

North American Search Dog Network



Evaluation Standards and Sample Evaluation Score Sheets

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Rules and Procedures

These rules and procedures apply to all handlers and canines during all phases of NASDN Evaluations. Following these rules is considered part of the Evaluation. Failure to comply or handlers' failure to successfully control their canines will result in failure of the Evaluation underway at that time. In cases of severe violations or negligent behavior, the Evaluators may agree to fail a particular handler or canine for all Evaluations scheduled for that day. **It is the handler's responsibility to understand these rules and procedures.**

The Evaluation Area includes all areas designated for testing, staging or other activities directly related to the Evaluation process. These areas will be announced by NASDN Officials. The following rules apply to all people and dogs in the Evaluation Area:

1. Handlers must be in full control of their dogs at all times.
2. Dogs will not be left unattended unless they are in a secure vehicle.
3. Handlers must provide proper care for their dogs.
4. Dogs will be on lead at all times unless participating in an off-lead testing activity under the supervision of NASDN Officials.
5. Handlers will not allow their dogs within 10 feet of another canine team.
6. Handlers are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs. Clean up may be delayed until testing is complete, with the approval of NASDN Officials.
7. All equipment must be of a type that the team would use in actual working situations. Shock collars will not be allowed.
8. Excessively harsh correction of a dog will not be allowed.
9. Testing order will be determined by NASDN Officials. Teams are expected to be ready for testing at the designated time. NASDN Officials will attempt to accommodate scheduling needs. Evaluators may agree to fail a team for delaying the Evaluation process.
10. Evaluators will use written score sheets and will normally provide comments along with scores for individual components of a test. Copies of the score sheets will be provided to each handler along with certificates for those who pass.
11. If handlers disagree with the Evaluator's scores, they should first read the Evaluator's comments. If disagreement persists, they may ask the Evaluator or Evaluators for clarification. A Senior Evaluator may overrule scores given by a Novice Evaluator. If an informal appeal fails to resolve the dispute, a grievance may be filed with NASDN's Board of Directors.
12. Teams who fail an Evaluation may re-test once if time allows. Re-tests will be done after all scheduled Evaluations. A fee will be charged each time the team is tested.

NASDN Evaluator Requirements

Each Evaluator will have the following minimum experience.

Senior Evaluator:

Successfully gone through Evaluation or Certification with a Search Dog three times.
Handled a Search Dog in actual work conditions for two years.
Equivalent experience may be considered.

Evaluator:

Successfully gone through Evaluation or Certification with a Search Dog.
Handled a Search Dog in actual work conditions for one year.
Equivalent experience may be considered.

Novice Evaluator:

Anyone with basic canine experience.

NASDN Evaluations will normally be judged by a panel of three Evaluators.

One Novice Evaluator may serve if there is at least one Senior Evaluator on the panel.

When a Novice Evaluator is used, a Senior Evaluator will observe and may override the Novice Evaluator's scoring. A panel may consist of two Senior Evaluators. Evaluators will be selected by NASDN's Officers, Board of Directors and the organizers of a testing event.

Evaluator Guidelines

- When using volunteers as hidiers or trail-layers, verify with each evaluating team if they are associated with any of the volunteers prior to establishing the evaluation running order. This will alleviate the possibility of the evaluating canine indicating on a person that they know.
- Should the handler ask search related questions, the evaluator will advise the handler, "Those are very good interview questions to ask during a live search, however, since this is an evaluation, we do not have a description of the trail-layer for you", then direct the handler to the trail-layers starting point.
- The evaluation team will secure the scent article at the start point with an object (rock or flag) to make sure that it is not blown away by the wind. Any participants that are following the canine team (observing) will be instructed not to pick up or touch the evaluation scent article.
- The final outcome and score of the evaluating team will not be published until the points are assigned by the evaluators.
- If a team registers and makes the required deposits for both the Basic and Advanced Mantrailing evaluations during a seminar period, they must pass the Basic evaluation before taking the Advanced evaluation.
- If two Evaluators agree to either pass or fail a team and the third Evaluator's score changes the outcome in the averaging process, the Evaluators will confer and attempt to reach an agreement. If they are unable to reach a consensus, the deviant score is eliminated and the other 2 scores are averaged. The three score sheets will be copied and kept by NASDN as documentation.

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

At least two NASDN Senior Evaluators must judge the Evaluations.

Evaluators must have experience judging at NASDN Seminars.

At least one Evaluator must come from outside the member taking the test's local area or team.

At least one NASDN Officer or Director must be present.

The NASDN Evaluation Standards will be strictly followed.

NASDN's Board of Directors and Officers will be notified at least two weeks prior to Evaluations.

1/2 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 evaluation.

Air Scent Area Search Evaluation

This test consists of locating one person within the time allowed. The test will normally be conducted in an area of approximately 5 acres. The testing area will provide sufficient cover to allow the person to be concealed. The actual size of the testing area will be determined by the Evaluators. The person hiding may be in available cover or elevated up to 15 feet. The time limit for this test will normally be 30 minutes. The actual time limit will be determined by the Evaluators. Prior to starting the test, the handler will advise the Evaluators what type of indication the canine will give. Dogs that give a biting indication will not be allowed to test. A minimum average score of 70 points will be required to pass. Each Evaluator will give points as follows:

Person located by canine	60
Canine's indication	0-5
Canine's overall search performance interest, recovery from distraction, etc.	0-15
Handler's preparation necessary equipment, etc.	0-5
Handler's search performance notes conditions and wind direction, ability to read dog, appears to have a search plan, etc.	0-15

More than one testing area may be used at the discretion of the Evaluators. Handlers taking this test may request minor changes in the testing format such as the size of testing area or running the test as a scent specific test in order to let them document their proficiency in certain areas. If the test is run as scent specific, additional people will be hidden in the area. The handler will be given an article that has been scented by the correct person. These requests will be accommodated if the changes can be made without disruption to other activities.

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

Cadaver Detection Dog Evaluation

This test consists of locating two hides within the time allowed. Material hidden will be of human origin and will be tested to verify its suitability. The test will normally be conducted in an area approximately 100' x 200' (1/2 acre). This area will be divided into three sections. The testing area will provide sufficient cover to allow the hides to be concealed. The actual size of the testing area will be determined by the Evaluators. One hide will be placed in each of two sections. The third section will have no hide in it. Hides may be buried, in available cover or elevated up to six feet. One of the hides may be located inside a structure or on a vehicle. The time limit for this test will normally be 20 minutes. The actual time limit will be determined by the Evaluators. A minimum average score of 70 points will be required to pass. Each Evaluator will give points as follows:

Hide located by canine	25 each
Canine's indication	0-5 each
Canine's overall search performance interest, recovery from distraction, etc.	0-15
Handler's preparation necessary equipment, etc.	0-5
Handler's search performance notes conditions and wind direction, ability to read dog, appears to have a search plan, etc.	0-20

More than one testing area may be used at the discretion of the Evaluators. Handlers taking this test may request minor changes in the testing format such as the size of hides in order to let them document their proficiency in certain areas. These requests will be accommodated if the changes can be made without disruption to other activities.

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

Mantrailing Guidelines

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

Two classifications of evaluations are available: Basic Mantrailing and Advanced Mantrailing. All evaluating canine teams must pass the Basic Evaluation before moving on to the Advanced Evaluation. Basic Mantrailing evaluations are valid for two years from the date of the test. Advanced Mantrailing evaluations must be taken within one year of passing the basic evaluation and are valid for two years from the date of the test.

BASIC: Trail aged approximately 90 minutes to 4 hours, and trail will be up to, but not exceeding ½ mile. There is a forty-five minute time limit for this evaluation.

ADVANCED: Trail aged approximately 24-36 hours, and trail will be up to, but not exceeding 1½ miles. There is a one-hour time limit for this evaluation.

Basic Mantrailing Evaluation

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

- be up to, but not exceed 1/2 mile in length.
- contain two turns of less than 90 degrees each.
- be in moderate to heavy vegetation.
- have aged ninety minutes to four hours.

The evaluators will have a map of the trail prior to starting the evaluation. Each evaluation team will have its own evaluation trail. An evaluation trail will only be used once during the evaluation period. The trail-layer will be unknown to the dog and 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. Prior to the evaluation, the handler must describe the canine's final indication to the evaluators. The time limit for the Basic Evaluation will be forty-five minutes. The start time will be recorded by the evaluators once the handler gives the canine its 'start' command. Each evaluating team will be allowed one restart, at either the handler's or evaluator's discretion, if needed. The team will return to the start. No additional time will be given for a restart. The finish time will also be recorded by the evaluators once the handler acknowledges the canine's final indication of the correct trail-layer. Each evaluator will assess the evaluating team's performance using the evaluation sheets. Points will be given as follows:

Start 0-30 points: The start is critical, ensuring team work, harnessing procedures [0-10 points], scenting techniques [0-10 points], and commands (team work) [0-10 points].

First, Second and Third Legs (0-10 points each): Points will be assessed based again on team work and the handler's ability to read the canine during each leg of the trail.

Finish 0-40 points: The finish is also critical. Points are assessed for the canine giving its final indication to the handler [0-20 points] and the handler announcing to the primary evaluator that they have located the correct trail-layer [0-20 points] without assisting/or guiding the canine into the trail-layer.

Each evaluating team must achieve a total of 70 points to pass the Basic Mantrailing evaluation.

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

Advanced Mantrailing Evaluation

This test consists of locating a specific person who is unknown to the dog. NASDN's Basic Mantrailing Evaluation is a prerequisite for this test. The trail will:

- be up to, but not exceeding 1½ miles in length.
- meander and have two turns of less than 90 degrees each.
- be in a heavily contaminated wilderness, public park or industrial area.
- be on three types of surface (roads, water crossing, bridge, or terrain).
- have aged twenty-four to thirty-six hours.

Two people will lay the trail used in this test, the primary runner and the cross runner. The primary runner will lay the trail as described above. Approximately 30 minutes before the test, the cross runner will cross the primary runner's route at a place at least the halfway into the trail. The cross runner will continue on a separate route from the primary runner's trail to a point about 15 feet from the primary runner's end point. Both runners will remain in plain sight and may be joined by up to 3 other people in the immediate area. The canine must correctly identify the primary runner.

The evaluators will have a map of the trail prior to starting the evaluation. Each evaluation team will have its own evaluation trail. An evaluation trail will only be used once during the evaluation period. 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.

Prior to the evaluation, the handler must describe the canine's final indication to the evaluators.

The time limit for the Advanced Evaluation will be one hour. The start time will be recorded by the evaluators once the handler gives the canine its 'start' command. Each evaluating team will be allowed one restart, at either the handler's or evaluator's discretion, if needed. The team will return to the start. No additional time will be given for a restart. The finish time will also be recorded by the evaluators once the handler acknowledges the canine's final indication of the correct trail-layer. Each evaluator will assess the evaluating team's performance using the evaluation sheets. Points will be given as follows:

Start 0-30 points: The start is critical, ensuring team work, harnessing procedures [0-10 points], scenting techniques [0-10 points], and commands (team work) [0-10 points].

First and Second Legs 0-10 points each: Points will be assessed based again on team work and the handler's ability to read the canine during each leg of the trail.

Cross Trail 0-10 points Points will be assessed based on the team's ability to successfully work past a cross trail.

Finish 0-40 points: The finish is also critical. Points are assessed for the canine giving its final indication to the handler [0-20 points] and the handler announcing to the primary evaluator that they have located the correct trail-layer [0-20 points] without assisting/or guiding the canine into the trail-layer.

Each evaluating team must achieve a total of 70 points to pass the Advanced Mantrailing evaluation.

NORTH AMERICAN SEARCH DOG NETWORK
AREA SEARCH - EVALUATION SCORE SHEET

LOCATION: _____

SIZE OF AREA: _____

TIME ALLOWED: _____

TIME USED: _____

Handler: _____

Date: _____

Canine: _____

Evaluator: _____

Handler maintained control of canine. ___Yes ___No (no= failure of test)

Comments: _____

Name of hidden person: _____ Find (60 pts.) _____

Scent Specific: _____ Indication (0-5 pts) _____

Hidden: _____ Buried: _____ Ground Cover: _____ Elevated: _____ Vehicle: _____

Other: _____

Comments: _____

Canine's overall search performance (0-15 pts.) _____

Comments: _____

Handler's Preparation (0-5 pts.) _____

Comments: _____

Handler's overall search performance (0-15 pts.) _____

Comments: _____

(Evaluated Team must have a total of 70 points to pass)

Evaluator Signature: _____

Total Score: _____

**NORTH AMERICAN SEARCH DOG NETWORK
CADAVER DETECTION - EVALUATION SCORE SHEET**

LOCATION: _____

SIZE OF AREA: _____

TIME ALLOWED: _____

TIME USED: _____

Handler: _____

Date: _____

Canine: _____

Evaluator: _____

Handler maintained control of canine. ___Yes ___No (no= failure of test) Comments: _____ _____

Hide #1 Material: _____ Amount: _____ Find (25 pts.) _____ Indication (0-5 pts) _____ Hidden: _____ Buried: _____ Ground Cover: _____ Hanging: _____ Vehicle: _____ Other: _____ Comments: _____ _____

Hide #2 Material: _____ Amount: _____ Find (25 pts.) _____ Indication (0-5 pts) _____ Hidden: _____ Buried: _____ Ground Cover: _____ Hanging: _____ Vehicle: _____ Other: _____ Comments: _____ _____

Canine's overall search performance (0-15 pts.) _____ Comments: _____ _____ _____

Handler's Preparation (0-5 pts.) _____ Comments: _____ _____ _____

Handler's overall search performance (0-20 pts.) _____ Comments: _____ _____ _____

(Evaluated Team must have a total of 70 points to pass)

Total Score: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____

**NORTH AMERICAN SEARCH DOG NETWORK
BASIC MANTRAILING - EVALUATION SCORE SHEET**

START TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____

FINISH TIME: _____

TIME USED: _____

Handler: _____

Date: _____

Canine: _____

Time Allowed: **45 Minutes**

Evaluator: _____

Length of Trail: _____

Trail Layer: _____

Date & Time Trail Laid: _____

Handler maintained control of canine. ___Yes ___No (no= failure of test)
Comments: _____

Map of trail

Comments: _____

Start (preparation, use of scent article etc.) Comments: _____ (0-30 pts.) _____

First Leg Comments: _____ (0-10 pts.) _____

Second Leg Comments: _____ (0-10 pts.) _____

Third Leg Comments: _____ (0-10 pts.) _____

Finish (Final Indication, Subject I.D., etc) Comments: _____ (0-40 pts.) _____

(Evaluated Team must have a total of 70 points to pass)

Total Score: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____

**NORTH AMERICAN SEARCH DOG NETWORK
ADVANCED MANTRAILING - EVALUATION SCORE SHEET**

START TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____

FINISH TIME: _____

TIME USED: _____

Handler: _____

Date: _____

Canine: _____

Time Allowed: **1-Hour** _____

Evaluator: _____

Length of Trail: _____

Trail Layer: _____

Date & Time Trail Laid: _____

Cross Trail Layer: _____

Date & Time Trail Laid: _____

Handler maintained control of canine. ___Yes ___No (no= failure of test)
Comments: _____

Map of trail

Comments: _____

Start (preparation, use of scent article etc.) Comments: _____ (0-30 pts.) _____

First Leg Comments: _____ (0-10 pts.) _____

Second Leg Comments: _____ (0-10 pts.) _____

Cross Trail Comments: _____ (0-10 pts.) _____

Finish (Final Indication, Subject I.D., etc) Comments: _____ (0-40 pts.) _____

(Evaluated Team must have a total of 70 points to pass)

Total Score: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____