setup: The trail is to be aged two (2) hours from the time that it is laid. The trail will be approximately one (1) mile in length. The trail should traverse over an area of mixed terrain. The terrain should have at least (1000) one thousand feet of hard surfaces i.e., asphalt, concrete, gravel (the hard surface section of the test does not have to be continuous in length, but the total distance must be approximately 1000 feet). The trail should go through a residential and/or commercial area, an open area (i.e., field) and some wilderness setting. There will be at least three (3) people, but no more than five (5) people at the beginning of the trail. The K-9 team will be expected to work through the group of people at the beginning of the trail. At the discretion of the examining K-9 trainer, the start of the trail may be either from motor vehicle, scent article or footprint. The trail layer will be selected from someone approved by the examining K-9 trainer. Upon the K-9 team starting the trail, the direction that the trail was laid will be unknown to the K-9 team. It is their responsibility to find the correct direction and follow it.

Time: There will be a one (1) hour time limit for this test.

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue.