

North American Search Dog Network



EVALUATION STANDARDS

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Requests for Evaluations should be submitted in advance, utilizing NASDN's Evaluation Request form. Evaluations must be done either at official NASDN seminars or through specific testing requests by host team (see policy on non-seminar evaluation requests). Request forms will be included with seminar registration packages for those Evaluations being conducted at seminars. Requests and instructions for non-seminar Evaluations are contained in the next section.

The task book required (R) skill sets must all be completed within 24 months of the earliest signature date listed in order to request a NASDN K9 Evaluation. See individual NASDN Task Books for specific details and instructions.

Evaluations must be performed under observation of two qualified NASDN evaluators. These evaluators should not be teammates or personnel that regularly train with the K9 team.

Once the Evaluation has successfully been completed and passed, you will be supplied with a NASDN Evaluation document which will expire 24 months from the date of completion.

The K9 Team must successfully retake the Evaluation within 24 months, or the Evaluation will lapse. The evaluation standard and test for renewal is the same as the initial evaluation test. The renewal Evaluation will be conducted at the highest level obtained by the K9 team (ie if you have passed a basic Evaluation and then successfully passed the advanced level, when requesting to renew your Evaluation, you only have to update at the advanced level, not at basic level). K9 team will be allowed to take the advanced Evaluation for one year past its *lapsed* date before being required to start again at the basic level.

Evaluators will provide comments for any section of test that was failed. Any disagreements between handler and evaluators that occur and cannot be rectified at that level will be submitted, in writing, to the NASDN BOD for review.

Dogs will not be left unattended unless they are in a secure vehicle.

Handlers must provide proper care for their dogs.

Dogs will be on lead at all times unless participating in an off-lead testing activity under the supervision of NASDN Evaluators.

Handlers will not allow their dogs within 10 feet of another K9 team.

All equipment must be of a type that the team would use in actual working situations. E-Collars may be used on the vibration or tone setting.

Excessively harsh correction of a dog will not be allowed.

EVALUATIONS HELD OUTSIDE OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED SEMINARS

NASDN provides for these Evaluations as a convenience to members who may not always be able to attend seminars. Scheduling will be subject to the availability of suitable Evaluators. Members requesting these Evaluations must be prepared to make arrangements for lodging and locations to conduct the testing.

Handlers being evaluated must:

- Be full members of NASDN
- Have attended at least one NASDN Seminar within two years of Evaluation
- Pay the standard NASDN Evaluation fee
- Arrange for any local resources needed for the tests

Half of the Evaluation fees will be put toward expenses related to Evaluator travel, meals and lodging. All remaining expenses must be covered by the people requesting Evaluations.

Requests to conduct these types of Evaluations must be submitted in writing using the NASDN non-seminar Evaluation request form.

Evaluations will be in compliance with all NASDN standards.

**NASDN
NON-SEMINAR EVALUATION REQUEST FORM**

Please fill out all information below and email request to NASDN President.

Team Name:

Location (City/State):

Primary point of contact (Name, email, phone):

Dates requested (list several options):

Evaluations Requested (list each Evaluation requested on separate lines):

Handler Name	NASDN #	LAST SEMINAR	K9 name	Task Book Completion Date	Eval Requested (BMT, AMT, AS, HR, specialty)

NASDN EVALUATION AREA SEARCH - LIVE

INSTRUCTIONS

Each aspect of this test is a pass/fail. A fail in any item constitutes a fail overall. K9 Team must have passed all aspects of the Task Book for Area Search within the last 24 months in order to request an Evaluation. This test must be performed under observation of two qualified NASDN evaluators.

Handlers who lose control of their dog or do not follow NASDN's Evaluation Rules and Procedures will automatically fail.

This is a non-scent specific Evaluation and NO scent article will be provided. Only one subject will be used. Requests for scent specific Evaluations (with multiple decoys), multiple victim Evaluations, or any other deviation will be considered as a "specialty" Evaluation. K9 teams must successfully complete this Evaluation before any specialty Evaluation will be considered.

Area of test will be a minimum of 40 acres not to exceed 80 acres and be completed in 2 hours. (Note: Evaluators should adjust area based on available terrain to make a 2 hour test. This should be noted on grading sheets). It should be conducted during daylight hours in a semi contaminated area without other known targets in area during test (If an unplanned subject is found in the search area during test, the K9 team will be expected to continue working to find the intended target. There will be no negative consequences to the test outcome if this happens). Terrain and weather conditions should be moderate to the best extent possible.

One subject will be placed in the designated area and will be concealed from view (concealed, elevated, behind barrier, inaccessible, etc). The subject will be placed a minimum of 20 minutes prior to test and will be unknown to the K9.

The Evaluation area will be provided to the handler by either map or gps coordinates. Handler will be provided a starting point for test. Time will start as soon as this information is provided to handler.

Handler will be required to provide the following information prior to releasing his K9:

- K9's final trained response
- Search strategy

Handler will be required to provide a verbal debrief of the Evaluation to evaluators immediately afterwards. This will not be included in the test time period, but will be evaluated as part of the test.

Evaluators will provide comments for any section of test that was failed.

**NASDN GRADING SHEET
 AREA SEARCH-LIVE EVALUATION
 PAGE 1**

Handler		Location	
K9		Date	
Start time		Evaluator	
End time		Evaluator	
Time used (time allowed 2 hrs)		Area size (40-60 acres)	

OUTCOME	PASS	FAIL
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Subject		Time placed	
How Hidden			

MAP of AREA and SUBJECT (list how boundaries provided to handler)

EVALUATOR COMMENTS

**NASDN GRADING SHEET
AREA SEARCH-LIVE EVALUATION
PAGE 2**

	K9 Control	P/F
1.1	K9 does not display uncontrolled aggression towards humans or other K9s.	
1.2	Handler maintains control of K9 at all times even in a busy environment	
1.4	K9 can be directed into areas by handler.	
1.5	K9 will ignore or quickly come off of natural, animal, and human distractions while working and continue to work through these distractions.	

	ability to locate target	P/F
2.1	K9 recognizes live human odor	
2.2	K9 will range independently from handler to acquire scent	
2.3	K9 will consistently react to target scent and work scent until target acquired	
2.6A	K9 will locate target	
2.8	K9 will problem solve on own with little handler guidance	

	ability to interpret K9 behavior	P/F
3.1	Handler observes and correctly interprets when K9 has acquired target odor	
3.2	Handler observes and correctly interprets when scent is not present	
3.3	Handler observes and correctly interprets when K9 is following non-target odor	
3.4	Handler observes and correctly interprets when K9 is not actively searching	
3.6	Handler observes and correctly interprets when K9 needs water, breaks, etc and provides it	

	final trained response	P/F
4.1	Handler can accurately articulate the K9s final trained response	
4.2	K9's final trained response can be easily recognized by evaluator	
4.3	K9 performs final trained response consistently <i>without prompting from handler</i>	
4.4	K9 takes handler as close to subject as safely possible	
4.5	Handler identifies target based on K9's final trained response	
4.6	K9 does not make false alerts	

	handler search skills	P/F
5.1	Handler reviews map/terrain features to plan search and identify hazards	
5.2	Handler checks all climate and environmental conditions to plan search	
5.3	Handler asks pertinent questions regarding victim to plan search	
5.4	Handler carries gear needed for search	
5.6	Handler articulates his strategy verbally as well as on map/gps	

	team search ability	P/F
6.2	handler follows his search plan, or communicates why he is deviating, and adjusts accordingly	
6.3	Handler is cognizant of changes in climate and environment and adjusts strategy	
6.4	handler uses dog's behavior changes to adjust search strategy	
6.5	handler adequately and efficiently covers entire search area	

NASDN EVALUATION HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION

INSTRUCTIONS

Each aspect of this test is a pass/fail. A fail in any item constitutes a fail overall. K9 Team must have passed all aspects of the Task Book for Human Remains Detection within the last 24 months in order to request an Evaluation. This test must be performed under observation of two qualified NASDN evaluators.

Handlers who lose control of their dog or do not follow NASDN's Evaluation Rules and Procedures will automatically fail.

Test will be conducted over 4 areas, each approximately 1/3 acre and be completed in 45 minutes. (Note: Evaluators should adjust area based on available terrain to make a 45 min test. This should be noted on grading sheets). It should be conducted during daylight hours in a semi-contaminated area. Terrain and weather conditions should be moderate to the best extent possible.

The areas should be separated enough to make working them as 1 large area inconvenient. Although it is intended to complete each area before proceeding to the next, the team may go back to an area they've left. The testing areas will provide sufficient cover to allow the hides to be concealed. One area will have no source placed in it and all other areas will have one source placed in them. Material hidden will be less than 15 grams of human origin and tested to verify suitability. The material will be put in place at least 30 minutes before the test starts. Distractions (ie. animal remains) may be placed in one of the search areas. Hides may be buried no more than 6 inches, hidden in available cover, or elevated up to six feet. One of the hides may be located inside a structure.

The Evaluation areas will be provided to the handler by visual markers. Handler will be provided a starting point for test. Time will start as soon as this information is provided to handler.

Handler will be required to provide the following information prior to releasing his K9:

- K9's final trained response
- Search strategy

Handler will be required to provide a verbal debrief of the Evaluation to evaluators immediately afterwards. This will not be included in the time period, but will be evaluated as part of the test.

Evaluators will provide comments for any section of test that was failed.

**NASDN GRADING SHEET
HUMAN REMAINS EVALUATION
PAGE 1**

Handler		Location	
K9		Date	
Start time			
End time		Evaluator	
Time used (time allowed 45 min)		Evaluator	

OUTCOME	PASS	FAIL
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	AREA 1	AREA 2	AREA 3	AREA 4
Source type				
Source weight				
Time placed				
How hidden				
Decoy odor				

EVALUATOR COMMENTS

**NASDN GRADING SHEET
HUMAN REMAINS EVALUATION
PAGE 2**

	K9 Control	P/F
1.1	K9 does not display uncontrolled aggression towards humans or other K9s.	
1.2	Handler maintains control of K9 at all times even in a busy environment	
1.4	K9 can be directed into areas by handler.	
1.5	K9 will ignore or quickly come off of natural, animal, and human distractions while working and continue to work through these distractions.	

	ability to locate target	P/F
2.1c	K9 recognizes human remains odor	
2.2	K9 will range independently from handler to acquire scent	
2.3	K9 will consistently react to target scent and work scent until target acquired	
2.6c	K9 will locate all targets	

	ability to interpret K9 behavior	P/F
3.1	Handler observes and correctly interprets when K9 has acquired target odor	
3.2	Handler observes and correctly interprets when scent is not present	
3.3	Handler observes and correctly interprets when K9 is following non-target odor	
3.4	Handler observes and correctly interprets when K9 is not actively searching	
3.6	Handler observes and correctly interprets when K9 needs water, breaks, etc and provides it	

	final trained response	P/F
4.1	Handler can accurately articulate the K9s final trained response	
4.2	K9's final trained response can be easily recognized by evaluator	
4.3	K9 performs final trained response consistently <i>without prompting from handler</i>	
4.4c	K9 performs final trained response at source.	
4.5	Handler identifies target based on K9's final trained response	
4.6	K9 does not make false alerts	

	handler search skills	P/F
5.1	Handler reviews map/terrain features to plan search and identify hazards	
5.2	Handler checks all climate and environmental conditions to plan search	
5.4	Handler carries gear needed for search	
5.6	Handler articulates his strategy verbally as well as on map/gps	

	team search ability	P/F
6.2	handler follows his search plan, or communicates why he is deviating, and adjusts accordingly	
6.3	Handler is cognizant of changes in climate and environment and adjusts strategy	
6.4	handler uses dog's behavior changes to adjust search strategy	
6.5	handler adequately and efficiently covers entire search area	
6.6	handler conducts adequate verbal debrief to evaluator identifying coverage of area, location of target and other information as needed.	

NASDN EVALUATION K9 MANTRAILING

INSTRUCTIONS

Each aspect of this test is a pass/fail. A fail in any item constitutes a fail overall. K9 Team must have passed all aspects of the Task Book for K9 Mantrailing within the last 24 months in order to request an Evaluation. This test must be performed under observation of two qualified NASDN evaluators.

This Evaluation is designed to test the dog's ability to locate a lost subject with the use of a scent article, on lead; as well as the handler's ability to communicate with and read the K9. This test should simulate conditions that may be encountered during real working situations.

- Two classifications of Evaluations are available: Basic and Advanced K9 Mantrailing.
- Both are valid for 24 months from the date of the successful completion of the test.
- All candidate K9 teams must have a current Basic K9 Mantrailing Evaluation prior to attempting the Advanced Evaluation for the first time.

Handlers who lose control of their dog or do not follow NASDN's Evaluation Rules and Procedures will automatically fail.

Evaluations should be conducted during daylight hours in a semi-contaminated area. Terrain and weather conditions should be moderate to the best extent possible.

Each K9 team will have its own Evaluation trail. An Evaluation trail can only be used once during any Evaluation period. Trail layer and cross track layer will be unknown to the K9.

The handler will be required to describe the K9's final trained response prior to release.

Handler will be required to provide a verbal debrief of the Evaluation to evaluators immediately afterwards. This will not be included in the time period, but will be evaluated as part of the test.

Evaluators will provide comments for any section of test that was failed.

BASIC K9 MANTRAILING EVALUATION

This test consists of locating a specific person who is unknown to the dog. The trail will:

- be 0.3 to 0.5 mile in length.
- contain two turns, when setting the turns they cannot be less than 90 nor exceed 270 degrees in the direction of travel.
- be in moderate to heavy vegetation.
- have aged 90 minutes to 4 hours.

Evaluators:

- The evaluators will have a map of the trail prior to starting the Evaluation.
- The trail-layer will be hidden at end of the trail.
- A scent article (a sterile gauze pad in a zip-lock bag) will be taken from the trail-layer and given to the handler at the beginning of the Evaluation.
- The time limit will be 30 minutes.
- The start time, as recorded by the evaluators, will be the time the handler is given the scent article.
- Each K9 team will be allowed one restart upon request and at the discretion of the evaluators.
- No additional time will be given for a restart.
- The finish time, as recorded by the evaluators, will be once the handler acknowledges the K9's final indication of the correct trail-layer.

Advanced K9 Mantrailing Evaluation

This test consists of locating a specific person who is unknown to the dog. The trail will:

- be 0.75 to 1.25 miles in length.
- Meander and contain two turns, when setting the turns they cannot be less than 90 nor exceed 270 degrees in the direction of travel.
- be in a heavily contaminated wilderness, public park or industrial area.
- traverse three types of surfaces (e.g. pavement, grass, woods).
- shall have one purposefully laid cross-trail by a decoy-runner.
- have aged 24 to 36 hours.

The start of the trail will either be in a known contaminated area or 1 to 3 decoy-runners will purposely contaminate the beginning 10-15 yards of the trail at any time after the trail has been laid, but at least 30 min prior to the start of the trail by the candidate team. These decoy trails will be on a separate route from the trail-layer's trail, but may cross the actual trail.

Approximately 30 minutes before the test, the decoy-runner will lay a trail that crosses the primary trail-layer's route at a place between the halfway length of the trail and ~50 yards prior to the end of the trail. This decoy-runner will then be placed no less than 10 yds from the primary trail-layer's route and placed no less than 15 yds prior to the trail-layer.

Evaluators:

- The evaluators will have a map of the trail prior to starting the Evaluation.
- The trail-layer may or may not be hidden at end of the trail.
- A scent article (a sterile gauze pad in a zip-lock bag) will be taken from the trail-layer and given to the handler at the beginning of the Evaluation.
- At no time should any of the decoy-runners handle or be near (for example in the same car with) the actual trail-layer's scent article.
- The time limit will be 60 minutes.
- The start time, as recorded by the evaluators, will be the time the handler is given the scent article
- Each K9 team will be allowed one restart upon request and at the discretion of the evaluators.
- No additional time will be given for a restart.
- The finish time, as recorded by the evaluators, will be once the handler acknowledges the K9's final indication of the correct trail-layer.

NASDN GRADING SHEET
K9 MANTRAILING EVALUATION PAGE 1
BASIC or ADVANCED (circle one)

Basic Req	<i>Time allowed: 30 Min</i> <i>Track length: 0.3-0.5 mile</i> <i>Track age: 1.5-4 hours</i>	Adv Req	<i>Time allowed: 630 Min</i> <i>Track length: 0.75 to 1.25 mile</i> <i>Track age: 24-36 hours</i> <i>Xtrack age: 30 min</i>
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Handler		Location	
K9		Date	
Start time		Evaluator	
End time		Evaluator	
Time used		Length	
Subject		Date/Time Laid	
Xtrack subj		Time Laid	

OUTCOME	PASS	FAIL	
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MAP of AREA and SUBJECT (list how boundaries provided to handler)

EVALUATOR COMMENTS

NASDN GRADING SHEET
K9 MANTRAILING EVALUATION PAGE 2
BASIC or ADVANCED (circle one)

	K9 Control	P/F
1.1	K9 does not display uncontrolled aggression towards humans or other K9s.	
1.2	Handler maintains control of K9 at all times even in a busy environment	
1.5	K9 will ignore or quickly come off of natural, animal, and human distractions and continue to work through these distractions with minimal handler involvement	

	Ability to Locate Target	P/F
2.1t	K9 takes scent from supplied article	
2.3t	K9 consistently follows target scent during the search	
2.11	K9 takes proper target initial direction of travel (DOT)	
2.12	K9 will trail through vegetation, terrain and surface changes	

	Ability to interpret K9 Behavior	P/F
3.1t	Handler observes and correctly interprets when K9 is on target odor	
3.2	Handler observes and correctly interprets when scent is not present	
3.3	Handler observes and correctly interprets when K9 is following non-target odor	
3.4t	Handler observes and correctly interprets when K9 is not actively trailing	
3.6	Handler observes and correctly interprets when K9 needs water, breaks, other aid and provides it to them	

	Final Trained Response	P/F
4.1	Handler can accurately articulate the K9s' final trained response.	
4.2	K9's final trained response can be easily recognized by someone other than the handler	
4.3	K9 performs final trained response consistently <i>without prompting</i>	
4.4t	K9 takes handler in to subject	
4.5	Handler identifies target based on K9's final trained response	
4.6	K9 does not make false alerts	

	Handler Search Skills	P/F
5.2t	Handler checks all climate & environmental conditions that affect trailing	
5.4	Handler carries gear needed for the trail	

	Team Search Ability	P/F
6.1t	Handler uses proper line handling techniques	
6.4t	Handler uses dog's behavioral changes to adjust trailing strategy	
6.6t	Handler conducts adequate verbal debrief to evaluator identifying results of the trail and other information as needed	