

Section 309a

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – Cadaver Mission-Ready Criteria

Section 309a outlines the skills cadaver dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series.

1. The dog will demonstrate a reliable and readable alert on a variety of human decomposition material above or below the ground.
2. The dog demonstrates willingness to work for an extended period of time.
3. The dog can be re-directed to work after distraction whether intentional or unintentional.
4. The dog responds to handlers commands both verbal and nonverbal.
5. The dog searches independently and ranges appropriately.
6. The dog has the ability to handle the terrain.
7. The dog has the health and stamina to complete the task.
8. The dog can be directed to conduct a fine search following the handler's finger, pointer or other tool.
9. The handler is able to identify and describe the alert and body language their dog exhibits.
10. The handler does not prompt the dog for alerts.
11. The handler gathers initial information, articulates a search plan, implements the plan, and makes appropriate adjustments to any search strategy based on a variety of variables including: search area, terrain, weather, resources, etc..
12. The handler demonstrates care for the safety and well-being of the dog. e.g. watering, resting, and praising dog appropriately.
13. The handler is "clue" conscious and reports the presence of clues in the search area whether intentional or unintentional.
14. The handler possesses crime scene preservation knowledge.
15. The handler will work effectively when in a stressful situation with appropriate behaviors.
16. The handler has the health and stamina to complete the task.
17. The handler has appropriate tools and/or pack.
18. Dog Handler will understand and demonstrate the practice of Probability of Detection (POD).
19. The dog team will locate source(s).
20. The handler demonstrates the use of Universal Precautions when working with decomposition material.

HUMAN REMAINS DOG ALERT

Search dogs are recognized by their trained behavior to reliably "alert" and communicate the presence of human scent. Depending on the search discipline this trained, reliable, and readable behavior can look very different. For a human remains alert, the dog performs a re-find, barking alert, or passive alert. The dog should not mouth, attempt to eat, or harm the material at anytime.

Section 9a outlines the additional skills ASARD dogs teams must demonstrate proficiency for their H2O endorsement.

1. The dog will demonstrate a reliable and readable alert on a variety of human decomposition material located in moving and flat water.
2. The dog demonstrates comfort and ease in a moving boat.
3. The handler practices good boating safety techniques.

Section 309b

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – Cadaver Mission-Ready Evaluation Series

Purpose: Section 309b outlines the skills that will demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency and reliability for ASARD dog teams used in cadaver search and recovery. ASARD dog teams must complete the following Mission-Ready Evaluations Series with an average combined score of 3.0. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0. All cadaver scent material will be placed in a suitable container that prevents the dog from coming in physical contact. The handler must “call” the location of a scent source in the allotted time. Scent sources should not be placed higher than four feet above ground level or covered by field material to a depth of two inches. The handler will be made aware of all search boundaries.

Additional Pre-requisite Item: Handler shall have at least twelve hours of approved coursework or individual study of cadaver search to include as a minimum: handling training aids, human decomposition, search methods, scent transmission, and evidence/site preservation.

Evaluation 9.1 – Detection and Alert Demonstration: The purpose of this assessment is to give the dog an opportunity to demonstrate its ability to detect and communicate the location of human cadaver scent.

Description	A grass field or parking lot approximately 25 x 25 yards, flat and open area shall be utilized. A variety of non-cadaver scented empty containers should be placed in the area. The cadaver scented material will be placed in the area thirty minutes prior to the evaluation. Twenty minutes will be given for this assessment.
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Evaluation 9.2 – Wilderness Setting: The purpose of this assessment is for the ASARD team to detect and communicate a cadaver source in a moderately wooded area.

Description	A moderately wooded area approximately two acres shall be utilized. The cadaver scent material will be placed in the area twelve to twenty-four hours prior to the evaluation. Thirty minutes will be given for the assessment.
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Evaluation 9.3 – Urban Setting: The purpose of this test is to detect and communicate a cadaver source among man-made structures.

Description	A building, row of vehicles or debris shall be utilized. The cadaver scent material will be placed in the area 1 hour prior to the evaluation. Thirty minutes will be given for the test.
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Evaluation 9.4 – Search Endurance: The purpose of this test is to demonstrate the dog’s ability to detect and communicate the location of human scent after searching for 60 minutes.

Description	A suitable moderately wooded area will be utilized to allow a dog team to search for sixty minutes. The areas to be searched may or may not have cadaver scent sources throughout. At sixty minutes, the dog team will be directed into a small area, approximately 25 by 25 yards, where a cadaver scent source has been in place for twelve to twenty-four hours. One hour and thirty minutes will be given for the test.
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To proceed to the H2O search endorsement, the cadaver Mission-Ready Evaluation Series listed above must be successfully completed. To receive the H2O search endorsement ASARD dog teams must complete the following H2O Mission-Ready field evaluations with an average combined score of 3.0. All cadaver scent material will be placed in a suitable container that prevents the dog from coming in physical contact with it. The handler must “call” the location of a scent source in the allotted time. The handler will be made aware of all search boundaries.

Evaluation 9.5 – Moving H2O along a shoreline: The purpose of this test is to detect and communicate the location of human scent in moving H2O.

Description	An appropriate source of moving H2O with 200 to 400 feet of shoreline shall be utilized. Two scent sources will be placed two hours prior to the evaluation several feet from shore. The dog team has twenty minutes to conduct the search.
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Evaluation 9.6 – Flat H2O from a boat: The purpose of this test is to detect and communicate the location of human scent in flat H2O utilizing a watercraft.

Description	An appropriate source of flat H2O shall be utilized. A scent sources will be placed two hours prior to the evaluation in four to ten feet of water. The dog team has twenty minutes to conduct the search and mark an area for “divers to search” taking into account wind speed and water current directions.
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Section 309c

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – Cadaver Mission-Ready Evaluations Series Score Card

Section 309c outlines the skills cadaver dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series with a completed and combined average of 3.0. Scores from the four evaluations will be averaged together and the combined average will be used as the final score. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0.

4 – Outstanding 3 – Good 2 – Fair 2 – Poor 0 – Very Poor ND – Not Demonstrated

CRITERIA CHECKLIST			
DOG		HANDLER	
1. Demonstrates readable dog alert.		9. Interprets alert and/or body language accurately.	
2. Demonstrates willingness and drive to work.		10. Handler does not prompt dog for alert.	
3. Dog can be re-directed to work after distraction.		11. Plans and implements effective search strategy.	
4. Takes directions and commands.		12. Demonstrates proper care of dog.	
5. Searches independently and ranges appropriately.		13. Reports presence of clue's.	
6. Dog can handle the terrain.		14. Describes crime scene preservation practices.	
7. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.		15. Works effectively with stressful situations.	
8. Dog can be directed by finger / pointer.		16. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.	
		17. Appropriate equipment / 24 hour pack.	
		18. Handler articulates appropriate POD.	
		19. Describes or demonstrates use of Universal Precautions.	
		20. Team Locates Source(s) <small>grade on scale</small>	
ADDITIONAL WATER CRITERIA			
H2. Demonstrates comfort and ease in a boat. <small>(for H20 endorsement)</small>		H3. Demonstrates boating safety practices. <small>(for H20 endorsement)</small>	
Combined Score		Combined Score	

Overall test comments, performance and narrative.

TEAM STRENGTHS OBSERVED:			
TEAM WEAKNESSES OBSERVED:			
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / CONTINUED TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS:			
Evaluation:	Dog:	Location:	Participants: (E) evaluators, (O) observers, (S) subjects
Handler:	Dog Age:	Weather:	
			Date:

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4 – Outstanding 3 – Good 2 – Fair 2 – Poor 0 – Very Poor ND – Not Demonstrated

CRITERIA CHECKLIST															
DOG	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	CS	HANDLER	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	CS				
1. Demonstrates readable dog alert.						9. Interprets alert and/or body language accurately.									
2. Demonstrates willingness and drive to work.						10. Handler does not prompt dog for alert.									
3. Dog can be re-directed to work after distraction.						11. Plans and implements effective search strategy.									
4. Takes directions and commands.						12. Demonstrates proper care of dog.									
5. Searches independently and ranges appropriately.						13. Reports presence of clue's.									
6. Dog can handle the terrain.						14. Describes crime scene preservation practices.									
7. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.						15. Works effectively with stressful situations.									
8. Dog can be directed by finger / pointer.						16. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.									
						17. Appropriate equipment / 24 hour pack.									
						18. Handler articulates appropriate POD.									
						19. Describes or demonstrates use of Universal Precautions.									
						20. Team locates source(s). grade on scale									
ADDITIONAL WATER CRITERIA															
2H. Demonstrates comfort and ease in a boat. <small>(for H20 endorsement)</small>						3H. Demonstrates boating safety practices. <small>(for H20 endorsement)</small>									
Combined Score						Combined Score									
Overall test comments, performance and narrative.															
TEAM STRENGTHS OBSERVED:															
TEAM WEAKNESSES OBSERVED:															
<small>Combined Score</small>															
We recommend _____ for Mission Ready Status in cadaver.															
We recommend _____ continue to train and attempt another Evaluation Series in _____.															
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / CONTINUED TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS:															
Evaluation:				Dog:				Location:				Participants: (E) evaluators, (O) observers, (S) subjects			
Handler:				Dog Age:				Weather:				Date:			