

Human Remains Detection (Land)

PREREQUISITES

- Crime Scene Preservation Class
- Bloodborne Pathogens and Hazmat Awareness Class
- Training Records
- Dog and Handler should be in sufficient health to complete the evaluation.
- Dogs must be a minimum of 12 months of age and handlers are preferred to be a minimum of 18 years old.

Human Remains Detection (HRD) Certification Evaluation Process will consist of Odor Recognition Test, Obedience Test and Certification Evaluation.

ODOR RECOGNITION TEST

- There will be one search area consisting of 4 to 8 containers (Boxes, cans, training PVC tubes).
- The target odor will consist of one of the following, (bone, tissue, fresh or old odor).
- A distraction will be placed in one of the containers (clean tennis ball, clean latex-vinyl glove, food and/or animal remains).
- Once the search command is given, the dog must actively hunt for the target odor. The handler shall remain at a predetermined location outside of the search boundaries so as not to cue or interfere with the search. In the search sector, the dog must successfully locate and conduct a trained final response (TFR) at target odor within the two-minute time limit. If the dog is unable to complete its TFR at target odor within the two-minute time limit, that will be considered a failure.
- After the dog has given its TFR, the handler must correctly communicate the location of the target source to the evaluator to successfully complete the ORT portion of test.

OBEDIENCE TEST

During this test, an electronic collar (E-collar) may be worn by the dog however, no electrical stimulation will be allowed. One make up (or redo) of any one obedience item will be allowed. If dog is stressed evaluator may give handler and dog a short break before last attempt. The dog must be able to successfully complete the following tasks:

- Travel off lead with the handler for a distance of approximately 25 yards.
- Recall to handler on command from a distance of approximately 25 yards.
- Emergency stop on command (as told by the evaluator) Dog must show change of behavior followed by a stop. Approximately 25 yards from handler.
- Meet and greet a neutral person while on leash. The handler will greet and shake hands with the individual. Dog cannot show any aggression.
- Meet and greet another person and their dog. Handler will stop and both dogs will be put in sit position and handler will greet the other person. Dog cannot show any aggression.

CERTIFICATION EVALUATION

- The CE will consist of 6 search stations. Handler will not be advised of the exact number of target odors or if the sector is blank. Each search station will contain 0 to 3 target odors. Within the 6 search stations, there will be at least one target odor hidden at ground level, one target odor buried at a depth of 6-24 inches and will be in place at least 12 hours before testing, one target odor elevated between 4 to 6 feet above ground level and one area blank. At least one of the above stations will have animal remains (which will be secured from the dog).
- There will be (2) rural large sized areas (approximately one acre).
- There will be (2) rural or urban medium sized areas (approximately 1/4 acre).
- There will be (1) Building search of any size.
- There will be (1) Vehicle search consisting of 3 to 6 vehicles exterior only.

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PLEASE BE ADVISED OF THE SPECIFIC TIME LIMIT FOR THE COMPLETION OF EACH SEARCH STATION.

- Travel off lead with the handler for a distance of approximately 25 yards.
- 30 minutes each for the large sized rural areas
- 8 minutes each for the medium sized rural areas
- 15 minutes for each 1000 square feet of building to be searched
- 2 minutes per vehicle (exterior)
- 2 minutes for Odor recognition or two passes by odor
- Times will be at the evaluator's discretion

Target odor will be in place 30 minutes prior to the starting of each search stations.

Every effort will be made to include target odors at various levels of decomposition.

TFR to odor must be independent from handler. It should be clear that the dog is exhibiting a particular behavior or combination of behaviors to indicate the presence of HRD. The TFR will be described to the evaluators prior to the beginning of the testing.

If the TFR is not able to performed due to environmental obstructions, the obvious body language indicators exhibited by the dog will suffice.

An aggressive final response that the evaluators determines would have resulted in the destruction or total elimination of evidence in a real search, the find will be counted as a miss.

THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE HRD CERTIFICATION IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWINGtasks:

- The possession of the required prerequisites.
- The successful passage of the obedience/odor recognition test.
- The successful location and identification of 90% of the target odors by the handler, based on the handler's recognition/interpretation of the dog's behavior. The dog must perform an independent and recognizable trained final response, at the target odor location, based on the evaluator's interpretation of the odor movement and flow.
- A false alert which is relayed by the handler to the evaluator, clearly directed to a non-target odor, will constitute as a failure of the certification evaluation (CE).
- Evaluator discretion is permitted under unconfirmed and questionable outcome.