



AMERICAN WORKING DOG ASSOCIATION



WILDERNESS SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) CANINE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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Introduction

In the fall of 2006, the American Working Dog Association (AWDA) agreed to update and promote standards for wilderness canine search and rescue (SAR) certifications. The certifications are designed to benefit the SAR community by offering a certification standard reflecting national standards. Standardization of measured performance and knowledge skills serve as a benchmark to agencies requesting assistance from canine teams.

Working toward this goal, input from experienced canine handlers from around the country was considered. These handlers represented a wide variety of handler's experiences in various SAR working environments and represent a variety of geographic regions.

These new standards were derived from the existing standards in place. All certifications obtained meet or exceed the requirements of the proposed National Incident Management System (NIMS) resource typing according to, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) publication 508-8, *Typed Resource Definitions - Search and Rescue Resources*, 14 November 2005, and the American Standards for Testing and Materials (ASTM) publication F1848-14, *Standards Classification System for Canine Search Resources*. These standards will continue to evolve as changes occur in the FEMA resource typing system. On 10 November 2006, the AWDA Board of Directors unanimously approved this certification program.

In the summer of 2017, the AWDA Wilderness SAR Canine Certification Program was updated to include Wilderness Trailing Type IV and Wilderness Human Remains Detection (HRD) Water certification standards. Additionally, the format was changed to include additional content for clarification of existing certification standards. On 17 October 2017, the AWDA Board of Directors approved the new updated certification program.

In the summer of 2021, the AWDA Wilderness SAR Canine Certification Program was updated to include Wilderness HRD Combination Land/Water - Shore Only Type V and Wilderness HRD Water – Shore Only Type V. On 1 June 2021, the AWDA Board of Directors approved the new updated certification program.

Purpose

AWDA certifications are designed to evaluate the canine team (handler and canine) in real life canine SAR working environments. The handler should have a basic knowledge in search strategy and techniques including an understanding of Probability of Detection (POD), search tactics, effects of weather on canine search and different strategies used in canine search. These will be evaluated during certification testing. Handlers must also have knowledge in human and canine first aid.

The certifications range from basic level to advanced levels and each will be discussed independently of the other. **The certification earned will be valid for one (1) year from the evaluation date for all disciplines.** This is based on the assumption the canine team will continue their training after their initial certifications.

The AWDA Wilderness SAR Canine Certification program will continue to evolve and grow over the years. As the program grows additional disciplines may be added.

Equipment Requirements

AWDA encourages handler to wear equipment during evaluations required by handler's respective unit/organization. If handler chooses not to wear unit/organization required equipment, they should carry, at a minimum, sufficient water for the canine team and any basic survival/safety equipment for the specific discipline, mission and environment, as well as, the health and safety of the canine team.

For Wilderness Human Remains Detection (HRD) Water evaluations, canine team (handler and canine), evaluator and any other participants are required to have a US Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD). This is for both open water and shoreline evaluations. AWDA strongly recommends all personnel participating in an evaluation with water temperatures of 59 degrees or less have an exposure suit, which enhances survival time in the event of a cold-water rescue. Additionally, the boat used for evaluations may be provided by either the evaluator, handler or hosting unit/organization. The boat should be properly registered and include the required safety devices for the evaluation area to include a minimum of two (2) paddles or oars.

Certification

Upon successful completion of the certification requirements for any AWDA Wilderness SAR Canine Certification Program evaluation, a certificate will be issued to the canine team (handler and canine) by AWDA for the canine discipline evaluated. The certificate will contain the official discipline title as it appears in the written standard (i.e., Wilderness Trailing Type III or Wilderness HRD Water – Shore Only Type V). The certificate will contain a unique identifying number provided by the certification evaluator validating the certification even without evaluator signature. The number will contain the year of the certification, a three-digit sequential number, evaluator initials and the two-digit state abbreviation of the evaluator's state of residence (e.g., 2021001JDIL would indicate the first certification conducted by John Doe from Illinois in 2021). The certification signifies the canine team holding the certification has met the requirements of an established standard of knowledge and performance skills. The certification only reflects the performance of the canine team evaluated on the day of certification, and is only valid for the canine team tested.

A canine team may test to any certification they meet the pre-requisite requirements. If a canine team tests for more than one discipline certification, each is evaluated independently of the other. A separate registration form is submitted for each certification and a separate registration/evaluator fee is required for each evaluation.

The evaluation is based on a point system. A passing score is 80 points or higher. The evaluation is conducted by AWDA certified evaluators. Up to three (3) evaluators/apprentice evaluators can be present during a single evaluation. Handlers will be advised of pass/fail results at the end of the entire evaluation in an official debriefing with the evaluators. Debrief will include positive feedback, as well as, constructive criticism. No canine team will be certified until they successfully complete all portions of the evaluation. AWDA will not provide a copy of the score sheet or the evaluation score. The original score sheet, pass or fail, along with the canine registration form is maintained by the evaluator for legal validation purposes. An electronic copy of the canine registration form and score sheet, pass or fail, is maintained by the AWDA SAR Secretary as matter of record.

If an evaluation is stopped by the handler or evaluator due to legitimate safety reasons beyond the control of the handler or evaluator, the handler is allowed to retake the entire evaluation. The first attempt will not be counted as a failure. The evaluator determines what constitutes "legitimate safety reasons." As guidance, these could include severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, dangerously high winds, environmental pollution or other hazardous conditions. In most cases, the requesting agency, team or group selects the evaluation area. A handler who chooses not to search or stops the search due to terrain, fatigue, distractions, injury to self or dog, onset of dusk, etc. will result in a failure.

Legal Precedent: Supreme Court of the United States Florida v. Harris, No.11-817. Argued October 31, 2012 – Decided February 19, 2013, ruled on K9 reliability and concluded: "...if a bona fide organization has certified a dog after testing his reliability in a controlled setting, a court can presume (subject to any conflicting evidence offered) that the dog's alert provides probable cause to search." The term bona fide has been legally defined as: honest, genuine, actual, authentic, acting without the intention of defrauding. The two accepted means of determining an organization to be bona fide is court recognized and nationally recognized. AWDA certifications, both Law Enforcement and SAR, and AWDA certified dogs have been challenged in Federal and/or State courts several times and have been upheld each time. Additionally, having certified evaluators in multiple states who have conducted evaluations and certified canine teams in nearly all 50 states, AWDA is considered nationally recognized, and thus a bona fide organization for canine certifications.

AWDA Fees: All fees due before evaluations are conducted. Evaluations are only conducted for regular members of AWDA in good standing. Regular membership for SAR members is \$75 USD per year. The initial evaluation fee is \$50 USD per canine per discipline (i.e., a new member wanting to evaluate one canine for both an HRD discipline and a trailing discipline would owe \$100 USD; or a member who has previously certified a canine for an HRD discipline with AWDA wanting to evaluate a new canine for an HRD discipline would owe \$50 USD). The renewal evaluation fee is \$25 USD per canine per discipline (i.e., a member wanting to evaluate a canine to renew an existing AWDA certification in both an HRD discipline and an area search discipline would owe \$50 USD). Regular membership includes an AWDA membership card or certificate. Canine certification cards are available for \$10 USD for each canine and may include up to two (2) certification disciplines.

Evaluator Compensation: AWDA certified evaluators are not payroll employees. An evaluator fee of \$25 USD per evaluation is owed separate from AWDA fees. Evaluators should be compensated by host organization or group anytime they are utilized at any AWDA certification seminar. Compensation should include meals, hotels, travel expenses, and normal fees for time invested (industry standard usually \$100 USD per day). Evaluators negotiate their own compensation.

Reevaluation Policy: A reevaluation is defined as: an additional attempt to successfully complete an evaluation; not just the portion failed. In the event a canine team fails an evaluation that team has a minimum of six (6) months to contact the original evaluator to schedule a reevaluation. In the event the original evaluator is unavailable and a second evaluator is contacted to conduct the reevaluation, a copy of the original paperwork (canine registration, failed score sheet, and any notes) must be provided to the new evaluator. Both evaluators must be aware of the original problems for failure of the original evaluation. Only the evaluator fee is required for a reevaluation. If the reevaluation is successful, the certification is valid for one (1) year from the original failed evaluation date. It is the responsibility of the handler to make arrangements for a reevaluation. If not scheduled within six (6) months, all paperwork and additional registration/evaluator fees must be resubmitted for a new evaluation.

Reevaluation on the same evolution (day or seminar) of the failed evaluation is at the sole discretion of the evaluator. If reevaluating on the same evolution, the scoring sheet for the failed evaluation must include “reevaluate immediately” in the comments section. If in the evaluator’s assessment, the canine team requires additional training prior to reevaluation the scoring sheet for the failed evaluation must include “reevaluate in XXXX or XXXX months” in the comments section.

For HRD disciplines, if a canine team fails two (2) stations during an evaluation they have failed the entire evaluation. If a canine team only fails one (1) station during an evaluation, they are allowed one (1) retest on that failed station at a new location as part of the evaluation. If they fail the retest, they have failed the entire evaluation. If a canine team only fails the negative station during an evaluation, they are allowed to retest; however, two (2) retest stations at a new location are set up, one (1) being the failed negative station and the other having source material. The canine team will retest on one (1) of the two (2) retest stations, either the negative or the one with source material, but unaware of which. If they fail the retest, they have failed the entire evaluation. As defined above, the canine team must successfully complete all stations during a reevaluation, not just the stations failed during the original failed evaluation.

Cancellation Policy: AWDA will make every effort to complete the evaluation on the day scheduled. It will be at the sole discretion of the evaluator to make the cancellation. Factors that could affect the certification include, but are not limited to, severe weather, extreme heat/cold or sudden illness.

Appeals Process: All decisions by the evaluator are final on the day of testing; however, a handler may file a written appeal of the evaluation results with the AWDA National SAR Director within thirty (30) days following the evaluation. A written response to the appeal will be returned to the handler within thirty (30) days of receipt of the appeal.

Grievance Policy: Any handler who wishes to file a grievance about an evaluator or an evaluation must do so in writing to the AWDA National SAR Director within thirty (30) days. A written response to the appeal will be returned to the handler within thirty (30) days of the receipt of grievance.

General Requirements for Certification Evaluation:

The AWDA Wilderness SAR Canine Certification Program general requirements for certification were developed from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) publication, 508-8 *Typed Resource Definitions – Search and Rescue Resources*, 14 November 2005, the Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detector (SWGDOG) approved guidelines and the training/experiences of AWDA certified handlers and evaluators. In addition to these general requirements, handlers are expected to have obtained training and experience that includes the necessary knowledge and performance skills to work as a canine team.

All documentation must be available the date of the certification evaluation, if requested by evaluator for review. Documentation copies may be submitted to evaluator for review prior to evaluation date via postal service or electronic mail; however, the documentation copies submitted may not be returned.

1. Canine must be a minimum of twelve (12) months of age. Exception requests may be submitted to the AWDA National SAR Director for consideration.
2. Canine must have proof of current rabies vaccination.
3. Handler must be a member of a Law Enforcement, Emergency Management Agency, SAR, or Fire/Rescue organization with a letter of recommendation from an agency head or direct supervisor. Exception requests may be submitted to the AWDA National SAR Director for consideration.
4. Handler must have completion certificates for the following FEMA Incident Command System (ICS)/Incident Management Systems (IMS) Independent Study (IS) Courses:
 - a. IS-100, *Introduction to ICS* or higher.
 - b. IS-200, *ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incident* or higher.
 - c. IS-700, *National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction* or higher.
5. Handler must have proof of current American Red Cross or equivalent Basic First Aid Course or higher to include nationally approved Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification.
6. Handler must have proof of current canine first aid training.
7. Handler must have proof of canine successful completion of a nationally recognized obedience evaluation which meets or exceeds the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test when conducting any evaluation off lead.
8. Handler must have training records indicating success in the discipline seeking certification over a period of six (6) months. Records will document a minimum of twelve (12) logged training sessions during that time period. Logs should show various training environments, including blind problems.

In addition to the above general requirements for certification evaluation, the following are required for Human Remains Detection (HRD) Land and/or Water certifications:

1. Handler must have proof of current Hazardous Materials Awareness Level training that meets or exceeds requirements of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29CFR1910. This course must have been taught by a person who meets the requirements as shown in OSHA 29CFR1910.
2. Handler must have proof of current Bloodborne Pathogens training that meets or exceeds the requirements of OSHA 29CFR1910. This course must have been taught by a person who meets the requirements as shown in OSHA 29CFR1910.
3. Handler must have proof of current completion of crime scene preservation training that is endorsed by a recognized law enforcement agency and taught by a State or Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified law enforcement personnel or crime scene technician(s).
4. Handler must provide training records indicating success in HRD Land and/or Water, including blind problems over a period of at least six (6) months. Records will document a minimum of twelve (12) logged training sessions during that time period. Logs should show various training sites, i.e., buildings, rubble, elevated, surface, shore line and open water.

General Certification Evaluation Guidelines:

The AWDA Wilderness SAR Canine Certification Program general certification guidelines for all certifications were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines and the training/experiences of AWDA certified handlers and evaluators. These general certification guidelines are in addition to the discipline specific certification guidelines identified within each respective discipline.

1. Evaluator should maintain a professional demeanor during the evaluation.
2. Evaluator will have sole discretion in the administration and conduct of an evaluation to deviate, within reason, from established guidelines due to circumstances beyond their control. Any deviation for one canine team must be afforded to all canine team evaluations during the same evolution (day or seminar) and documented on the score sheet.
3. Evaluator will not take their own evaluation and evaluate other canine teams on the same day.
4. An Evaluator taking their own evaluation will have two evaluators present or prior authorization from either the National Administrator or the National SAR Director for a single evaluator.
5. Evaluator will not be routinely involved in the day-to-day training of the canine team evaluated.
6. Evaluator will not conduct an evaluation of a canine team assigned to the same unit/organization without a second evaluator present who is not assigned to the same unit/organization.
7. Evaluation will not be conducted in an area normally used for daily or routine training (no less than thirty (30) days since last use of the area) of the canine team.
8. Subject(s) must not be someone the canine has routinely trained with in any live-find discipline (trailing or area) nor someone who has recently (within thirty (30) days) been used as a training subject for the canine. The subject should preferably be someone the canine team has never trained with before.
9. Subject(s) will not be an evaluator, handler or flanker/support person participating in the evaluation.
10. No electronic, shock, prong, pinch or choke collars may be used on any canine during any certification. Electronic or shock collars are permitted for use only for canine safety concerns and the device controller should be in plain view of the evaluator.
11. The canine must be under the control of the handler at all times, capable of heeling, moving through crowds, and remaining non-aggressive to both people and other canines. The canine must not bite or snap at either people or other canines, nor growl at humans. The only exception is a canine that is attacked or provoked by another canine or human will not be penalized for self-defense.
12. Canine teams will be dismissed from evaluation if an evaluator observes any act of aggression or act of abuse or neglect of the canine by the handler. Canine teams will not be allowed to continue in the event an act of aggression is observed during the evaluation.
13. Time shall start upon handler giving canine start command, upon scenting canine or by handler or canine entering search area. Time continues during any breaks the canine team requires.
14. Handler is ultimately responsible for the safety of themselves and their canine. Handler should immediately notify evaluator of any safety issues or concern to determine impact to the evaluation.

General Performance Objectives:

The AWDA Wilderness SAR Canine Certification Program general performance objectives for all certifications were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines and the training/experiences of AWDA certified handlers and evaluators. These general performance objectives are in addition to the discipline specific performance objectives identified within each respective discipline.

1. Handler should maintain a professional demeanor during the evaluation.
2. Handler should recognize and articulate the canine's (change of) behavior during the evaluation and the specific final trained response (active and/or passive).
3. Handler should demonstrate ability to properly collect, handle, store and dispose of articles and human scent evidence.
4. Handler should demonstrate the ability to plan efficient search techniques and tactics, as well as, understand the principles of odor dispersion and how dispersion is affected by environmental conditions.
5. Handler should demonstrate the ability to work and control the canine when exposed to a variety of different types of locations, noises, odors, people, other animals and environments.
6. Canine should demonstrate adequate agility for wilderness search activities.
7. Canine should demonstrate sufficient obedience through its reaction to handler's commands.
8. Handler should demonstrate the ability, when provided, to report clearly on a map the areas and/or routes covered, location of alerts/indications, wind direction, and other observed environmental factors which may impact the search effort, as well as, any clues encountered.

Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent)

Overview:

The AWDA Wilderness SAR Canine Certification Program for Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) consists of two (2) separate certification evaluations for Scent Discriminating (scent source necessary) and three (3) separate certification evaluations for Non-Scent Discriminating (locate all human indication in area) meeting or exceeding the requirements of FEMA 508-8 *Typed Resource Definitions – Search and Rescue Resources*, 14 November 2005. These certifications are Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) Type II and Type III for Scent Discriminating and Type II, Type III and Type IV for Non-Scent Discriminating. AWDA currently does not offer a certification for Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) Scent Discriminating Type I, Type IV, and nor Non-Scent Discriminating Type I

The performance objectives and certification guidelines for Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) certifications were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 9 *Non-Specific Human Scent Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent)*, 2 March 2010.

Purpose:

Scent Discriminating human scent wilderness area searches are used to locate a specific person in unpopulated wilderness area through air scenting by a trained canine team. The goal of this type of search is for the canine team to utilize the wind by way of air scenting, to search for and locate a specific person within a defined search area. This differs from other types of searches where the canine follows the subject's foot track/trail.

Non-Scent Discriminating human scent wilderness area searches are used to locate live people in unpopulated wilderness areas through air scenting by a trained canine team. The goal of this type of search is for the canine team to utilize the wind by way of air scenting, to search for and detect live people within a defined search area. This differs from other types of searches where the canine follows the subject's foot track/trail.

Discipline Specific Certification Guidelines for Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent):

In addition to the general certification guidelines identified earlier, the canine team must adhere to the following discipline specific certification guidelines for all Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) evaluations:

1. One (1) support person/flanker, chosen by handler, may accompany the canine team during the evaluation. If used, that person becomes a part of the evaluation and may assist the canine team in mapping, determining distances, and topography, but the initial search strategy must be determined by the handler. If an evaluator observes the support person/flanker influencing the canine team beyond normal working strategies the evaluation will result in a failure.
2. Due to the risk of added liability, no observers other than the appointed support person/flanker, if chosen, and additional evaluator(s) may participate in an evaluation.
3. Should handler visually locate subject prior to the canine alert/indication, the handler will notify the evaluator. The canine team will continue working until the canine demonstrates its final response on subject while articulating to evaluator working strategy and canine changes of behavior. Handler will not influence the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find as articulated to evaluator. If an evaluator observes handler influencing the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find, the evaluation will result in a failure.

Discipline Specific Performance Objectives for Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent):

In addition to the general performance objectives identified earlier, the canine team must demonstrate the following discipline specific performance objectives for Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent):

1. Correctly handle scent article for scent discriminating certifications.
2. Search for subject, giving consideration to weather conditions, wind direction and traffic.
3. Articulate to the evaluator canine's final response on locating the subject.
4. Indicate the proper subject for scent discriminating certifications.

Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) Non-Scent Discriminating Type II

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) Non-Scent Discriminating Type II certification is an advanced certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to locate multiple human scents with a high probability of detection within a large wilderness area.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Subject and evaluation location must meet general certification guidelines.
2. Area must be approximately one hundred and twenty (120) acres or larger in size.
3. One (1) stationary subject within area.
4. One (1) mobile subject within area.
5. Canine team has five (5) hours to complete the evaluation.
6. Evaluation must start during daylight hours and must be completed during nighttime hours.
7. There is no scent article for this evaluation.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must complete the evaluation within five (5) hours.
2. Canine team must complete the evaluation during nighttime hours.
3. Canine must alert on both subjects.
4. Handler must acknowledge both alerts and identify both subjects.

Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) Non-Scent Discriminating Type III

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) Non-Scent Discriminating Type III certification is an intermediate certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to locate human scent with a high probability of detection within a moderately sized wilderness area.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Subject and evaluation location must meet general certification guidelines.
2. Area must be approximately sixty (60) to eighty (80) acres in size.
3. One (1) stationary subject within area.
4. Canine team has two (2) hours and fifteen (15) minutes to complete the evaluation.
5. Evaluation shall be conducted during daylight hours and may go into nighttime hours, if needed.
6. There is no scent article for this evaluation.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must complete evaluation within two (2) hours and fifteen (15) minutes.
2. Canine must alert on subject.
3. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify subject.

Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) Non-Scent Discriminating Type IV

Purpose:

AWDA Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) Non-Scent Discriminating Type IV certification is a basic certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to perform a hasty search and a small area search to locate human scent with a high probability of detection.

Evaluation Specifications:

This evaluation consists of two (2) stations: Station I – Hasty Search and Station II – Small Area Search. Station I must be completed successfully prior to conducting Station II.

1. Station I – Hasty Search
 - a. Subject and evaluation location must meet general certification guidelines.
 - b. Trail, dirt road or fire break must be between one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) to one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) mile in length.
 - c. One (1) stationary subject less than ninety (90) feet from trail, dirt road or fire break.
 - d. Canine team allowed one pass up trail, dirt road or fire break and back down.
 - e. Canine team has thirty (30) minutes to complete the station.
 - f. Evaluation must be conducted during daylight hours.
 - g. There is no scent article for this evaluation.
2. Station II – Small Area Search
 - a. Subject and evaluation location must meet general certification guidelines.
 - b. Area must be approximately forty (40) to sixty (60) acres in size.
 - c. One (1) stationary subject within area.
 - d. Canine team has one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes to complete the station.
 - e. Evaluation must be conducted during daylight hours.
 - f. There is no scent article for this evaluation.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Station I – Hasty Search
 - a. Canine team must complete the evaluation within thirty (30) minutes.
 - b. Canine must alert on subject.
 - c. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify subject.
2. Station II – Small Area Search
 - a. Canine team must complete the evaluation within one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes.
 - b. Canine must alert on subject.
 - c. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify subject.

Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) Scent Discriminating Type II

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) – Scent Discriminating Type II certification is an intermediate certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to locate a specific human scent with a high probability of detection within a moderately sized wilderness area.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Subject and evaluation location must meet general certification guidelines.
2. Area must be approximately sixty (60) to eighty (80) acres in size.
3. One (1) stationary subject within area.
4. One (1) other stationary person within area.
5. Canine team has two (2) hours and fifteen (15) minutes to complete the evaluation.
6. Evaluation must be conducted during daylight hours.
7. Evaluator will provide a non-contaminated scent article for subject.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Handler must properly handle scent article.
2. Canine team must complete the evaluation in two (2) hours and fifteen (15) minutes.
3. Canine must alert on correct subject.
4. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify correct subject.

Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) Scent Discriminating Type III

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent) Scent Discriminating Type III certification is a basic certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to locate a specific human scent with a high probability of detection during a hasty search and within a small wilderness area.

Evaluation Specifications:

This evaluation consists of two (2) stations: Station I – Hasty Search and Station II – Small Area Search. Station I must be completed successfully prior to conducting Station II.

1. Station I – Hasty Search
 - a. Subject and evaluation location must meet general certification guidelines.
 - b. Trail, dirt road or fire break must be between one quarter (¼) to one half (½) mile in length.
 - c. One (1) stationary subject less than ninety (90) feet from trail, dirt road or fire break.
 - d. One (1) other stationary person along trail, dirt road or fire break.
 - e. Canine team allowed one pass up trail, dirt road or fire break and back down.
 - f. Canine team has thirty (30) minutes to complete the station.
 - g. Evaluation must be conducted during daylight hours.
 - h. Evaluator will provide a non-contaminated scent article for subject.
2. Station II – Small Area Search
 - a. Subject and evaluation location must meet general certification guidelines.
 - b. Area must be approximately forty (40) to sixty (60) acres in size.
 - c. One (1) stationary subject within area.
 - d. One (1) other stationary person within area.
 - e. Canine team has one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes to complete the station.
 - f. Evaluation must be conducted during daylight hours.
 - g. Evaluator will provide a non-contaminated scent article for subject.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Station I – Hasty Search
 - a. Handler must properly handle scent article.
 - b. Canine team must complete the evaluation within thirty (30) minutes.
 - c. Canine must alert on correct subject.
 - d. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify correct subject.
2. Station II – Small Area Search
 - a. Handler must properly handle scent article.
 - b. Canine team must complete the evaluation within one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes.
 - c. Canine must alert on correct subject.
 - d. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify correct subject.

Wilderness Trailing

Overview:

The AWDA Wilderness SAR Canine Certification Program for Wilderness Trailing consists of three (3) separate certification evaluations meeting or exceeding the requirements of FEMA 508-8 *Typed Resource Definitions – Search and Rescue Resources*, 14 November 2005. These certifications are Wilderness Trailing Type IV, Type III, Type II and Type I. AWDA currently does not offer a certification for Type - Other.

Note: As these dogs use scent articles, they are commonly referred to as trailing dogs; however, occasionally a unit or organization may refer to such dogs as tracking dogs. They do have the capability of human discrimination between sources with the aid of a provided scent source. Care should be taken to determine if a tracking dog requires the use of an article or not.

The performance objectives and certification guidelines for Wilderness Trailing certifications were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 9 *Human Scent Dogs, Pre-Scented Canine – Aged Trail Search*, 15 September 2010 and SWGDOG SC 9 *Human Scent Dogs, Tracking/Trailing People Based on Last Known Position*, 3 March 2010.

Purpose:

Pre-scented canine aged trail searches use a canine team to search for and follow aged trails of a specific person's (subject) scent over different surface types. Prior to the start of the search, the canine is "scented" on an object (scent article) containing the subject's scent. The canine works from an article to either a person or a location associated with that person. The goal is for the canine to detect and use a specific person's scent article to either search for and follow a matching scent trail to this specific person or a location associated with this person while discriminating from all non-matching scent trails, or to correctly demonstrate the absence of a matching scent trail. Canines used in this discipline are typically deployed in search and rescue and forensic investigative functions, and typically not in immediate apprehension functions (law enforcement).

Tracking or trailing people based on their last known position is the area of canine scent detection that utilizes a canine team to search for and follow a specific person's track or trail after the canine has been started on the person's last known position or a scented article associated with that person. The primary goal is for the canine to detect and follow the track or trail to the exclusion of all other tracks or trails, leading to a specific person, location, and/or article associated with that person. This is done within the canine team's mission-specific environment. A secondary goal of this task may be to locate articles left by this specific person along the track or trail.

Discipline Specific Certification Guidelines for Wilderness Trailing:

In addition to the general certification guidelines identified earlier, the canine team must adhere to the following discipline specific certification guidelines for all Wilderness Trailing evaluations:

1. One (1) support person/flanker, chosen by handler, may accompany the canine team during the evaluation. If used, that person becomes a part of the evaluation and may assist the canine team in mapping, determining distances, and topography, but the initial search strategy must be determined by the handler. If an evaluator observes the support person/flanker influencing the canine team beyond normal working strategies the evaluation will result in a failure.
2. Due to the risk of added liability, no observers other than the appointed support person/flanker, if chosen, and additional evaluator(s) may participate in an evaluation.
3. Should handler visually locate subject prior to the canine alert/indication, the handler will notify the evaluator. The canine team will continue working until the canine demonstrates its final response on subject while articulating to evaluator working strategy and canine changes of behavior. Handler will not influence the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find as articulated to evaluator. If an evaluator observes handler influencing the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find, the evaluation will result in a failure.
4. If canine team travels more than three hundred (300) feet (estimated) in the wrong direction of the point last seen (PLS), the evaluator may allow one (1) restart to establish correct direction of travel (DOT). A restart is at the sole discretion of handler. If canine team restarts and travels more than three hundred (300) feet (estimated) in the wrong direction again, the evaluation will result in a failure.
5. If canine team loses the trail, handler may provide evaluator with information in regards to the last known location of scent, indicate location on a map (if provided), and be allowed to return to that location in an attempt to relocate the trail.

6. The evaluation shall stop once the canine has demonstrated its final response on the proper subject, the handler has acknowledged the correct subject, and the canine team are both at the subject's location with the handler indicating they have completed their search and located the subject.
7. Evaluator should only know PLS, DOT and final location of Subject.

Discipline Specific Performance Objectives for Wilderness Trailing:

In addition to the general performance objectives identified earlier, the canine team must demonstrate the following discipline specific performance objectives for Wilderness Trailing:

1. Establish DOT from PLS.
2. Correctly handle scent article.
3. Follow the path taken by subject, giving consideration to weather conditions, wind direction and traffic.
4. Traverse through changes in vegetation, terrain, features such as road or trails and changes in direction.
5. Articulate to evaluator canine's final response on locating subject.
6. Indicate the proper subject at end of track.

Wilderness Trailing Type I

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness Trailing Type I certification is an advanced certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to DOT from PLS of travel and follow a significantly aged trail a longer distance through wilderness terrain to locate a single subject.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Subject and evaluation location must meet general certification guidelines.
2. One (1) stationary subject with two (2) additional persons at end of track/trail, separated by at least ten (10), but no more than twenty (20) feet. Only subject lays the track/trail.
3. Track/trail must be between one (1) and one and one half (1 ½) miles in length.
4. Track/trail must be aged between twenty-four (24) and thirty-six (36) hours.
5. Track/trail will have multiple human distractions, such as one or more fresher cross-track(s), one or more scent article(s) other than subject along the track/trail, an additional person along the track/trail and/or a heavily contaminated PLS.
6. PLS must be flagged.
7. Canine team has two (2) hours and thirty (30) minutes to complete the evaluation.
8. Evaluation must be conducted during daylight hours.
9. Evaluator will provide a non-contaminated scent article for subject.
10. Evaluator may have subject leave additional non-contaminated scent article(s) along the track/trail.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must determine correct DOT of subject.
2. Handler must properly handle scent article(s).
3. Canine team must complete the evaluation within two (2) hours and thirty (30) minutes.
4. Canine must alert on correct subject.
5. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify correct subject.

Wilderness Trailing Type II

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness Trailing Type II certification is an intermediate certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to DOT from PLS of travel and follow a moderately aged trail a moderate distance through wilderness terrain to locate a single subject.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Subject and evaluation location must meet general certification guidelines.
2. One (1) stationary subject with two (2) additional persons at end of track/trail, separated by at least ten (10), but no more than twenty (20) feet. Only subject lays the track/trail.
3. Track/trail must be between one (1) and one and one half (1 ½) miles in length.
4. Track/trail must be aged between four (4) and twelve (12) hours.
5. PLS must be flagged.
6. Canine team has two (2) hours to complete the evaluation.
7. Evaluation must be conducted during daylight hours.
8. Evaluator will provide a non-contaminated scent article for subject.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must determine correct DOT of subject.
2. Handler must properly handle scent article.
3. Canine team must complete the evaluation within two (2) hours.
4. Canine must alert on correct subject.
5. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify correct subject.

Wilderness Trailing Type III

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness Trailing Type III certification is a basic certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to determine DOT from PLS and follow a fresh trail a short distance through wilderness terrain to locate a single subject.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Subject and evaluation location must meet general certification guidelines.
2. One (1) stationary subject with two (2) additional persons at end of track/trail, separated by at least ten (10), but no more than twenty (20) feet. Only subject lays the track/trail.
3. Track/trail must be between one half (½) to one (1) mile in length.
4. Track/trail must be aged between one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes to four (4) hours.
5. PLS must be flagged.
6. Canine team has one (1) hour to complete the evaluation.
7. Evaluation must be conducted during daylight hours.
8. Evaluator will provide a non-contaminated scent article for subject.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must determine correct DOT of subject.
2. Handler must properly handle scent article.
3. Canine team must complete the evaluation within one (1) hour.
4. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify correct subject.

Wilderness Trailing Type IV

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness Trailing Type IV certification is a basic certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to determine DOT from PLS and follow a fresh trail a short distance through wilderness terrain to locate a single subject.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Subject and evaluation location must meet general certification guidelines.
2. One (1) stationary subject.
3. Track/trail must be between one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) to one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) mile in length.
4. Track/trail must be aged between thirty (30) minutes to one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes.
5. PLS must be flagged.
6. Canine team has one (1) hour to complete the evaluation.
7. Evaluation must be conducted during daylight hours.
8. Evaluator will provide a non-contaminated scent article for subject.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must determine correct DOT of subject.
2. Handler must properly handle scent article.
3. Canine team must complete the evaluation within one (1) hour.
4. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify correct subject.

Wilderness Human Remains Detection (HRD) Land

Overview:

The AWDA Wilderness SAR Canine Certification Program for Wilderness HRD Land certification consists of four (4) separate certification evaluations meeting or exceeding the requirements of FEMA 508-8 *Typed Resource Definitions – Search and Rescue Resources*, 14 November 2005. These certifications are Wilderness HRD Type III and Type IV (Non-Disaster Operations), Type - Other, and a Combination Land/Water – Shore Only Type V. AWDA currently does not offer a certification for Type I and Type II (Disaster Operations). The certification evaluations will test the ability of the canine team to locate human remains in small wilderness areas, within a vehicle and large fresh stillwater bodies of water from shore only.

The performance objectives and certification guidelines for Wilderness HRD Land certifications were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 8 *Human Remains detection (HRD) Land and Water*, 15 September 2009.

Purpose:

Wilderness HRD searches use canine teams to search for, accurately locate, and indicate various scent sources of human remains, both above and below ground in wilderness environments. Canines may indicate either passive, such as sit or down or active such as barking, touching or recall/refind or a combination of both.

Discipline Specific Certification Guidelines for Wilderness HRD Land:

In addition to the general certification guidelines identified earlier, the canine team must adhere to the following discipline specific certification guidelines for all Wilderness Trailing evaluations:

1. One (1) support person/flanker, chosen by handler, may accompany the canine team during the evaluation. If used, that person becomes a part of the evaluation and may assist the canine team in mapping, determining distances, and topography, but the initial search strategy must be determined by the handler. If an evaluator observes the support person/flanker influencing the canine team beyond normal working strategies the evaluation will result in a failure.
2. Due to the risk of added liability, no observers other than the appointed support person/flanker, if chosen, and additional evaluator(s) may participate in an evaluation.
3. Should handler visually locate source material prior to the canine alert/indication, the handler will notify the evaluator. The canine team will continue working until the canine demonstrates its final response on source material while articulating to evaluator working strategy and canine changes of behavior. Handler will not influence the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find as articulated to evaluator. If an evaluator observes handler influencing the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find, the evaluation will result in a failure.
4. Pseudo scent material will not be used. Scent material will consist of aged (more than one week) blood, bodily fluids, bone, tissue or a combination thereof in the required amounts for the respective certification.
5. Handler will not be told the wilderness HRD stations during the evaluation.
6. The evaluation shall stop once the canine has demonstrated its final response on the proper source material, the handler has acknowledged the final response, and the canine team are both at the source material location with the handler indicating they have completed their search and located the source material.
7. Should canine team or support person/flanker allow source material to be willfully contaminated or unnecessarily disturbed/damaged, the evaluator, at their discretion, may stop the evaluation and the evaluation will result in a failure.

Discipline Specific Performance Objectives for Wilderness HRD Land:

In addition to the general performance objectives identified earlier, the canine team must demonstrate the following discipline specific performance objectives for Wilderness Trailing:

1. Canine must alert on the source material for each wilderness station containing source material.
2. Canine must alert within the prescribed distance for each wilderness station containing source material.
3. Handler must acknowledge the alert for each wilderness station and identify the location of the source material for each wilderness station.
4. Traverse through changes in vegetation, terrain, and features such as road or trails.

Wilderness HRD Land Stations

Station 1 – Elevated

This portion of the evaluation will test the ability of the canine team to perform a hasty search of a high probability area to locate human remains. The canine team will be expected to locate a single source material elevated no less than four (4) feet and no higher than twenty (20) feet. The evaluation should be completed in less than thirty (30) minutes including any breaks taken. Alert/indication(s) should be within one and one half (1 ½) times the height of the source material (i.e., if source material is elevated six (6) feet, alert should be identified within a radius of nine (9) feet of source material).

Station 2 – Ground Level

This portion of the evaluation will test the ability of the canine team to perform a hasty search of a high probability area to locate human remains. The canine team will be expected to locate a single source material at ground level. The source material may be covered with various material such as logs, rocks or brush. The evaluation should be completed in less than thirty (30) minutes including any breaks taken. Alert/indication(s) should be within three (3) feet of source material.

Station 3 – Buried

This portion of the evaluation will test the ability of the canine team to perform a hasty search of a high probability area to locate human remains. The canine team will be expected to locate a single source material buried not less than six (6) inches deep and no more than three (3) feet deep. The evaluation should be completed in less than thirty (30) minutes including any breaks taken. Alert/indication(s) should be within three (3) feet of source material.

Station 4 – Negative

This portion of the evaluation will test the ability of the canine team to perform a hasty search of a high probability area to locate human remains. The canine team will be expected to clear an area without alerting handler source material has been found. There can be a minimum of two (2) animal scent sources and two (2) holes dug or two (2) disturbed areas in the search area. The evaluation should be completed in less than thirty (30) minutes including any breaks taken.

Wilderness HRD Vehicle Station

This portion of the Wilderness HRD Land Type III evaluation will test the ability of the canine team to perform a hasty search in or on a vehicle of a high probability area to locate human remains. The canine team will be expected to locate a single source material placed in or on one (1) of three (3) vehicles. The evaluation should be completed in less than ten (10) minutes including any breaks taken. Alert/indication(s) should be on the correct vehicle and within three (3) feet of source material.

Wilderness Combo Land/Water - Shore Only Station

This portion of the Wilderness HRD Combination Land/Water – Shore Only Type V evaluation will test the ability of the canine team to perform a hasty search of a high probability area of a large fresh stillwater body of water from shore only to locate human remains. The body of water used for evaluation may be a lake, pond, river or other body of water and requires a minimum of approximately five (5) acre size search area. The canine team will be expected to locate a single source material submerged a minimum depth of two (2) to maximum depth of fifteen (15) feet placed between five (5) and twenty (20) feet from shore. The evaluation should be completed in less than thirty (30) minutes including any breaks taken. Alert/indication(s) should be within five (5) feet to either side of a perpendicular line from source material to shoreline.

Wilderness HRD Land Type III

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness HRD Land Type III certification is an advanced certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to locate human remains in small wilderness areas and within a vehicle.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Evaluation locations must meet general certification guidelines.
2. Four wilderness stations (Elevated, Ground Level, Buried, and Negative)
3. Each station will be approximately one (1) acre (208.7 feet x 208.7 feet) in size.
4. Canine team has thirty (30) minutes per wilderness station to complete the evaluation.
5. One (1) vehicle station consisting of three (3) vehicles.
6. Canine team has ten (10) minutes for the vehicle station to complete the evaluation.
7. Source material between five (5) and fifteen (15) grams.
8. Source material should sit a minimum of thirty (30) minutes prior to evaluation.
9. Minimum of two (2) animal scent sources in Negative station.
10. Minimum of two (2) dug holes or two (2) disturbed areas in Negative station.
11. Evaluation conducted during daylight hours.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must successfully complete each wilderness station within thirty (30) minutes per station.
2. Canine team must successfully complete vehicle station within ten (10) minutes.
3. Canine must alert on the source material for each station containing source material.
4. Canine must alert within the prescribed distance for each station containing source material.
5. Handler must acknowledge the alert for each station and identify the location of the source material for each station containing source material.

Wilderness HRD Land Type IV

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness HRD Land Type IV certification is an intermediate certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to locate human remains in small wilderness areas.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Evaluation locations must meet general certification guidelines.
2. Four wilderness stations (Elevated, Ground Level, Buried, and Negative)
3. Each station will be approximately one (1) acre (208.7 feet x 208.7 feet) in size.
4. Canine team has thirty (30) minutes per station to complete the evaluation.
5. Source material between five (5) and fifteen (15) grams.
6. Source material should sit a minimum of thirty (30) minutes prior to evaluation.
7. Minimum of two (2) animal scent sources in Negative station.
8. Minimum of two (2) dug holes or two (2) disturbed areas in Negative station.
9. Evaluation conducted during daylight hours.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must complete each wilderness station within thirty (30) minutes per station.
2. Canine must alert on the source material for each wilderness station containing source material.
3. Canine must alert within the prescribed distance for each wilderness station containing source material.
4. Handler must acknowledge the alert for each wilderness station and identify the location of the source material for each wilderness station containing source material.

Wilderness HRD Land Type - Other

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness HRD Land Type - Other certification is a basic certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to locate human remains in small wilderness areas.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Evaluation locations must meet general certification guidelines.
2. Four wilderness stations (Elevated, Ground Level, Buried, and Negative)
3. Each station will be approximately one (1) acre (208.7 feet x 208.7 feet) in size.
4. Canine team has thirty (30) minutes per station to complete the evaluation.
5. Source material sixteen (16) grams or more.
6. Source material should sit a minimum of thirty (30) minutes prior to evaluation.
7. Minimum of two (2) animal scent sources in Negative station.
8. Minimum of two (2) dug holes or two (2) disturbed areas in Negative station.
9. Evaluation conducted during daylight hours.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must complete each wilderness station within thirty (30) minutes per station.
2. Canine must alert on the source material for each wilderness station containing source material.
3. Canine must alert within the prescribed distance for each wilderness station containing source material.
4. Handler must acknowledge the alert for each wilderness station and identify the location of the source material for each wilderness station containing source material.

Wilderness HRD Combination Land/Water - Shore Only Type V

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness HRD Combination Land/Water – Shore Only Type V certification is an intermediate combined certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to locate human remains in small wilderness areas and in very large fresh stillwater wilderness environments from shore only.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Land Portion
 - a. Evaluation locations must meet general certification guidelines.
 - b. Four wilderness stations (Elevated, Ground Level, Buried, and Negative)
 - c. Each station will be approximately one (1) acre (208.7 feet x 208.7 feet) in size.
 - d. Source material between five (5) and fifteen (15) grams.
 - e. Minimum of two (2) animal scent sources in Negative station.
 - f. Minimum of two (2) dug holes or two (2) disturbed areas in Negative station.
 - g. Source material should sit a minimum of thirty (30) minutes prior to evaluation.
 - h. Canine team has thirty (30) minutes per station to complete the evaluation.
 - i. Evaluation conducted during daylight hours.

2. Water - Shore Only Portion
 - a. Station must be a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) feet in length with boundaries clearly marked along a body of water approximately five (5) acres (may be a lake, pond, river or other body of water).
 - b. Source material between seventy-five (75) and one hundred (100) grams in scent pump or perforated container.
 - c. Source material submerged a minimum depth of two (2) to maximum depth of fifteen (15) feet.
 - d. Source material should be placed between five (5) and twenty (20) feet from shore.
 - e. Source material should not be visible from shore.
 - f. Source material anchor line (if used) should be placed outside clearly marked boundaries.
 - g. Source material should sit a minimum of thirty (30) minutes prior to evaluation.
 - h. Canine team has thirty (30) minutes to complete the station.
 - i. Evaluation conducted during daylight hours.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must complete each wilderness station within thirty (30) minutes per station.
2. Canine must alert on the source material for each wilderness station containing source material.
3. Canine must alert within the prescribed distance for each wilderness station containing source material.
4. Handler must acknowledge the alert for each wilderness station and identify the location of the source material for each wilderness station containing source material.
5. Canine team must complete shore only station within thirty (30) minutes.
6. Canine must alert within five (5) feet to either side of a perpendicular line from source material to shore.
7. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify the approximate location of the source material.

Wilderness Human Remains Detection (HRD) Water

Overview:

The AWDA Wilderness SAR Canine Certification Program for Wilderness HRD Water certification consists of two (2) separate certification evaluations meeting or exceeding the requirements of FEMA 508-8 *Typed Resource Definitions – Search and Rescue Resources*, 14 November 2005. These certifications are Wilderness HRD Water – Shore Only Type V and Wilderness HRD Water Type VI. AWDA currently does not offer a certification for Type I, Type III and Type IV (Swiftwater Operations) nor for Type II requiring multiple types of watercraft. The certification evaluations will test the ability of the canine team to locate human remains in very large fresh water wilderness environments from both boat and shore.

The performance objectives and certification guidelines for Wilderness HRD Land certifications were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 8 *Human Remains detection (HRD) Land and Water*, 15 September 2009.

Purpose:

Wilderness HRD Water searches use canine teams to search for, accurately locate, and indicate various scent sources of human remains, both from shore line and open water in wilderness environments. Canines may indicate either passive, such as sit or down or active, such as barking, touching, recall/refind or a combination of both.

Discipline Specific Certification Guidelines for Wilderness HRD Water:

In addition to the general certification guidelines identified earlier, the canine team must adhere to the following discipline specific certification guidelines for all Wilderness Trailing evaluations:

1. One (1) support person/flanker, chosen by handler, may accompany the canine team during the evaluation. If used, that person becomes a part of the evaluation and may assist the canine team in mapping, determining distances, and topography, but the initial search strategy must be determined by the handler. If an evaluator observes the support person/flanker influencing the canine team beyond normal working strategies the evaluation will result in a failure.
2. Due to the risk of added liability, no observers other than the appointed support person/flanker, if chosen, and additional evaluator(s) may participate in an evaluation.
3. Should handler visually locate source material prior to the canine alert/indication, the handler will notify the evaluator. The canine team will continue working until the canine demonstrates its final response on source material while articulating to evaluator working strategy and canine changes of behavior. Handler will not influence the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find as articulated to evaluator. If an evaluator observes handler influencing the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find, the evaluation will result in a failure.
4. The body of water used for evaluation may be a lake, stream, pond, river or other body of water. Both shore and open water stations require a minimum of approximately five (5) acre size search area for each. If conducting both stations on the same body of water, the minimum size of the search area is approximately ten (10) acres.
5. Evaluation should not be conducted on a body of water with a flowing current used for training in the past two (2) weeks and should not be used on a body of still water with no current in the past four (4) weeks.
6. Pseudo scent material will not be used. Scent material will consist of aged (more than one week) blood, bodily fluids, bone, tissue or a combination there of in the required amounts for the respective certification.
7. Should canine team allow source material to be contaminated or disturbed the evaluator may stop the evaluation and the result will be a fail for the canine team.
8. Any participant in the evaluation within twenty (20) feet of water's edge must have a US Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD), properly fitted and worn. Handler must provide canine PFD.
9. If evaluation is conducted in water temperatures of 59 degrees or less, it is highly recommended any participant have an exposure suit to enhance survival during a cold-water rescue.
10. If canine team is unable to enter/exit boat on their own, or if handler is unable to control canine while on the boat or respond appropriately to boat operator's direction the evaluation may be stopped and result in a failure.
11. If evaluator believes the canine team is acting in an unsafe manner or in such a way as to jeopardize the safety of the boat and its occupants the evaluation may be stopped and result in a failure.
12. Unless coordinated otherwise with evaluator, a boat and boat operator for the open water station must be obtained by the handler or host organization. Evaluator has final determination on the boat selection to operate safely on the body of water used for evaluation. Regardless of the means of propulsion, the boat must contain at least two (2) paddles or oars.

13. Source material for open water station may either be suspended or floated with sufficient weight to prevent drift or marine life interference. A light cable may also be used with sufficient floatation to maintain the source material weight. The source material may also be tethered to a corner or other boundary marker using a weighted line or cable.
14. If a scent pump is used, the tubing and other mechanical portions must be set a minimum of thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of evaluation and the scent generator shall start not less than five (5) minutes prior to the start of the evaluation. If the scent pump is utilized, there may not be any visible bubbles during the evaluation. During shoreline evaluations, scent pump must be set up a minimum of twenty-five (25) yards down wind or down current from the end of the evaluation area. In all cases, the hoses and other mechanical components used shall be placed or concealed in such a manner that neither the handler nor canine can visually observe any part of the scent pump equipment within the evaluation area. All joints, seams and attachment points, with the exception of the end, shall be sealed in such a manner as to prevent any odor from escaping. The hoses, pipes and any other portion that are placed in the water shall be weighted to prevent their floating to the surface.

Discipline Specific Performance Objectives for Wilderness HRD Water:

In addition to the general performance objectives identified earlier, the canine team must demonstrate the following discipline specific performance objectives for Wilderness Trailing:

1. Canine team must be able to enter/exit boat on their own.
2. Handler must be able to control canine and respond to boat operator's direction while on the boat.
3. Handler must demonstrate ability to communicate with boat operator to maneuver through the search area.
4. Traverse through changes in vegetation, terrain, and features along shoreline.

Wilderness HRD Water - Shore Only Type V

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness HRD Water – Shore Only Type V certification is an intermediate certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to locate human remains in very large fresh still water wilderness environments from shore only.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Evaluation location must meet general and discipline specific certification guidelines.
2. Station must be a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) feet in length with boundaries clearly marked along a body of water approximately five (5) acres (may be a lake, pond, river or other body of water).
3. Source material between seventy-five (75) and one hundred (100) grams in scent pump or perforated container.
4. Source material submerged a minimum depth of two (2) to maximum depth of fifteen (15) feet.
5. Source material should be placed between five (5) and twenty (20) feet from shore.
6. Source material should not be visible from shore.
7. Source material anchor line (if used) should be placed outside clearly marked boundaries.
8. Source material should sit a minimum of thirty (30) minutes prior to evaluation.
9. Canine team has thirty (30) minutes to complete the evaluation.
10. Evaluation conducted during daylight hours.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must complete station within thirty (30) minutes.
2. Canine must alert within five (5) feet to either side of a perpendicular line from source material to shore.
3. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify the approximate location of the source material.

Wilderness HRD Water Type VI

Purpose:

The AWDA Wilderness HRD Water Type VI certification is an intermediate certification developed to evaluate the minimum knowledge and performance skills possessed by a canine team to locate human remains in very large fresh stillwater wilderness environments from both shore and boat.

Evaluation Specifications:

This evaluation consists of two (2) stations: Station 1 – Shore Only and Station 2 – Open Water.

1. Station 1 – Shore Only

1. Evaluation location must meet general and discipline specific certification guidelines.
2. Station must be a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) feet in length with boundaries clearly marked along a body of water approximately five (5) acres (may be a lake, pond, river or other body of water).
3. Source material between seventy-five (75) and one hundred (100) grams in scent pump or perforated container.
4. Source material submerged a minimum depth of two (2) to maximum depth of fifteen (15) feet.
5. Source material placed between five (5) and twenty (20) feet from shore.
6. Source material should not be visible from shore.
7. Source material anchor line (if used) should be placed outside clearly marked boundaries.
8. Source material should sit a minimum of thirty (30) minutes prior to evaluation.
9. Canine team has thirty (30) minutes to complete the station.
10. Evaluation conducted during daylight hours.

2. Station 2 – Open Water

1. Evaluation location must meet general and discipline specific certification guidelines.
2. Area must be open water approximately five (5) acres in size marked by either physical landmarks or visible floating markers.
3. Source material three hundred (300) grams or more for a perforated container or fifty (50) grams or more for scent pump.
4. Source material submerged at depth of six (6) to eighteen (18) feet with twelve (12) feet being the optimum depth.
5. Source material should sit a minimum of thirty (30) minutes prior to evaluation.
6. Canine team has thirty (30) minutes to complete the station.
7. Evaluation conducted during daylight hours.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Station 1 – Shore Only

1. Canine team must complete station within thirty (30) minutes.
2. Canine must alert within five (5) feet to either side of a perpendicular line from source material to shore.
3. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify the location of the source material.

2. Station 2 – Open Water

1. Canine team must complete station within thirty (30) minutes.
2. Canine must alert to location of source material location.
3. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify the location of the source material.