

Activity check-off sheet

Search and Rescue:

All behaviors must have been taught or re-taught to the dog (preferably using a new cue), using only positive reward based methods.

- ___ **Handler can articulate what dogs are smelling, how scent can travel, the effects barriers and terrain can have on scent, and how they read their dog for signs of being "in scent".**
- ___ Handler understands that he/she cannot teach a dog to scent, but only to identify scents
- ___ **Handler can articulate the difference between tracking, air scenting, search work and recovery work**
- ___ Dog will locate owner with enthusiasm when owner runs and hides
- ___ Dog will locate owner when not able to observe run-away
- ___ Dog will locate friendly stranger when stranger runs and hides
- ___ Dog will locate stranger when not able to observe run-away
- ___ Dog can perform above when distances are increased
- ___ Handler understands how to shape beginning alerts/indications
- ___ Handler establishes solid primary alert signal and withholds reinforcement until proper alert is given
- ___ Dog will safely communicate a "find" to the handler without causing injury to the victim
- ___ Handler trusts the dog's ability to "find it" and adds a verbal cue
- ___ **Handler can communicate a "find" location by radio using GPS, whistle, compass or other SAR protocol and knows proper radio protocol.**
- ___ **Dog can find human scent amid distractions, and in at least 2 new areas of search, (in the bushes, under rubble, in a barrel, etc.)**
- ___ **Handler knows how to "preserve" the find area as though it is a crime scene**
- ___ **Handler can have the dog execute a "leave-it" cue with the dog's favorite item**
- ___ **If performing wilderness SAR (in the woods or other natural cover) the dog will do a "re-find" (run from the victim, to the handler and back to the victim to indicate and lead the handler to the victim.)**
- ___ **If performing Urban SAR (simulating a building collapse or person trapped in rubble) the dog will do a bark to alert the handler to the find and victim location. Digging is sometimes encouraged as a find alert, however, it could cause risk of further structure collapse in some cases.**