

Section 311a

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – Tracking/Trailing Mission-Ready Criteria

Section 311a outlines the skills tracking/trailing dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series.

1. The dog will demonstrate a dedication to the track throughout its length by remaining scent specific working through contamination and variable surfaces.
2. The dog indicates the direction of travel at the start by following the tracklayer's scent.
3. The dog can be re-directed to work after distraction whether intentional or unintentional.
4. The dog responds to handler's commands both verbal and nonverbal.
5. The dog actively searches for and works the tracklayer's scent.
6. The dog has the ability to physically handle the terrain.
7. The dog has the health and stamina to complete the task.
8. The handler is able to identify and describe the body language their dog exhibits.
9. The handler requests an article from the subject, gathers initial information, articulates a search plan, and implements a plan.
10. The handler gives dog the opportunity to stay on the track by backing up, casting, re-scenting, watering, ~~resting or giving the dog a break~~, etc...
11. The handler demonstrates care for the safety and well-being of the dog. e.g. watering, resting, and praising dog appropriately.
12. The handler is "clue" conscious and reports the presence of clues in the search area whether intentional or unintentional.
13. The handler will work effectively when in a stressful situation.
14. The handler has the health and stamina to complete the task.
15. The handler has appropriate equipment and/or a twenty-four (24) hour ready pack.
16. The dog team will locate subject(s) / articles(s).

Section 311b

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – Tracking/Trailing Mission-Ready Evaluation Series

Purpose: Section 311b outlines the skills that will demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency and reliability for ASARD dog teams used in tracking/trailing searches for lost and missing persons. ASARD dog teams must demonstrate consistent ability and complete the following Mission-Ready Evaluation 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. Articles used in the evaluations shall be of small to average size (gloves, hats, t-shirt, wallet, etc.) and be well saturated with human scent. Subjects used in the evaluation shall be unfamiliar to the dog. Both subjects and articles shall not be observable from a distance of twenty feet. All subjects will be placed into the environment in accordance with ASARD safety practices.

Additional: N/A	
Evaluation 11.1 – Scent detection and specificity: The purpose of this test is for the dog to demonstrate understanding and the ability to follow a specific individual’s scent.	
Description	Three to five individuals shall congregate in one location then disperse. After allowing the track to age 2-4 hrs, the handler will be given an article which has been scented by one of the individuals, and a point last seen (PLS) will be reported. The dog will discriminate and follow the specific tracklayer who’s article the dog is given over a distance of 100 yards.
Evaluation 11.2 – Scent specificity: The purpose of this test is for the dog to be able to detect and follow a specific individual’s scent from a highly contaminated area.	
Description	One subject will leave a public active area (eg: store, barbecue, baseball game, theater), and the track will be allowed to age for 1-2 hours. A scent article and a PLS or general direction of travel will be provided to the handler. The dog will follow the tracklayer over a distance of 200 yards.
Evaluation 11.3 –Urban environment: The purpose of this test is for the dog to follow a specific individual’s scent across variable surfaces through urban distractions.	
Description	This track will be laid in an area that includes surfaces such as gravel, pavement, wood, and metal grating. Grass or dirt surfaces may also be included. The track may include an article from the subject somewhere along the route. The track will be aged 4-6 hrs, A scent article and a PLS will be presented to the handler. The dog will be expected to follow the tracklayer over a distance of about 440 yards.
Evaluation 11.4 – Wilderness environment: The purpose of this test is for the dog to demonstrate endurance in following a specified individual’s scent on an aged track traversing a wilderness environment.	
Description	A track about a mile long will be laid through a wilderness environment. One or two articles may be left along the route by the tracklayer. The track will be aged 12-18 hrs. A scent article or a reliable PLS will be presented to the handler.
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Section 311c

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – Tracking/Trailing Mission-Ready Evaluations Series Score Card

Section 311c outlines the skills tracking/trailing 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 dedication to track		8. Interprets body language accurately	
2. Dog scent discriminates at start		9. Plans and implements effective tracking strategy	
3. Dog can be re-directed to work after distraction		10. Handler gives dog opportunity to stay on track	
4. Takes directions and commands		11. Demonstrates proper care of dog	
5. The dog works the scent		12. Reports the presence of clues	
6. Dog can handle the terrain		13. Works effectively with stressful situations	
7. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina		14. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina	
		15. Appropriate equipment	
		16. Team Locates Article(s) / Subject <small>grade on scale</small>	
	Combined Score		Combined Score

Overall test comments, performance and narrative.

AREAS OF STRENGTH OBSERVED:

AREAS OF WEAKNESS OBSERVED:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / CONTINUED TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Evaluation:	Dog:	Location:	Participants: (E) evaluators, (O) observers, (S) subjects
Handler:	Dog Age:	Weather:	
			Date:

