

TYPE 1, TYPE 2, TYPE 4 TRAILING GUIDELINES
FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Appendix "F" (Mission Ready Evaluation)
Type 1, Type 2 and Type 4 Trailing Canine Team Evaluations
Mission Ready Test Requirements

Evaluators: Tests and Evaluations shall be given in accordance to the K-9 SAR Dog Evaluator Guidelines as stated in this document. In general, the evaluating agency should use broad discretion in developing testing procedures that reflect actual search conditions. For Trailing tests, the Evaluator(s) are responsible to ensure the test is conducted in a manner that allows the dog to locate the victim before it encounters the exit trail.

MANDATORY PREREQUISITES

Teams must have completed all necessary "Handlers Skills requirements" and "Trailing Team Proficiency Sign-offs" requirements for the specific "Type" of canine being tested, prior to testing.

Type 1 Multi-purpose and Type 2 Wilderness Mission Ready Evaluation:

Length of Evaluation trail: The evaluation shall be set up out of the normal training area of the team being tested. The trail shall be 1.0 to 1.5 Miles in overall total length, with 6-9 opportunities for the team being evaluated to make decisions and have choices in determining the "trail the subject has walked." The trail shall also include 3-6 turns / changes of direction. Turns are considered to be changes of direction at an intersection, trail junction or deviation from a specific path.

Age of Trail: Shall be at least 18 to 24 hours old, ideally aged overnight.

Terrain Type and Search Conditions: The trail shall be laid in a "Wilderness Type" terrain and should be a combination of fire roads, dirt paths / trail and meadow type cross county setting. The trail may cross-paved roads or surfaces, but should be laid in a fashion to avoid any distances on those types of surfaces. Additionally, one or more persons and one or more dogs shall cross the trail after the trail is laid and at least one hour before the test commences. The subject placement should follow a natural course that reduces the chance of the dog following a valid scent trail around the subject.

Observers shall be permitted only with permission from the evaluators and the individual being evaluated. If an observer is allowed to accompany the team, the evaluators must ensure the observer does not contribute to the team's performance.

Evaluators should remember the trailing problem is a test of the dog/handler team's ability to work out a scent trail, not an exercise in mantracking or land navigation. Evaluators may ask the handler to indicate on a map the general location of the subject after the test is completed but should not stop the team during the trail to perform map and compass evaluation.

The team must find the subject to pass. Under special circumstances trail conditions may provide the dog a valid scent trail past the subject and cause the team to pass by the subject. If the Evaluators determine this has occurred, they should take the team back to an area near the subject so the dog can locate the subject and demonstrate its appropriate alert.

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Time of Test: The team has a maximum of 4 hours to complete the evaluation and locate the subject. Timing of the test shall commence when the handler has scented the dog.

Type 4 Urban Mission Ready Evaluation:

Length of Evaluation trail: .5 to .75 miles in overall total length with 2-4 turns. Turns are considered to be changes of direction at an intersection, trail junction or deviation from a specific path. There shall be several opportunities for the team being evaluated to make decisions and have choices in determining the "trail the subject has walked." The subject placement should follow a natural course that reduces the chance of the dog following a valid scent trail around the subject.

Age of Trail: Shall be at least 4 to 12 hours old.

Terrain Type and Search Conditions: The trail shall be laid in an "urban type" terrain and should be a combination of paved and hard surfaces, fire roads, dirt paths / trail and "green space" type setting. The trail may cross paved roads or surfaces, but should be laid in a fashion to avoid any distances on those types of surfaces.

Observers shall be permitted only with permission from the evaluators and the person being evaluated. If an observer is allowed to accompany the team, the evaluators must ensure the observer does not contribute to the team's performance.

Evaluators should remember that the trailing problem is a test of the dog/handler team's ability to work out a scent trail, not an exercise in mantracking. Evaluators may ask the handler to indicate on a map the general location of the subject after the test is completed but should not stop the team during the trail to perform map and compass evaluation.

The team must find the subject to pass. Under special circumstances trail conditions may provide the dog a valid scent trail past the subject and cause the team to pass by the subject. If the evaluators determine this has occurred, they should take the team back to an area near the subject so the dog can locate the subject and demonstrate its appropriate alert.

Time of Test: The team has a maximum of 4 Hours to complete the evaluation.

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RECERTIFICATION:

Teams shall recertify at least once every two years. For rectification tests, the length of the Evaluation Trail may be reduced to .75 to 1.25 Miles for the Type 1 and 2 tests. The Type 4 Test shall remain the same distance. Should a team fail a Re-certification Test, they must take the Mission Ready Evaluation as defined.

MANDATORY PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

The team will be evaluated on essential trailing skills as listed below. The evaluators shall assess and report the team’s performance with YES, NO, or N/A (not applicable or not observed). **If N/A is reported, then an explanation of the circumstances should be included. Any assessment item, which receives a “NO” rating by one or both of the evaluators, will result in a failure of the test.** The table below summarizes the guidelines for evaluating critical handler and dog skills. 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.

No.	Skill	Criteria for Evaluation	Report
1.	Conduct of Initial Interview	Does not interview or take notes.	No
		Conducts adequate interview. Gets PLS and basic subject information.	Yes (Threshold)
		Conducts excellent but concise interview. Informs IC of information dog can provide.	Yes (Objective)
2.	Demonstration of Working Knowledge of Scent	Unable to explain how dog’s actions could be explained by scent behavior. Does not ask about weather when or since trail was laid.	No
		Able to occasionally relate scent to weather and terrain.	Yes (Threshold)
		Has thorough knowledge of scent. Able to point out terrain features, which may affect scent. Relates areas of dog interest to terrain and wind.	Yes (Objective)

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3.	Ability to Read Dog	<p>Repeatedly pulls dog off scent or leads dog.</p> <p>Allows dog to work scent trail. Can tell within a reasonable time frame if dog is on or off scent.</p> <p>Handler accurately analyzes scent relative to dog’s behavior.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes (Threshold)</p> <p>Yes (Objective)</p>
4.	Demonstration of Adequate Stamina	<p>Handler in poor condition.</p> <p>Handler condition adequate.</p> <p>Handler condition excellent.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes (Threshold)</p> <p>Yes (Objective)</p>
5.	Dog Trails to Subject	<p>Dog does not find subject as defined in guidelines.</p> <p>Dog finds subject as defined in guidelines indicates the subject.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes (Objective)</p>
6.	Dog Stays on Task	<p>Dog is unable to complete trail due to becoming distracted.</p> <p>Dog is distracted by smells/sounds/sights but handler is able to return dog’s focus to work.</p> <p>If distracted, dog immediately returns to work.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes (Threshold)</p> <p>Yes (Objective)</p>
7.	Dog Seems Motivated	<p>Dog stops working due to lack of motivation and does not finish trail.</p> <p>Dog willingly works scent trail.</p> <p>Dog is enthusiastic and works out problems.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes (Threshold)</p> <p>Yes (Objective)</p>
8.	Dog Demonstrates Adequate Stamina	<p>Dog is too tired to complete trail or appears exhausted.</p> <p>Dog stamina is adequate. Shows ability to continue if needed.</p> <p>Dog has excellent stamina. Shows enthusiasm.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes (Threshold)</p> <p>Yes (Objective)</p>

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**TYPE 1, TYPE 2 AND TYPE 4 MISSION READY
 TRAILING TEST EVALUATION FORM**

Handler: _____ Date: _____
 Dog: _____ Location: _____ Re-certification: _____
 Start Time: _____ Stop Time: _____ Pass: Fail:
 Terrain: _____ Elevation: _____
 Weather: _____ Temperature: _____
 Age of Trail: _____
 Trailing Problem Description: _____

Tested For: Type 1 Type 2 Type 4 (Circle Choice)

MANDATORY PREREQUISITES

Mandatory Prerequisite (Must be checked prior to performing test)	✓
Has Appropriate Uniform and Equipment for Search Conditions	
Handler certifications in CPR and First Aid are current (enter dates) CPR Expiration Date: / / First Aid Expiration Date: / /	
Handler Preliminary Requirements Complete *	
Dog Preliminary Requirements Complete*	
Training Log Checked	

* Not applicable for mission ready handlers

MANDATORY PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS: HANDLER SKILLS

No.	Handler Skill	Yes	No	N/A
1.	Conduct of Initial Interview			
2.	Demonstration of Working Knowledge of Scent			
3.	Ability to Read Dog			
4.	Demonstration of Adequate Stamina			

MANDATORY PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS: TRAILING DOG SKILLS

No.	Trailing Dog Skill	Yes	No	N/A
5.	Dog Trails to General Area of Subject and Locates Subject			
6.	Dog Stays On Task			
7.	Dog Seems Motivated			
8.	Dog Demonstrates Adequate Stamina			

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

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Comments: (Please reference by number)

Evaluator: _____

Co-Evaluator: _____

Subject: _____

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Trailing Team Proficiency Sign-Offs: Type 1, Type 2 and Type 4 Trailing Team

Canine Skills	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 4
See Appendix F	Multipurpose-Trailing Wilderness/Urban	Trailing Wilderness	Trailing Urban
Successful (Blind) Aged Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 hour trail-Wilderness • 60-72 hour trail-Wilderness • 8-12 hour trail-Urban 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 hour trail-Wilderness • 60-72 hour trail-Wilderness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8-12 hour trail-Urban
Demonstrated training experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 hour trail-Wilderness • 48 hour trail-Urban • 60-72 hour trail-Urban 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 hour trail-Wilderness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 hour trail-Urban • 60-72 hour trail-Urban
Trail Head Validation	Wilderness- Canine capable when given a possible sighting at a location or PLS of determining whether or not subject was recently in the area.	Wilderness- Canine capable when given a possible sighting at a location or PLS of determining whether or not subject was recently in the area.	Urban – Recommended, but not required
Successful Blind Night Search Experience	Two 1/4 to 1/2 mile trails (up to 20 minute problem), 1 Urban and 1 Wilderness	Two 1/4 to 1/2 mile trails (up to 20 minute problem) in Wilderness	Two 1/4 to 1/2 mile trails (up to 20 minute problem) in Urban
Canine Skills	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 4
Suitability for SAR	<p>Agility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Log bridge or plank walk • Climb unsteady surface • Tunnel • Crawl under obstacle • Lift over barrier <p>Sociability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog/dog • Dog/human • Truck transport w/ other dogs • Dog moved by others <p>Ability to work through typical wilderness (e.g., critters, etc.) and urban distractions. (e.g., traffic, off leash domesticated animals, trash, fast food drive-thru, local pet stores)</p>	<p>Agility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Log bridge or plank walk • Climb unsteady surface • Tunnel • Crawl under obstacle • Lift over barrier <p>Sociability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog/dog • Dog/human • Truck transport w/ other dogs • Dog moved by others <p>Ability to work through typical wilderness distractions (e.g., critters, etc.)</p>	<p>Agility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Log bridge or plank walk • Climb unsteady surface • Tunnel • Crawl under obstacle • Lift over barrier <p>Sociability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog/dog • Dog/human • Truck transport w/ other dogs • Dog moved by others <p>Ability to work through typical urban distractions (e.g., traffic, off leash-domesticated animals, trash, fast food drive-thru, local pet stores.)</p>
Obedience (Dogs on lead)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heel on lead • Long wait 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heel on lead • Long wait 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heel on lead • Long wait
Helicopter Safety	Canine should be able to demonstrate the ability to safely Load and Unload during both hot and cold situations.	Canine should be able to demonstrate the ability to safely Load and Unload during both hot and cold situations.	Canine should be able to demonstrate the ability to safely Load and Unload during both hot and cold situations.
Cadaver Scent Exposure	Canine shall be evaluated for reaction to exposure to Cadaver Scent / Material	Canine shall be evaluated for reaction to exposure to Cadaver Scent / Material	Canine shall be evaluated for reaction to exposure to Cadaver Scent / Material

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Trailing Team Proficiency Sign-Offs:
Type 1, Type 2 and Type 4 Trailing Team Canine Skills Requirements

The following list of canine skills and tasks are to be completed prior to taking a Mission Ready Test. The dog shall meet the minimum age requirement of 9 months for sign-offs. The team must successfully complete the Trailing Team Proficiency Sign-Offs: Trailing Team for the specific "Type" of canine team before progressing to the Mission Ready Test. All items shall be witnessed and signed off by a SAR Dog Evaluator, as defined in this guideline, except items #8, #10, #12 and #13 which may be signed off by a Mission Ready Trailing dog handler or SAR Dog Evaluator.

Suitability for SAR REQUIRED FOR ALL TYPES OF TEAMS: TYPE 1, 2 AND 4

1. CONFIDENCE AGILITY ON-LEASH

Trailing dogs that work on lead shall complete the requirements listed below. The dog and handler shall successfully negotiate the following obstacles with the dog on lead.

1. The handler, with the assistance of 1 or 2 helpers (if needed), shall lift the dog over a fence or similar barrier between 3 and 4 feet in height. The dog shall be controllable throughout the exercise.
2. The dog shall demonstrate a crawl under an obstacle such as a barbed-wire fence or a gate.
3. The handler, with the assistance of 1 or 2 helpers (if needed), shall demonstrate lifting the dog down from a 4 to 5 foot height, such as boulder, truck bed or helicopter. The dog shall be controllable throughout the exercise.
4. The handler and dog shall safely climb and balance on rocks, a wood pile or similar uneven terrain
5. The handler will demonstrate the dog's ability to walk across a Log Bridge or plank for a distance of 8 to 10 feet raised a minimum of 1 to 2 feet above the ground.

2. TRANSPORT

The handler with his or her dog on a loose leash shall be transported in a vehicle with other handlers and their dogs on loose leads. There shall be no more than five or less than three handlers and dogs per vehicle. The dogs shall be under the handlers control at all times and will be transported on a bumpy road for five minutes. The dogs shall remain calm and not struggle or show aggression.

3. CADAVER SCENT EXPOSURE

The intent of the cadaver exercise is for the handler to gain knowledge of how the trailing dog will respond to a deceased human body. The exercise is not intended as a cadaver training exercise nor does it in any way certify/qualify the dog for cadaver search work.

In a natural environment, cadaver scent shall be placed at ground level, but in a inaccessible to the dog. Wind direction must be given careful consideration in setting up the exercise. The scent source shall be placed one hour before the exercise begins. The cadaver scent should be contained in PVC or other appropriate container and should not be contaminated with fresh human scent. The scent item shall be placed so that it is not easily seen but the handler may know the location the scent item.

The exposure exercise should be set up in such a way that the dog will discover the cadaver scent rather than have the scent pointed out to the dog. The dog may or may not be on leash. The handler should make note of the dog's behavior.

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4. Heel On Lead:

The handler shall demonstrate the dog's ability to walk on leash through a scattered group of people and dogs on leash in a controlled manner. Demonstration of control is satisfied by the handler being able to keep the dog near his or her side and with the dog not exhibiting aggression toward other dogs or people.

5. Long Wait:

The handler shall tether the dog to a fixed object and shall leave the immediate area and remain out of sight for a period of ten minutes. At the end of the first five minutes an evaluator shall move and tether the dog in another location for the remaining portion of the exercise. This second location will also be out of sight of the handler. The dog shall not exhibit aggression or undue apprehension during the exercise.

6. Helicopter loading and unloading:

The dog shall demonstrate the ability to be safely loaded on and off from an operating helicopter with the rotors in motion. (Hot Loading)

Aged Trail Requirements

WILDERNESS AREA - REQUIRED FOR TYPE 1 AND TYPE 2

7. SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF 48-HOUR AND 60 TO 72-HOUR OLD TRAILS

The trailing dog team shall successfully complete one each 48-hour and 60 to 72-hour old trail that is unknown to the handler. The trail shall be approximately one half mile in length and have several intersections or other decision points and one change of direction. The trail shall be laid in a rural area and should cross paved roads/sidewalks. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the trail was laid.

8. DEMONSTRATED TRAINING EXPERIENCE TRAINING ON 96-HOUR OLD TRAIL

The trailing dog team shall demonstrate running at least one 96-hour old trail with a mission ready trailing dog handler. The team is not required to be successful and may know where the trail was laid. The purpose of these exercises is for the handler to know the dog's capabilities for the conditions encountered both in aging of the trail and in running the trail. It is recommended that the trail be at least one-third to one-half mile in length.

9. TRAIL HEAD VERIFICATION/SCENT GUIDE VERIFICATION

The dog shall be provided a scent guide and possible last known point (LKP) such as a car or home. The handler shall fire the dog at the LKP and demonstrate the ability to read the dog to determine if the scent guide is valid or whether the subject has been in the area. This exercise will be performed with either a valid or an invalid scent guide and the handler shall not know which is the case during the evaluation. If the scent guide is not valid, the evaluator shall take special care to ensure the LKP does not have scent matching that of the guide.

10. WILDERNESS SUCCESSFUL NIGHT SEARCH TRAININGS

One required for TYPE 1 and two for TYPE 2

The team shall participate in search training exercise to give the team search experience at night. The handler will have an opportunity to observe the dog working in new and different scent conditions, the experience of searching in the dark, reading the dog, and seeing how the dog reacts to people and animals in the dark. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the trail was laid.

A SAR Dog Evaluator or Mission Ready Trailing handler shall accompany the handler and dog on night search trailing exercise. The night trailing exercise shall be a minimum of 1/4 to 1/2 mile in length and lasting up to twenty minutes total search time.

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URBAN AREA - REQUIRED FOR TYPE 1 AND TYPE 4

11. SUCCESSFUL URBAN TRAINING

The trailing dog team shall demonstrate running an 8 to 12 hour old trail on streets and sidewalks in an urban or suburban area with a mission ready trailing dog handler. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the trail was laid. The purpose of this exercise is for the handler to know the dog’s capabilities and limitations in the urban environment. Ideally the trail will include heavily traveled streets as well as less frequently traveled streets and will contain segments with driveways or other openings that will collect scent as cars drive on or adjacent to the trail. The trail shall be 1/3 to 1/2 mile in length.

12. DEMONSTRATED TRAINING EXPERIENCE ON 48 HOUR AND 60 to 72 HOUR OLD TRAILS

The trailing dog team shall demonstrate running one each 48-hour and 60 to 72-hour old trail on streets and sidewalks in an urban or suburban area with a mission ready trailing dog handler. The team is not required to be successful and may know where the trail was laid. The purpose of this exercise is for the handler to know the dog’s capabilities and limitations in the urban environment. Ideally the trail will include heavily traveled streets as well as less frequently traveled streets and will contain segments with driveways or other openings that will collect scent as cars drive on or adjacent to the trail. The trail shall be 1/3 to 1/2 mile in length.

13. URBAN SUCCESSFUL NIGHT SEARCH TRAINING

One required for TYPE 1 and two required for TYPE 4

The team shall participate in search training exercises to give the team search experience at night. The handler will have an opportunity to observe the dog work in new and different scent conditions, the experience of searching in the dark, reading the dog, and seeing how the dog reacts to people and animals in the dark. The team is required to be successful and may not know where the trail was laid.

A SAR Dog Evaluator or Mission Ready Trailing handler shall accompany the handler and dog on night search trailing exercises. The night search trailing exercise shall be a minimum of 1/4 to 1/2 mile in length and last up to twenty minutes total search time.

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TYPE 1, TYPE 2 AND TYPE 4 TRAILING DOG
PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST
CANINE SKILLS

Handler _____ Dog _____

INSTRUCTIONS: It is the handler's responsibility to have each of the categories listed signed and dated by a SAR Dog Evaluator or Mission Ready Trailing Dog Handler as indicated

SUITABILITY FOR SAR - REQUIRED FOR TYPE 1, TYPE 2 AND TYPE 4

CONFIDENCE AGILITY

Climb & balance on rocks etc.	Date _____	Signed _____
Crawl under obstacle (6-10')	Date _____	Signed _____
Lift over barrier	Date _____	Signed _____
Lift down	Date _____	Signed _____
Log or 8" plank 8-10' long	Date _____	Signed _____
Elevated at least a minimum of 1 to 2 feet above ground		

TRANSPORT

In a vehicle with 3-5 dogs, bumpy road, 5 minutes, under supervision
 Date _____ Signed _____

HELICOPTER SAFETY TRAINING

Handler and dog shall demonstrate loading/unloading from an operating helicopter with rotors in motion.
 Date _____ Signed _____

CADAVER SCENT EXERCISE

Dog exposed to decomposed human scent.

Date _____ Signed _____

The dog's behavior/reactions were: _____

HEEL ON LEAD Date _____ Signed _____

LONG WAIT Date _____ Signed _____

CANINE SKILLS

0 NIGHT SEARCH DOG TRAINING

Two 1/4 to 1/2 mile trails (up to 20 Minute) night trailing problems.

For TYPE 1 - Must Complete One Wilderness, One Urban

For TYPE 2 - Must Complete Two Wilderness

For TYPE 4 - Must Complete Two Urban

THESE TRAILS MAY BE SIGNED OFF BY A MISSION READY TRAILING DOG HANDLER

Date _____	Signed _____	Trail Type _____
Date _____	Signed _____	Trail Type _____

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TRAINING TRAILS - WILDERNESS REQUIRED FOR TYPE 1 AND TYPE 2

Successfully completed 48-hour trail
Date _____ Signed _____

Successfully completed 60-72 hour trail
Date _____ Signed _____

THIS TRAIL MAY BE SIGNED OFF BY A MISSION READY TRAILING DOG HANDLER

Trained on 96-hour trail
Date _____ Signed _____

TRAINING TRAILS - URBAN REQUIRED FOR TYPE 1 AND TYPE 4

Successfully completed 8-12 hour trail
Date _____ Signed _____

THESE TRAILS MAY BE SIGNED OFF BY A MISSION READY TRAILING DOG HANDLER

Trained on 48-hour trail
Date _____ Signed _____

Trained on 60-72 hour trail
Date _____ Signed _____

1 TRAILHEAD VALIDATION/SCENT GUIDE VERIFICATION - WILDERENSS
Date _____ Signed _____

2

3 DOG HAS COMPLETED ALL TRAILING TEAM PROFICIENCY SIGN-OFFS

Date _____ Signed _____
SAR DOG EVALUATOR