

Title: NCSARAC K9 Evaluators Training Course

I. Introduction

The most important aspect of developing a professional canine team is providing quality training. A properly trained canine has the ability to save lives. We have a great responsibility as search and rescue volunteers. We are called upon to use highly trained resources to help in the mission of saving lives. Failing to train a canine to industry standards and fielding that same canine that is unprepared for the task not only damages the image of SAR dogs everywhere but can also lead to unnecessary litigation. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct performance evaluations of canine teams to ensure that the individual training practices of responding volunteer resources within the state of North Carolina complies with minimum industry standards. The purpose of this block of instruction is to teach you, the student, how to fairly and properly administer a practical test, record your observations, and debrief the canine team attempting qualification per NCSARAC K9 standards of performance.

II. Body

A. PURPOSE and SCOPE OF THE STANDARD

1. The North Carolina Search and Rescue Advisory Council (NCSARAC) developed a committee of member Search and Rescue Agencies/Units with canine capabilities in 2003. The group was given the task to develop canine standards to be reviewed and adopted by the council to ensure minimum capabilities of canine resources deployed under the Memorandum of Agreement between the North Carolina Search and Rescue Advisory Council and the State of North Carolina, Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management (NCEM).¹
2. The objective was to establish qualifications and testing procedures for canine units.
3. These standards are intended to assist Incident Commanders and their staff in properly assessing and typing canine resources.
4. These standards are intended to define minimum qualifications and performance capabilities of air scenting wilderness area search and scent specific trailing canines.
5. These proposed standards of the NCSARAC are not intended to replace or compete with individual agency standards. To the contrary, additional capabilities, qualifications and certifications should be encouraged in all canine units to improve effectiveness and professionalism in North Carolina's Search and Rescue canine resources.

B. PREREQUISITES AND QUALIFICATIONS

Canine Teams (Handler and Canine) must be recommended for performance testing by the appropriate authority of a NCSARAC SAR Group Member. The recommending Member will be responsible for signing off on the following prerequisites:

1. The handler is an operational K9 SAR resource for his/her agency.

¹ MOA with State of NC Emergency Management Division

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2. The canine is a minimum of one year of age and has a minimum of six months of search training such that the canine can consistently perform to the minimum level of performance outlined in these standards.
3. The handler has training records to support the training requirement. These training records are subject to review at the discretion of the Evaluator or the NCSARAC Board of Directors.
4. The canine has successfully completed an obedience/control evaluation within their own team. If the Evaluator has reasonable concern about proper socialization and handler control they may request the canine be retested prior to performance testing with NCSARAC.
5. That the canine is current on rabies vaccination as required by North Carolina law and in good general health.
6. That the handler has attended a canine first aid class or has practical experience such that they are able to render first aid to their canine partner. Such canine first aid knowledge should include: 1) knowledge of normal physiological parameters for and assessments of a canine heart rate, respiratory rate and core body temperature; 2) ability to recognize signs of heat exhaustion, hypothermia, shock, and dehydration in a canine; (3) ability to improvise a muzzle to control a canine during emergency medical treatment; (4) ability to bandage a minor laceration and (5) ability to immobilize a limb.
7. That the handler has understanding of scent and scent transport theory. Following briefing on the search test and prior to deployment the Evaluator may ask the handler for their search strategy. The Evaluators will also debrief the handler following the evaluation. Handlers must be able to justify their search strategy based on the terrain characteristics, weather conditions, visibility and wind direction.
8. That the handler understands sources of scent articles and how to collect an uncontaminated scent article.
9. That the handler is able to translate field activities onto a topographic map, including route taken, areas searched and areas not searched, canine alerts, clues found and wind direction.

If requested by the SAR Group Member and approved by the NCSARAC, Evaluators can assist in signing off on the prerequisites.

C. SEARCH TEST PROCEDURES

There will be two evaluators for the search operations test. At least one evaluator will be independent of the handler/canine team and their agency. The evaluators will score the search operations test on a pass/fail basis. The canine will be evaluated based on willingness, interest and accuracy. The handler will be evaluated based on ability to read the canine, make appropriate adjustments to search strategy and overall control of his/her canine. At the conclusion of the test the evaluators will debrief the handler and compare their conclusions. In the event there are conflicting ratings that the Evaluators cannot resolve, the team will be given a no test rating and asked to repeat the test. Teams which do not pass the search test will be allowed to retest at the next earliest opportunity if requested by the NCSARAC Member. Evaluators will act as judges and facilitators for the test. Evaluators will designate the area and conditions of the test based on weather and terrain conditions within approved guidelines. Evaluators will make every effort not to interfere with or distract the dog. Uncontaminated scent articles will be made available or may be collected by the handler as necessary.

D. SEARCH TEST – AIR SCENT

An area of approximately 40 to 80 acres, to be determined by evaluator based on terrain, will be used for the evaluation. The area should be mostly wooded with at least some light to moderate underbrush. The area should not contain large areas of extreme terrain. Weather conditions should not be extreme. The evaluation will be conducted during daylight hours. The search area will contain one victim who will be placed in the search area one to three hour prior to the evaluation. The victim will be quiet and well concealed, wearing muted clothing, during the test. Wherever possible, the victim will be a person unfamiliar to the canine.

The canine team will be allowed to work on-lead or off-lead. The handler should be able to direct search activity according to wind, terrain and cover. The handler will explain to the Evaluators the canine's trained indication prior to the beginning of the test. The handler should also verbalize when he/she reads the canine has indicated/alerted on the victim. The canine should make a self-directed find and indication such that handler can locate the victim. The team will have a maximum of two hours to complete the area. The team may call for a break during the test as needed. Breaks do not count toward the time. The Evaluators may terminate the test at any time if unsafe conditions exist or if they have observed enough to determine that the team will not pass.

E. SEARCH TEST – TRAILING

The canine team will be evaluated utilizing a trail of approximately ½ mile aged 8 to 12 hours over multiple terrain features. The trail will contain at least two turns and will have at least one fresher cross trail laid over it by another person. The area should be mostly wooded with at least some light to moderate underbrush. The area should not contain large areas of extreme terrain. Weather conditions should not be extreme. The evaluation will be conducted during daylight hours. The search area will contain one victim who will be placed in the search area approximately one hour prior to the evaluation. The victim will be quiet and well concealed, wearing muted clothing, during the test. Wherever possible the victim will be a person unfamiliar to the canine.

The canine team will be allowed to work on-lead or off-lead. The canine team will be given a LKP for the victim and should be able to obtain a direction of travel for the victim and follow the trail to the victim. If the team loses the trail the handler must be able to recognize this and be able to restart the canine at a point on the trail where the canine had the trail. If the canine team is working off-lead, the handler will explain to the Evaluators the canine's trained indication prior to the beginning of the evaluation. Handler should also verbalize when he/she reads the canine has indicated/alerted on the victim. The team will have a maximum of two hours to complete the area. The team may call for a break during the test as needed. Breaks do not count toward the time. The Evaluators may terminate the test at any time if unsafe conditions exist or if they have observed enough to determine that the team will not pass.

F. EVALUATORS

Evaluators will be recommended by SAR Group Members and approved by the NCSARAC Board of Directors. Evaluators shall have **high integrity, be well respected, highly experienced in the training of air scent and/or trailing canines**, and have **experience with search and rescue operations**. Evaluators shall have a minimum of three years operational experience working a canine in the areas of air scent and/or trailing and handled a canine on a minimum of 10 incidents. Canine evaluators shall provide a negative criminal background check and agree to abide by standard operating guidelines as approved by the NCSARAC.

F. INTERPRETATION AND EVALUATOR DISCRETION

Any document is up for interpretation. The US Constitution is a prime example of a document, when interpreted by the justices, can often be found to mean different things to different people. In order to fairly administer an evaluation for the NCSARAC, the evaluators must understand and agree on what is open for individual interpretation and what is not. In this section, we will review some of the likely interpretations or misinterpretations of the standard.

Understanding the difference between subjective and objective interpretation and criteria is important to ensure fairness in grading the testing criteria. In order to maintain a certain level of objective interpretation, guidelines for assigning scores have been provided.

SUBJECTIVE – *affected by personal view, experiences, or background*


OBJECTIVE – *dealing with facts or conditions without distortions from personal experiences; limited to choices of fixed alternatives and reducing subjective factors to a minimum²*

(Group Discussion and review of guidelines)

G. THE DOCUMENTATION

The following forms will be utilized to facilitate the testing process for the NCSARAC.

² Merriam Webster Online Dictionary

	<p>WILDERNESS TRAILING / AIR SCENT CANINE STANDARD</p> <p>REQUEST FOR EVALUATION OF A SEARCH DOG TEAM</p>
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Handler Name _____ Dog Name _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Unit Affiliation _____ Dog Breed _____

My dog and I are applying to take the search operations test as part of the North Carolina SAR Advisory Council's wilderness canine standard. Further, my unit supervisor or NCSARAC canine evaluator signifies by his/her signature that my dog and I have completed the necessary prerequisites in order to test.

Signature of Applicant _____
Date

Unit Supervisor or NCSARAC Canine Evaluator Signature _____
Date

Note to Applicant: This request document should be forwarded to lead evaluator prior at least one week prior to the planned evaluation date. The canine evaluator will complete the lower half of this document.

Type of Test	Name of Evaluators	Date Taken	Test Result (Pass/Fail)
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Scent	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Trailing	_____		

The team listed above has, in my opinion, successfully completed all requirements of the North Carolina SAR Advisory Council's wilderness canine standard and qualifies for recognition under that standard.

NCSARAC Evaluator _____
Date

NCSARAC Evaluator _____
Date

Note to Evaluators: After the evaluation is complete, provide a copy of the field evaluation summary to the applicant and mail all original paperwork to Brian Smith, 242 Carlyle Road, Zebulon, NC 27597-5978.



**WILDERNESS AIR SCENT CANINE STANDARD
AIRSCENTING TEAM FIELD EVALUATION SUMMARY**

Handler: _____ Dog _____ Date: _____

Dog Breed: _____ Location: _____

Start Time: _____ Stop Time: _____ Rating: PASS / FAIL

Terrain: _____

Weather: _____ Temperature: _____

A. Mandatory Prerequisites (to be signed off by appropriate authority on Request Form)

No.	Prerequisite	Pass
P1	Handler/Dog team is operational SAR resource for agency	
P2	K9 is minimum 1 year old with six months of training	
P3	Handler has written training records	
P4	Completed in house obedience/control evaluation	
P5	K9 Current on Rabies Vaccination and in good health	
P6	Attendance of K9 First Aid Training	
P7	Handler understands Scent Transport	
P8	Handler understands how to collect scent articles	
P9	Handler understands Topographic Maps	

B. Performance Requirements: (*) signifies must pass

No.	Handler Skills	Yes	No	N/A
H1	Conduct of initial interview			
H2*	Initial Plan of Action *			
H3	Demonstration of map and compass skills			
H4*	Implementation of plan in field (including revision for changing conditions)*			
H5*	Adjustment of search for wind/terrain conditions*			
H6*	Coverage of search area*			
H7*	Ability to interpret dog's alerts/interest*			
H8*	Ability to direct and control the dog*			
H9	Physical condition of Handler			
H10	Provisions for appropriate breaks for the dog			

AIR SCENTING DOG TEAM SKILLS EVALUTION FOR 40 to 80 acre

Handler Skills Evaluation Guidelines.

The table below summarizes the guidelines for evaluating critical handler skills. Each skill should receive a YES/NO report unless conditions are such that the skill is not observable or required for the test. It is expected that teams will excel (objective performance) in some areas and perform adequately (threshold performance) in others. The evaluators are encouraged to provide constructive feedback to the team being tested in those areas where their performance meets the threshold criteria but falls short of the ideal.

III. HANDLER EVALUATION CRITERIA

IV.N o.	V. Skill	VI. Criteria for Evaluation	VII. Report
H1	Initial Interview (10 Mins)	Does not interview or take notes. Conducts inadequate interview. Gets basic description and enough information to conduct search. Conducts excellent and concise interview, asks all relevant questions about subject, conditions of search area.	NO YES (Threshold) YES (Objective)
H2	Initial Plan of Action (10 Mins)	Has no real plan other than following dog to subject or plan reflects lack of understanding of search strategy. Has adequate plan which shows basic understanding of map reading and search strategy including techniques of hasty search, contouring, grid searching, perimeter search. Has excellent plan, which shows good understanding of map reading and search strategy factors. Can articulate good reasons for choosing or rejecting techniques such as hasty search in light of conditions of search area.	NO YES (Threshold) YES (Objective)

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H3	Demonstration of Map & Compass Skills and/or GPS	<p>Does not know how to relate map to actual terrain. Cannot coordinate compass use with map. Does not use basic skills. Even if finds subjects, cannot locate area on map or give base camp accurate location.</p> <p>Have basic skills. Can relate map to actual terrain. Coordinates compass use with map. Uses compass in field. If asked, can determine location on the map and point out areas covered and missed.</p> <p>Has excellent skills. Uses map and compass to formulate good search plan and keep track of drainages, landmarks, areas searched/missed etc. Finds location of subjects on map and can describe accurately to base camp.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>YES (Threshold)</p> <p>YES (Objective)</p>
H4	Implementation of Plan in Field	<p>Search shows little planning other than wandering around with dog. Even if originally described adequate plan of action (H-2), does not actually carry it out or explain changes. Hasty search appropriate for area but not used and no explanation given. Too many changes to the plan to be effective.</p> <p>Carries out original plan of action or explains changes. Does hasty search if appropriate or explains why not using. Plan(s) utilized were adequate to search area.</p> <p>Carries out original plan/explains changes. Good understanding of contouring, grid patterns, etc. Uses hasty search or has good reason not to. Plan makes best use of terrain, wind, etc. Is flexible and communicative about changing with changing conditions.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>YES (Threshold)</p> <p>YES (Objective)</p>
H5	Adjusts Search for Wind/Terrain Conditions	<p>Fails to monitor wind conditions.</p> <p>Reasonably conscious of wind conditions. Understands loft, deflection and other conditions and can help dog work out problems following scent.</p> <p>Very conscious of wind direction. Helps dog work out scent problems by using superior knowledge of wind conditions. Does not attempt to constantly alter search plan in area where wind constantly changing direction.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>YES (Threshold)</p> <p>YES (Objective)</p>

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H6	Coverage of Search Area	<p>Leaves many holes. If finds subject, appears to have stumbled upon them fortuitously.</p> <p>Covers search area adequately. Checks sector perimeters (unless finds subject first) Does hasty search if appropriate. Does not leave major holes without adequate explanation and plan to return.</p> <p>Excellent coverage of search area. Maximizes search strategy by use of appropriate grid pattern, ridges/drainages, hasty search, etc.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>YES (Threshold)</p> <p>YES (Objective)</p>
H7	Ability to Interpret Dog's Alerts/ Interest	<p>Cannot read the dog, calls off scent, and does not know when dog needs help/encouragement.</p> <p>Adequate reading of dog, encourages dog when dog needs help working out interest.</p> <p>Excellent job of reading dog. Knows how to help dog work out problems, knows when dog has scent or subject.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>YES (Threshold)</p> <p>YES (Objective)</p>
H8	Ability to Direct and Control Dog	<p>Little control of dog. Can't send dog to search specific areas, can't redirect distracted dog. Dog runs search.</p> <p>Adequate control of dog. Can send to specific areas.</p> <p>Excellent job of controlling the dog. Knows how to help the dog work out problems, knows when dog has scent or subject. Knows when to redirect.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>YES (Threshold)</p> <p>YES (Objective)</p>
H9	Physical Condition of Handler	<p>Handler in poor condition. Terrain is too much for handler who cannot keep pace adequate to search area</p> <p>Handler condition adequate for conditions.</p> <p>Handler in excellent condition, can handle rough terrain and steep grades</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>YES (Threshold)</p> <p>YES (Objective)</p>
H10	Provision of Appropriate Breaks for Dog	<p>Dog's physical condition, motivation or ability to search suffers from handler's failure to provide appropriate water/rest breaks. Gives too many or too long of breaks.</p>	<p>NO</p>

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		Adequate water/rest breaks given as needed.	YES (Threshold)
		Water/rest breaks given which keep dog well hydrated and rested throughout search.	YES (Objective)

Search Dog Skills Evaluation Guidelines.

The table below summarizes the guidelines for evaluating critical search dog skills. Each skill should receive a YES/NO report unless conditions are such that the skill is not observable or required for the test. It is expected that teams will excel (objective performance) in some areas and perform adequately (threshold performance) in others. The evaluators are encouraged to provide constructive feedback to the team being tested in those areas where their performance meets the threshold criteria but falls short of the ideal.

VIII. SEARCH DOG EVALUATION CRITERIA

No.	Skill	Criteria for Evaluation	Report
D1	Locates Subject	Does not locate subject or is led into subject by handler. Locates subject by scent cone, track or by going into area as directed by handler. Locates subject from significant distance by following scent cone, track, or searching ridge, drainage, clump of bushes as directed by handler. Works out any problematic scent conditions.	NO YES (Threshold) YES (Objective)
D2	Performs trained indication	Dog makes no discernible report, just leaves subject and continues with search, stays with subject unseen by handler or returns to handler without any indication that subject found. Dog does trained indication as described to evaluator. Same as Threshold	NO YES (Threshold) YES (Objective)
D 3-6	Demonstrates Adequate willingness, interest, and Stamina	Dog unable to complete search. Dog's stamina adequate. Although depleted in energy and enthusiasm by the time subject are located, shows ability to continue, adequate alert. Dog has excellent stamina, Shows enthusiasm and willingness to work.	NO YES (Threshold) YES (Objective)



**WILDERNESS TRAILING CANINE STANDARD
TRAILING TEAM FIELD EVALUATION SUMMARY**

Handler: _____ Dog _____ Date: _____

Dog Breed: _____ Location: _____

Start Time: _____ Stop Time: _____ Rating: PASS / FAIL

Terrain: _____

Weather: _____ Temperature: _____

A. Mandatory Prerequisites (to be signed off by appropriate authority on Request Form)

No.	Prerequisite	Pass
P1	Handler is operation SAR resource for agency	
P2	K9 is minimum 1 year old with six months of training	
P3	Handler has written training records	
P4	Completed in house obedience/control evaluation	
P5	K9 Current on Rabies Vaccination and in good health	
P6	Attendance of K9 First Aid Training	
P7	Handler understands Scent Transport	
P8	Handler understands how to collect scent articles	
P9	Handler understands Topographic Maps	

B. Performance Requirements: (*) Signifies must pass

No.	Handler Skills	Yes	No	N/A
H1	Conduct of initial interview			
H2*	Demonstration of Working Knowledge of Scent*			
H3*	Ability to Read the Dog*			
H4	Demonstration of Adequate Stamina			
H5	Provision of appropriate breaks for dog			

C. Trailing Dog Skills (must pass all)

No.	Trailing Dog Skills	Yes	No	N/A
D1*	Dog trails to subject, accurate			
D2*	Dog stays on task			
D3*	Dog seems willing, interested			
D4*	Dog demonstrates adequate stamina			
D5*	Dog obtained direction of travel			
D6*	Dog re-acquired the trail			
D7*	Off Lead Dog performs trained indication			

Would you want this team to search for you? Yes _____ No _____

TRAILING DOG TEAM SKILLS EVALUATION

Handler Skills Evaluation Guidelines.

The table below summarizes the guidelines for evaluating critical handler skills. Each skill should receive a YES/NO report unless conditions are such that the skill is not observable or required for the test. It is expected that teams will excel (objective performance) in some areas and perform adequately (threshold performance) in others. The evaluators are encouraged to provide constructive feedback to the team being tested in those areas where their performance meets the threshold criteria but falls short of the ideal.

HANDLER EVALUATION CRITERIA

No.	Skill	Criteria for Evaluation	Report
H1.	Conduct of Initial Interview	Does not interview or take notes.	No
		Conducts adequate interview. Gets LKP and basic subject information.	Yes (Threshold)
		Conducts excellent and concise interview. Informs IC of information dog can provide.	Yes (Objective)
H2.	Demonstration of Working Knowledge of Scent	Unable to explain how dog's actions could be explained by scent behavior.	No
		Able to relate scent to weather and terrain.	Yes (Threshold)
		Has thorough knowledge of scent. Able to point out features which may affect scent. Relates areas of dog interest to terrain and wind.	Yes (Objective)
H3.	Ability to Read the Dog	Repeatedly pulls the dog off scent or leads the dog. Does not recognize when dog is off scent.	No
		Allows the dog to work scent trail. Can tell within a reasonable timeframe if the dog is in or off scent.	Yes (Threshold)
		Handler accurately analyzes scent relative to the dog's behavior.	Yes (Objective)
H4	Physical Condition of Handler	Handler in poor condition. Terrain is too much for handler who cannot keep pace adequate to search area	NO
		Handler condition adequate for conditions.	YES (Threshold)
		Handler in excellent condition, can handle rough terrain and steep grades	YES (Objective)

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H5.	Provision of Appropriate Breaks for Dog	Dog's physical condition, motivation or ability to search suffers from handler's failure to provide appropriate water/rest breaks. Too many or too long of breaks.	NO
		Adequate water/rest breaks given as needed.	YES (Threshold)
		Water/rest breaks given which keep dog well hydrated and rested throughout search.	YES (Objective)

Trailing Dog Skills Evaluation Guidelines.

The table below summarizes the guidelines for evaluating critical search dog skills. Each skill should receive a YES/NO report unless conditions are such that the skill is not observable or required for the test. It is expected that teams will excel (objective performance) in some areas and perform adequately (threshold performance) in others. The evaluators are encouraged to provide constructive feedback to the team being tested in those areas where their performance meets the threshold criteria but falls short of the ideal.

SEARCH DOG EVALUATION CRITERIA

No.	Skill	Criteria for Evaluation	Report
D1.	Dog Trails to Subject and is accurate	Dog does not find subject	No
		Dog finds the subject or the dog brings the handler to the subject if trailing free.	Yes (Threshold)
		Dog finds and positively indicates the subject.	Yes (Objective)
D2.	Dog Stays on Task	Dog is unable to complete trail due to becoming distracted.	No
		Smells/ sounds/ sights distract dog but handler is able to return the dog's focus.	Yes (Threshold)
		If distracted, the dog immediately returns to work.	Yes (Objective)
D3.	Dog Seems willing and interested	Dog stops working due to a lack of motivation and does not finish the trail.	No
		Dog willingly works the scent trail.	Yes (Threshold)
		Dog is enthusiastic and works out problems.	Yes (Objective)
D4.	Dog Demonstrates Adequate Stamina	Dog is too tired to complete trail or appears exhausted.	No
		Dog stamina is adequate. Shows ability to continue if needed.	Yes (Threshold)
		Dog has excellent stamina. Shows enthusiasm.	Yes

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			(Objective)
D5.	Dog obtains Direction of travel	Dog does not find start of trail. Dog finds start of trail after several castings. Dog finds start of trail and commits enthusiastically.	No Yes (Threshold) Yes (Objective)
D6	Dog re-acquires the trail	Dog loses trail and fails to reacquire. Dog loses trail and reacquires after several casting attempts Dog reacquires trails, commits enthusiastically	No Yes (Threshold) Yes (objective)
D7	Off Lead Indication	Dog does not perform trained indication. Dog performs trained indication. Same as Threshold	No Yes (Threshold) Yes (objective)

H. THE HUMAN FACTOR

The students who come before you to test are nervous and are fearful of failure. The number one cause for individuals not supporting a testing process is the fear of failure. Therefore, there must be some ethical guidelines, adopted by the organization and followed by its members, to ensure that a dog handler who fails to pass the test is not subjected to public scrutiny or embarrassment.

As an evaluator, you accept the responsibility and duty of confidentiality between you and the testing handler. You are only authorized to report the finding of the test to the K9 Coordinator for the NCSARAC and the Board of the NCSARAC if asked. Other than that, it is unethical to tell anyone whether or not a handler passed or failed a test. This confidentiality is a **MUST** in order to make this program succeed. Any evaluator who subjects a handler to public ridicule by violating this confidentiality is subject to review by the Board of the NCSARAC.

Efforts should be made to place the student at ease. Use calming techniques. Be friendly, smile a lot, and make sure you are supportive. Testing is stressful enough. No need for the evaluator to add additional stress.

Make sure you are an observer to the events and that your behavior doesn't influence the handler or dog. An opening briefing detailing that you will observe, answer questions if you can, and ask questions if needed but otherwise will **NOT INTERFERE** with the test is appropriate.

Remember, each handler's heart strings are attached directly to the performance of the dog. If they do not pass, the handler will be devastated. It is your job to mitigate that devastation. You

only fail if you don't return to beat the test you did not pass. Other than that, there is no such thing as a failure.

J. The Logistics of Setting up the Evaluation

You will need the following equipment in order to set up an evaluation:

- Topo Maps of the area
- Measuring devices
- Computer and appropriate Software
- Aerial photo of the area
- Flagging Tape
- Compass
- GPS
- Clipboard
- Pencil/Pen
- Forms
- Radio Communication

When determining your testing area, you must keep in mind what your scent should do based upon your experience with the weather and terrain and be cautious to the criteria of your test. Ensure that what you set up can be accomplished successfully per the criteria. As an evaluator, you should **KNOW THE LAND** that you are utilizing. This will ensure you can meet the criteria needed for testing. This knowledge is essential to planning and preparing an evaluation.

Your subject should be familiar with the land as well. If not, you will have to physically place your subject. This might be acceptable for an air scent problem but not a trailing problem. Therefore it is imperative that your victim knows the area as well. Also, as an evaluator, remember, things go wrong. Your victim might not have gone exactly where you told him to. It is your job, thru your experience, to be able to read the handler's dog to determine if the dog was on scent. If you do not have that ability, then you are not ready to be an evaluator.

In some areas you will be able to use the natural land features to aid in your instruction to your victim. If not, you might have to flag the route a number of days prior to the test and have the victim remove the flags as they follow the route the day of the test.

The testing scenario should be documented **PRIOR TO THE TEST** on the official TOPO map. The results of the handler's evaluation should be documented on a separate TOPO map. This documentation should be included with the testing sheets and forwarded to the K9 coordinator of the NCSARAC.

(Discussion on techniques of mapping area)

IX. Closing

During this block of instruction, we have reviewed the NCSARAC K9 Beta Standards, the appropriate forms and grading processes that should be implemented, and techniques for administering a positive and fair test to the K9 team. We have discussed the MOA between the State of NC and the NCSARAC in order to understand the duties and responsibilities of each organization. During this educational process, each student has had the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to fairly evaluate a K9 team thru practical exercises. The success of this program is dependent on the fairness of the evaluation process and the willingness of the membership to participate. This course has prepared you to move forward in this endeavor.