

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs, Inc.
Urban Tracking/Trailing Test

Purpose

The urban tracking/trailing test demonstrates the ability of a handler and their canine partner to detect and follow a specific human scent along the ground to that subject in an urban/city environment. This test shall demonstrate the ability of the team to select the correct scent, to navigate conditions of the area, to perform a trained final response and for the handler to correctly read the behavior of their canine partner.

Prerequisites

1. Operational handler in good standing
2. Request to test urban tracking/trailing form approved by the governing board.
3. Completed necessary checklist
4. Attendance at a minimum of four (4) searches
5. Training logs for tracking/trailing consistent with the level of training necessary to pass the test.

Test Criteria

1. This test consists of an approximately .25 mile long track in a commercial and/or residential environment. There shall be a minimum of two (2) intersections and one (1) road crossing.
2. The track shall not be aged less than one and a half (1-½) or greater than two and a half (2-½) hours. Fifty (50) to seventy-five (75) percent of the track should be on hard surfaces (asphalt or concrete).
3. The team has thirty (30) minutes to complete the test and find the subject. The dog must find the subject by tracking for a majority of the route. The test shall be conducted during daylight hours.

General Guidelines

1. The handler shall describe their dog's alerts, indications and trained final response prior to the start of the test. The canine must locate and alert on the subject independent of direction from the handler.
2. The dog shall wear a GPS collar (Astro/Alpha) and the track shall be laid with a GPS and the track saved for evaluation. After the test, the handler shall upload the collar data to the computer to be used in the evaluation.

3. The handler shall be given a point last seen (PLS) to begin the test. The handler may be given an uncontaminated scent article or may be asked to collect their own scent article or to scent the dog off of an uncontaminated stationary object.
4. The team shall have a Level 1 evaluator who is not their mentor following to evaluate handler and dog. The evaluator shall not know the location of the subject or the track (double blind).
5. The subject must not be someone that the dog has repeatedly trained on in any live-find discipline (trailing, area or avalanche); nor someone that regularly associates with the dog (i.e. family, teammates, etc.); nor someone who has recently (within 90 days) been used as a training subject for the dog. The subject should preferably be someone that the dog has never trained on before.
6. The subject may or may not be concealed but if not concealed must do something that blends in with the environment. The subject shall remain unresponsive until the dog has identified the subject. Once the dog has located the subject, the dog shall demonstrate its final response.
7. Every effort should be made in all tracking/trailing tests to avoid the possibility of the victim being air scented for at least the first half of the track.
8. At the conclusion of the test, the evaluator shall be responsible to complete the appropriate evaluation form and debrief the handler on their performance.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Team is adequately attired and has adequate supplies, equipment and water for the team.
2. Team demonstrates the dog's ability to follow the trail and avoid distractions and cross tracks and find the subject.
3. The handler and canine demonstrate good working stamina for the complete duration of the test.
4. The canine demonstrates good focus on the task at hand. The canine avoids wildlife interaction, responds to the handler's corrections/commands and readily returns to work after distractions.
5. The handler recognizes and correctly interprets the behavior of the canine.
6. The canine demonstrates an easily identifiable, trained indication of a find (i.e. bark alert or recall/refind).

Recertification

Recertification is required every two (2) years.