

# Canadian Foundation of Search Dogs



The following are the basic standards accepted in testing at any level.

## **Requirements for the Dog Handler**

### **Application for test**

### **Reporting In/Out**

\*\*\*\* Only dogs owned by the dog handler will be allowed to be tested. No secondary handler is permitted. \*\*\*\*

The dog handler must report in for the test in a timely manner. If the dog handler is unable to report punctually, he is to let the Test Coordinator know at once.

The dog handler has to obtain information about the application deadline himself. Every dog handler who takes part in the test has to be suitably equipped and properly clothed for the respective test discipline and phase.

Reporting in before the first exercise and reporting out after the last exercise to the Test Judge, is to be executed with the leashed dog in a basic position, with leash of approx. 1 m and a collar.

Search vests, harnesses, life vests etc. are only permitted insofar as they are required and described for the respective phase.

The dog handler has to obey the directives of the Test Judge and Test Coordinator..

Each dog handler is required to finish all phases even when he has not reached the minimum points for passing in one phase.

The test is finished when the results have been announced and the scorebook has been handed over.

Prematurely leaving the test based on illness, injury or important reason has to be reported to the Test Coordinator. Pulling without sufficient reason leads to disqualification and is noted in the scorebook.

Animal welfare, safety and environmental regulations of the organiser's country must be observed.

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During the entire testing event, any form of force is not permitted. For that reason, any excessive force or rough handling of the dog will be sanctioned.

The dog handler is liable for himself and his dog during the entire test for any possible accidents. The owner of the dog must pay for any injuries to a person or damages caused by either himself or his dog.

Therefore, the dog handler has to provide proof of insurance for himself and his dog prior to the beginning of the test to the Test Coordinator.

All instructions given by the Test Judge or the event organiser are voluntarily accepted by the dog handler and executed at his own risk.

Specifically for nose work, the following aids are permitted for tactical support of the search work:

*Whistle:* Before beginning the work, the Test Judge must be notified about the audible whistle sounds. If the whistle is used, simultaneous AC are omitted.

*Water and/or sponge:* are permitted in nose work after agreement by the Test Judge if the outside conditions or weather-related conditions require it, however not directly after and at the alert.

GPS device if the Test Judge is informed of this before the test starts.

- GPS and any recording devices during the nose work (dog handler), exception MT - Motivational articles
- Food

### **Minimum age**

The dog must have reached the required minimum age on the day of the test. A dog that cannot be identified by a tattoo or microchip may not participate.

dogs may take part in the rescue dog tests regardless of size, breed or pedigree.

A dog handler may only enter one testing event on a given day and is allowed to show a maximum 2 dogs during a testing event. A dog may only participate in 2 tests at a given event. A test has to be finished before the first phase of the next test starts

### **Admission for Level V: Admission for Level A: Admission for Level B:**

For a test that was not passed, this dog can be shown again in the same discipline after a time limit of 5 days.

After 2 passed test in Level A (exception: L, W) with the minimum rating of good (G) in the same discipline, the dog can be shown the next day in the same discipline for Level B as long as the minimum age has been reached.

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### **A dog may not be shown by several dog handlers at a testing event.**

At events with rankings, the dog must be shown in the highest previously achieved level of discipline.

Bitches in heat are permitted at all tests, however, must be kept away from the other participating dogs and will be shown at the end, as long as this is possible on an organisational basis. Sick and possibly contagious dogs are excluded from the tests and must not be taken to the test site.

For disqualifications, an international stamped entry (“dis”) or an according remark with justification will be made in the scorebook.

Proof of nationally required vaccinations (vaccination certificate) must be presented to the authorised Test Coordinator prior to the test if requested.

The judge observes the temperament of the dog prior to beginning and during the entire test.

The judge is obliged to terminate the test if a dog is showing obvious temperament inadequacies or disqualifies it in case of aggressive behaviour.

### ***Obvious temperament inadequacies are:***

- Aggressive behaviour towards strangers and other dogs;
- Leaving the dog handler or the work area.  
If the dog shows little obedience, i.e. the handler does not have the dog under control, the none (NRO/LAO regulations must be honoured!) Level V in the same discipline minimum of 2 tests in Level A in the same discipline and minimum total G rating

## **Safety**

## **Helpers Water**

### **Int. Trial Rules for Search and Rescue Dog.**

judge will give the dog handler three chances to recall the dog.

The judge has the right to terminate the work when it is distinctly noticeable that the dog is insufficiently prepared, shows insufficient willingness to work, is obviously not under the control of his handler or where definitive physical limitations are noticeable.

A search vest is permitted except in rubble work. Lamps and/or bells are allowed. Hereby meant are blinking lights or snap light sticks that allow the dog handler to see the dog, but not a lamp or spotlight on the dog for its orientation.

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For a collar, a non-manipulatory and customary collar may be utilized. Either the dog wears it or the dog handler carries it with him. Medicinal collars (parasite collars) are permitted as long as they are worn loosely.

The dog must wear a water-working harness or life jacket with a suitable handle. Search vests are not allowed.

### **Infrastructure**

All details related to the obstacles in the way of material, construction and measurements are, additionally to the texts, to be taken from the sketches in the separate attachment.

In order to carry out a test, there need to be appropriate areas available which are compliant with all aspects of the test regulations

The decision to walk on work areas for phase A outside of the work lies with the organisational administration and the Test Judge.

Work areas and obstacles must conform to the safety guidelines and standards of the respective country in order to avoid accidents. The Test Judge can decline the use of work areas or obstacles if there is risk for the dog handler or dog.

Helpers are to remain neutral during the dog's work and not disturb him.

For the execution of the exercise, a shore line should be selected that ensures that the dog has to swim a predominant portion of the exercise, however can easily get onto the shoreline.

All of those in the water or on a boat have to wear either a Neoprene suit or a life jacket. The dog handler wears a Neoprene suit or a life jacket, the dog wears a life jacket or a suitable harness.

### **Group of people:**

If necessary, the Test Judge may decline work areas or obstacles if they don't comply with the Testing Standards.

For carrying out the Observer, an **area of appropriate size** must be made available.

A flat, completely or partially machined or cleared snow area of appropriate size.

Marking the areas is to be carried out according to the description for the individual exercises or the sketches. The structure of the obstacles and exercises is decided by the Test Judge after checking the local conditions. This is especially valid for the down under distraction, for the Group and the distance work. In coordination with the judge, the positions are to be marked indicating the beginning of the respective exercise. When steps are specified, one step is to be calculated as 0.7 m and marked accordingly.

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For the group exercise, it is recommended to mark two circles with a radius of 2.0 and 2.5 m. The group remains within the inner circle, the dog handler moves on the outer circle. Therefore, a distance of 0.50 m is between the dog handler and group.

The group must consist of 4 persons, whereby 2 people must each have a dog on a leash that is well-socialised (male and female). The group moves in a circle clockwise, moving and stopping is by directive of the Test Judge or Test Coordinator. See sketch 10.1

Two spots are marked by a line for male and female dogs. The distance between the obstacles and the dog on the down must be a minimum of 10 m and between the dogs (m/f) minimum of 6 m.

Utility articles are defined by a maximum shoe size and consist of materials such as wood, leather, light metal, textile, plastic, or combinations thereof. Jute rolls, toys, and similar items are excluded from being categorised as utility articles. Additionally, designed items such as wrapped gloves or other fabricated products are not permitted. See sketch 20.1. An area approximately 3 x 3 m contains rough building materials, which must be notably unpleasant to traverse, with materials being unstable and diverse. See sketch 20.2. The rigid board is constructed of two sturdy supports with a board approximately 4 m long and 30 cm wide affixed to them.

There is one marked area for the starting point. V: Two backpacks are positioned 40 m apart from each other and the start. A/B: Three backpacks are also set 40 m apart from each other and the start, with a marked area at the centre. Drawing lots for the sequence occurs in Level B. See sketch 20.5. The tables used must have a height of 60 cm and top areas measuring 100 x 100 cm, with slip-proof coatings permitted. Tables must not have wrappings or markings. There is one marked area for the starting point and drawing lots for the sequence in Level B.

The unstable plank consists of two identical barrels, each with a diameter of 40 cm and a support board measuring 4 m in length and 30 cm in width. The construction must allow the board to move approximately 20 cm. Similar constructions with identical measurements and mobility are acceptable, such as two firm trestle supports with movable slides. See sketch 20.7. The beam ladder is 4 m long with a rung distance of 30 cm, centred, a rung width of 5 cm, featuring 14 rungs, and has padding at both the start and end of the ladder, approximately 0.50 m in height. The mounting ramp measures 1.20 m in length and 0.50 m in width, with cross struts allowed as mounting aids. The mounting ramp must be constructed solidly and firmly connected to the ladder. See sketch 20.8. The stiff entrance has a circumference of 0.50 m and a length of 3 m, equipped with a tube at the exit made of soft material, also measuring 3 m in length. See sketch 20.9. The construction consists of: 1 wooden plank, measuring approximately 3.0 m in length and 0.30 m in width, along with a support structure at both the start and end, featuring a mechanism to secure the plank.

- Measure from the ground 0.40 m. Mounting and dismounting:

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- 2 wooden boards, length approx. 1.5 m, width approx. 0.30 m - Measure of the top edge from the ground 0.35 m
- Cross struts are permitted as mounting aids

The swing consists of 2 brackets and a plank affixed to them with a rope or chain, and 2 boards as mounting and dismounting ramps. The middle plank hangs from the supporting construction in such a way that it can swing freely.

Similar constructions with the same measurements and the same movability (sideways and lengthwise) are permitted.

### **Testing area Nose work**

When there are more participants for tracking, the tracks will be drawn in the field. For Level B there has to be a distinct degree of difficulty for the track layout, as for example change of terrain, ditches, crossing paths and/or streets, etc. The layout of the track has to be sketched out in a suitable and detailed manner and made available to the Test Judge (e.g. GPS and tracking sketches).

Slight arches do not indicate a change of direction; the latter are to be executed in a definitive turn.

1 well-scented utility article that does not stand out in colour from the terrain and is placed not visible to the dog handler.

Only well scented utility articles of maximum sneaker size made of any material are permitted, whereby the colour does not stand out markedly in the terrain. The FHL places the articles walking, while laying the track and without stopping.

The search area is visibly defined or its boundaries are marked clearly. The organiser has to prepare the hiding places, according to the directive of the Test Judge, in a way that ensures that the safety guidelines are met.

The search area should be visible to the dog handler.

As a distraction, smouldering fire, motor noises, hammering, drumming, sound carriers, etc. are permitted. The distractions are to be discussed with the Test Judge.

The safety guidelines are to be particularly adhered to when constructing the snow hides. The snowfield can be totally or partially machined and/or dotted with ski tracks.

For better surveillance, as well as for limiting the search area, it is to be visibly bordered by flags.

Only well-scented articles may be used as scent articles for picking up the Trail Layer's scent. Prior to laying the trail, these have to be held by the Trail Layer for a minimum of 1 hour on his body or carried in his pants pockets.

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directly before laying the trail, the Trail Layer puts the scented article into an unused plastic bag and seals it. Additionally, this bag is put into a glass container with a screw plug. This closed and labelled container is given to the Test Coordinator.

Prior to the search, the scent article in the closed container is given to the dog handler. The direction of the scent trail may not be made known.

The VPs are assistants to the Test Judge. In the hide they have to stay quiet, and they may not help the dog handler and/or the dog at any time and in any way, especially rendering assistance to the dog at the alert is forbidden.

No objects such as blankets, backpacks or similar may be left in unused hiding places/snow hides.

The colour of the clothing of the VP is not to distinctively stand out from the terrain, especially with no reflective or striking colours.

The VPs take up their position as per the directive of the Test Judge at the indicated location. They should be placed at a distance of at least 20 m from one another. The VPs conduct themselves in the hide per the Test Judge's instructions. They have to either lie down or sit. The VPs have to be in their position 10 min prior to the dispatch of the dog.

It should be possible for the dog to have visual and physical contact, the VPs may not be fully covered with tarps, blankets and such. At the instruction of the Test Judge, the VP has to leave the hide as soon as he has been found. This includes the removal of any mats or padding.

The location of the VP can be changed after each dog. Used hides may be used again.

The VPs have to be in their position 10 min prior to the dispatch of the dog. The VPs must not be hermetically closed in. Be particularly mindful of poisonous gases in the hide.

The distance between the victims has to be a minimum of 10 m and the hides have to be selected in a way that allows for a definitive and distinctive alert.

Used hides may be used again. But when using the same hides, be mindful to exclude the chance of false alerts, insofar as they remain open when they are not being used.

The victim may not participate in assisting with the preparations of the hide prior to being buried.

When locating the VP, the dog may not have any visible and/or physical contact with the victim in levels A and B, the coverage has to be as inconspicuous as possible.

The Trail Layer may not have entered the testing area within the last 14 days. The Trail Layer has to follow the prescribed route by foot as per instructions at a normal pace and speed from a predetermined starting point.

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The Trail Layer starts at a distinctive spot (vehicle, bus stop, bench, in front of a building, crossing or similar). After a short pause at the starting point, the Trail Layer walks at a normal pace in the indicated direction.

The Trail Layer has to give the Test Judge/Test Coordinator an exact plan with all of the necessary information such as distinctive spots for the trail layout, if necessary the route has to be recognisable on a GPS device. The Trail Layer may be a known person but not be a family member of the dog handler.

After the trail has been laid, the Trail Layer may not approach the trail within 2.5 km. The Trail Layer has neither food nor a toy with him.

At least 15 minutes before the test starts, the Trail Layer is taken to the destination in a closed crossing of the trail.

The person to be found (Trail Layer) remains passive and is sitting, lying down or standing at the end of the trail.

Additionally, persons close to the destination have to be at a distance of at least 5 m to the hiding person.