

DOGS-EAST

Standards



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PREFACE

The purpose of these Standards for Evaluation is to delineate the criteria that must be met in order to meet the objectives stated in Article II of the Bylaws of DOGS-East, Inc.; that is, to ensure deployment of skilled search dog teams for search missions upon the request of any official agency. In order to accomplish this objective, these Standards; (a) outline the skills and knowledge required of dogs, handlers for Applicant, Candidate, Operational and Incident Commander levels; (b) describe the criteria and methods for evaluating and assessing the progress and maintenance of dog team search skills; and (c) specify required training, educational, and other requirements to develop and improve search capabilities and maintain active status.

SECTION ONE: DOG TEAMS

There are three types of dog teams in DOGS-East: Wilderness dog teams, Human Remains Detection (HRD) dog teams and water dog teams. Wilderness dog teams are evaluated on their ability to find live non-responsive persons in a wilderness setting. HRD dog teams are evaluated on their ability to find human remains. Water dog teams are evaluated on their ability to locate human scent in water and direct recovery teams to find human remains in water. Individuals can become operational in more than one track. Non-operational handlers may not attempt to become operational with one dog in more than one track simultaneously.

1.A. General Requirements

All dog-teams must meet the following requirements.

1.A.1. Applicant

An individual who has submitted an application for membership in DOGS-East and the application has been accepted by the Standards Committee in accordance with Section 4.A. Criteria for being accepted as an Applicant dog team includes the following:

1.A.1.a. Handler Requirements

The individual should be physically capable of performing strenuous search tasks typical of search activities in the Mid-Atlantic region, and own a dog meeting the below requirements.

1.A.1.b. Dog Requirements

The dog should be at least 6 months old, in good health, and must be current on rabies and DHP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus) vaccinations. Proof of current vaccination or titer records shall be submitted to the Standards Officer. A veterinarian's health certificate may be requested by the Standards Committee in cases where the dog's health is questionable.

1.A.2. Candidate

An Applicant may be elevated to Candidate status provided he has successfully met the requirements listed in Section 1.A.2 and those listed either in Section 1.B.2 (Wilderness Dog Teams) or 1.C.2 (HRD Dog Teams), and has been voted to Candidate level by the Standards Committee in accordance with Section 4.C.

1.A.2.a. Timeline

Applicants must meet the requirements for Candidate status within 6 months after becoming an Applicant. If the dog team fails to meet all the requirements for Candidate status in the prescribed time, an extension of up to six months may be granted by the Board of Directors in accordance with DOGS-East Bylaws. Any member who requests an evaluation within their timeline shall remain an active member until such time as the evaluation is conducted. If an extension is not granted, or the dog team fails to meet the requirements before the extension period has elapsed, the Applicant forfeits his right to train the dog in the given track (wilderness or HRD). Applicants who have not been accepted with a different dog and are not in a different category (wilderness, HRD) of membership are automatically removed from membership in DOGS-East.

1.A.2.b. Basic Obedience

Applicants and their dogs shall be required to demonstrate basic obedience skills using voice and/or hand signals. No training aids or training collars shall be permitted unless otherwise noted.

Heel on Lead - The dog will start from a sitting position. The handler will give the command to heel and step forward. The dog should remain at the side of the handler with its head near the handler's leg. The dog should always be on a loose lead. The team must perform the following commands as directed: right turn, left turn, about turn, change of pace (slow, fast, normal), and halt.

Stay - The dog shall be off lead and given the command to stay. The dog shall remain in place for 10 minutes. Handler will remain in sight approximately 50 feet from the dog. The dog may be verbally corrected; however, it should not have moved further than 5 feet from where it was originally told to stay. The handler may leave a leash or his backpack beside or behind the dog.

Recall - The dog shall be placed on a stay. Handler shall walk at least 50 feet away from the dog. The handler may leave a leash or his backpack beside or behind the dog. Handler will call the dog to him. The dog shall go promptly to the handler.

Aggression Toward Other Dogs - The dog shall be tied to its car on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Another handler with his dog on lead shall walk by approximately 10 feet away. The dog tied to the car should show no aggression toward either the other handler or his dog.

Aggression Towards People - The handler will stand with the dog in the heeling position. A stranger will approach and engage the handler in conversation. The dog must not show aggressive behavior toward the stranger.

Aggression in Crowded and Confined Spaces - The dog and handler will load into the back of a vehicle, such as a pickup truck, along with at least two other people and two other dogs. The vehicle will then be driven for a period of at least one mile during which time the dog must not display aggressive or uncontrolled behavior.

1.A.3. Operational

A Candidate may be elevated to Operational status provided he has successfully met the requirements listed in Section 1.A.3 and those listed either in Section 1.B.3 (Wilderness Dog Teams) or 1.C.3 (HRD Dog Teams), and has been voted to Operational level by the Standards Committee in accordance with Section 4.C.

1.A.3.a. Timeline

Candidates must meet the requirements for Operational status within one year after becoming a Candidate. If the dog team fails to meet all the requirements for Operational status in the prescribed time, an extension of up to six months may be granted by the Board of Directors in accordance with DOGS-East Bylaws. Any member who requests an evaluation within their timeline shall remain an active member until such time as the evaluation is conducted. If an extension is not granted, or the dog team fails to meet the requirements before the extension period has elapsed, the Candidate forfeits his right to train the dog in the given track (wilderness or HRD). Candidates who have not been accepted with a different dog and are not in a different category (wilderness, HRD) of membership are automatically removed from membership in DOGS-East.

1.A.3.b. Survival Night

The Candidate has attended a survival lecture and successfully participated in a "survival night". A Candidate may be voted to Operational status without fulfilling this requirement provided he submits written documentation of previous training in this area. The Candidate must, however, fulfill this requirement within one year of achieving Operational status. Failure to fulfill this requirement within the prescribed time shall result in automatic removal from DOGS-East membership.

The purpose of the overnight survival night exercise is to test the handler's and the dog's ability to spend the night in the outdoors.

In order to simulate this situation for an evaluation, the following guidelines should apply:

- The exercise should not become an exercise in raw survival. The evaluators should inspect each person's equipment and help ensure that it is at least minimally adequate for the testing environment.

- Safety is of paramount importance. The participating individuals should be monitored carefully during the night to ensure that problems such as hypothermia do not develop. The evaluators should have a contingency plan for such emergencies.
- The individual's equipment should be restricted to what they normally carry in a pack during an actual search.
- The test area should be typical terrain found in searches and far enough from roads, residences and vehicles to create some sense of realism.
- Access to vehicles and equipment caches during the exercise should be denied.
- The individual must demonstrate the ability to build a fire and suitable shelter.

1.A.3.c. First Aid and CPR

The Candidate has a current certification in basic First Aid and CPR (approved course given by the American Red Cross or other recognized agency).

1.A.3.d. Age of Dog

The dog must be at least 12 months old.

Canine Behavior, Obedience, and Agility - A current B/O/A certification is required before taking the final field evaluation. All B/O/A evaluations will be completed within three months of the first B/O/A attempt. Failure to complete all B/O/A evaluations in the three-month time limit will require all B/O/A evaluations to be repeated. The B/O/A certification is valid for two years from the date of completion.

1.A.3.e Behavior

The Behavior evaluation must be successfully completed before the Advanced Obedience evaluation and the Agility evaluation are attempted. Handlers may use voice and/or hand signals, and are allowed to give more than one command. Training aids, training collars, or rewards are not permitted unless otherwise noted. More than one canine team may be tested at a time.

The canine must not show signs of aggression and must remain under control throughout the evaluation. The Behavior evaluation will consist of the following four components:

- Tie out - The canine will be secured by the handler via a leash to a stationary object. The handler will then walk out of sight. A second canine on leash (at a heel and under control) will walk ten feet away.
- Acceptance of Another Handler - The handler will secure the canine to the handler's vehicle. The handler will move to a designated area out of sight from the canine. Another team member will then approach the canine and will walk the canine back to where the handler is staging. The canine must be manageable.

- Close Canine Behavior - The canine team will walk a figure eight pattern around two other posted canine teams. The canine team will then post while another canine team walks the figure eight pattern. The posts will be eight feet apart, and the team walking will do so on a loose leash coming between two and four feet away from the posts. The posts will not interfere with the walking team, and all the canines will remain under the control of their handler.
- Vehicle Behavior - The canine and handler will load into the back of a vehicle along with at least two other people and two other canines. The vehicle will then be driven for a distance of at least one mile or a period of not less than three minutes, during which time the canine must not display aggression and that it will ride in a controlled and safe manner.

1.A.3.f Advanced Obedience

Canine teams shall be required to demonstrate advanced obedience skills. Handlers may use voice and/or hand signals and are allowed to give more than one command. No training aids, training collars, or rewards shall be permitted unless otherwise noted. More than one canine team may be tested at a time. The following exercises are designed to test the communication between the handler and the canine. If the canine team fails one component of the Advanced Obedience evaluation, it may reattempt that component one time on the same day to successfully complete the evaluation. Retesting of an element is at the discretion of the Evaluators. Failure of two or more components will require the entire evaluation to be reattempted on a different day. The Advanced Obedience evaluation must be successfully completed within 3 months of the first attempt of the Behavior evaluation.

- Heel - The canine shall be evaluated while heeling. The heel may be on lead. At least two other canine teams and three additional people shall be milling in the area. The handler and canine must maneuver through a crowd and execute turns when told by the Evaluators. The canine must be at the handler's side and not interfere with the handler's movement. If the canine is on lead, the lead must be loose. The team must perform the following commands as directed: right turn, left turn, about turn, change of pace (slow, fast, normal), and halt. When told to halt, the canine must stop and sit by the handler in a heel position immediately.
- Stay - The test will involve at least three canines placed approximately five feet apart in a stay. The tested canine must remain in place for 10 minutes while the handler is at least 50 feet away and out of sight of the canine. Time starts when the evaluator directs the handler to leave the canine. The handler may leave a leash or backpack beside or behind the canine. The canine may not move further than a body's length from where he was placed. The Evaluators will provide a variety of distractions to the canines but may not get closer than 10 feet to the canine. The handler shall then return to the canine when directed by the evaluators, and then release the canine from the stay when directed by the evaluators.

- Recall - Handler shall place the canine in a standing/sitting/down stay position. The handler will then turn his back to the canine and walk approximately 50 feet away. The handler will call the canine when signaled to do so by the Evaluators. The canine should return promptly to the handler and shall either sit in front of the handler or go to the heel position and sit. The canine must be within an arm's length of the handler.
- Halt on Command - The handler will send his canine out either by command or by throwing/placing an object (stick, ball, person). Once the canine is at least 50 feet away, the Evaluator will signal the handler to halt his canine. The handler will then command the canine to halt (the canine can stand, sit, or down). The canine must not go further than 10 feet from the point where the command is given. Once stopped, the Evaluator will instruct the handler to recall the canine back to them. The canine will then return to the handler.

1.A.3.g Agility - Canine teams shall be required to demonstrate agility skills. Handlers may use voice and/or hand signals and are allowed to give more than one command. More than one canine team may be tested at a time. The following exercises are designed to test the communication between the canine and handler. The canine will perform all steps physically unaided, and the handler must remain behind the canine. The canine will complete the exercises in a controlled manner and under the direction of the handler. No training aids, training collars, or rewards may be used until the evaluation is complete. If the canine team fails one component of the Agility evaluation, it may reattempt that component one time on the same day to successfully complete the evaluation. Retesting of an element is at the discretion of the Evaluators. Failure of two or more components will require the entire evaluation to be reattempted on a different day. The Agility evaluation must be successfully completed within 3 months of the first attempt of the Behavior evaluation.

- Jump - The canine will jump onto and off an object on command, such as the tailgate of a pickup truck or an elevated platform, having a minimum height of two and a half feet.
- Plank Walk - The canine will walk across a board that is at least twelve feet long, no more than twelve inches wide, and is at least three feet above the ground.
- Tunnel - The canine will go through a passageway with a maximum diameter of 36" and tall enough such that the canine does not have to crawl. It will be at least eight feet long with an end that is partially obscured.
- Negotiate Obstacles - The canine will move across a minimum of eight feet of unstable material such as pallets, fencing section, brush, or other debris that moves as the canine puts weight on it.

1.A.3.g. B/O/A - The completion of the Behavior, Advanced Obedience, and Agility evaluations are referred to as a B/O/A certification. Completion of the B/O/A certification must be achieved before the final field evaluation is attempted. Failure to complete all B/O/A evaluations within 3 months of the first attempt of the Behavior

evaluation will require all B/O/A evaluations to be repeated. The B/O/A certification is valid for two years from the date of completion.

1.A.3.h. The Candidate must have participated as a walker on three dog tasks on a minimum of two search missions.

1.A.3.i. An Operational Handler who is taking a recertification as per paragraph 1.A.5 (Recertification as an Operational Handler) shall be allowed to use a GPS handheld device during the evaluation.

1.A.3.j. The Candidate shall have successfully completed the National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses required by the State of Virginia to reach Operational status. Courses include, but are not necessarily limited to, Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS), ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents, Introduction to National Incident Management System, and Introduction to National Response Framework. Course titles are subject to change.

1.A.3.k. The handler must have completed a crime scene preservation training.

1.A.3 l. Removed.

1.A.3.m. The candidate must have successfully completed an approved Bloodborne Pathogen course, as required by the State of Virginia. For example, though not limited to, the Saferesponse.com online course.

1.A.4. Operational Leader

An Operational handler may be elevated to Operational Leader status provided he has successfully met the requirements listed below, and been voted to Operational Leader level by the Standards Committee in accordance with Section 4.C.

1.A.4.a. A handler must reach Operational Leader status within 2 years of becoming Operational. Failure to complete the requirements for Operational Leader status shall result in suspension from Operational status for a period of 1 to 6 months, as specified by the Standards Committee. During the period of suspension, the handler must fulfill the requirements or the team is automatically removed from membership in DOGS-East.

1.A.4.b. The handler has actively participated as an Operational dog handler on 5 missions.

1.A.4.c. The handler has participated in at least 2 public relations activities.

1.A.4.d. The handler has completed a MTM class or completed the equivalent.

1.A.5. Recertification as Operational Handler.

1.A.5.a. All canine teams must recertify two years from the date they become Operational and every two years thereafter. A current

B/O/A certification is required before the field Recertification Evaluation can be requested.

1.A.5.a.1. B/O/A Recertification Evaluations

1.A.5.a.2. Behavior Recertification - The Behavior recertification shall follow the requirements outlined in the original evaluation unless otherwise specified

Vehicle Behavior - The canine and handler will load into the back of a vehicle along with at least one other person and one other canine for a duration of 3 minutes.

1.A.5.a.3. Obedience Recertification - The Obedience recertification shall follow the requirements outlined in the original Advanced Obedience evaluation unless otherwise specified.

Heel - The canine shall be evaluated while heeling. The heel may be on lead through a group of at least five milling people. The canine must be at the handler's side and not interfere with the handler's movement. If the canine is on lead, the lead must be loose. The team must perform the following commands as directed: right turn, left turn, about turn, change of pace (slow, fast, normal), and halt. When told to halt, the canine must stop and sit by the handler in a heel position immediately.

Stay - The tested canine must remain in place for 5 minutes while the handler is at least 50 feet away and out of sight of the canine. The handler may leave a leash or his backpack beside or behind the canine. The canine may not move further than a body's length from where he was placed. The handler shall then return to the canine when directed by the evaluators and release the canine from the stay when directed by the evaluators.

1.A.5.a.4. Agility Recertification - The Agility recertification shall follow the requirements outlined in the original Agility evaluation unless otherwise specified.

1.A.5.b. Canine teams may take the field Recertification Evaluation no sooner than three months prior to the 2-year dates, nor later than three months after the 2-year dates.

1.A.5.c. If a canine team fails to take the field Recertification Evaluation within three months of the 2-year date, they will lose their Operational status and will be required to retake all the evaluations required of Candidates.

1.A.5.d. An Operational canine team that fails the field Recertification Evaluation may retake the Evaluation within 2 months of the first test. Should the team again fail to pass the evaluation or the 2-month period elapses, the canine team shall be removed from Operational status.

1.A.5.d.1. Wilderness dog teams will be required to take the 160-acre evaluation before they are reinstated.

1.A.5.d.2. HRD dog teams will be required to take the 6 acre buried test before they are reinstated.

1.A.5.d.3. If a Wilderness-HRD dog team fails to recertify two times they will be removed from operational wilderness-HRD team status unless the Standards Committee determines there were extenuating circumstances and has a 2/3 vote to allow a retest.

1.A.5.d.4. Water dog teams will be required to take the Open Water evaluation before they are reinstated.

1.B. Wilderness Dog Teams

In addition to the general requirements stated in Section 1.A., wilderness dog teams must also meet the following requirements.

1.B.1. Applicants See section 1.A.1.

1.B.2. Candidates

1.B.2.a. Handler Skills

The following are the requirements/skills that Applicants need to successfully demonstrate to achieve Candidate status.

1.B.2.a.1 Handler shall be expected to demonstrate victim awareness. Specifically, the handler should ask questions which may provide clues in locating the subject.

1.B.2.a.2. Handler shall outline to the evaluators and carry out a search strategy that will adequately cover a 20-acre sector and take into account wind and terrain conditions.

1.B.2.a.3. Handler shall describe his dog's alert and shall advise the evaluators whenever he believes his dog alerts during the evaluation. In addition, the handler shall advise the evaluators before the evaluation begins what type of indication his dog will give upon finding the subject - the indication shall be demonstrated before the evaluation.

1.B.2.a.4. The handler shall demonstrate the following map and compass field skills:

- Follow a compass bearing
- Follow a contour
- Identify and locate terrain features
- Provide map coordinates
- Mark route of travel on map
- Identify a bailout plan

1.B.2.a.5. Handler shall debrief with the evaluators at the completion of the task.

1.B.2.b. Dog Skills

The following are the requirements/skills that Applicant dogs need to successfully demonstrate to achieve Candidate status.

1.B.2.b.1. The dog must be actively searching. He should move out in front of (or away from) the handler. The dog should not be consistently behind or close to the handler.

1.B.2.b.2. The dog should continue to search despite common distractions associated with the search environment (i.e., livestock, wildlife, noise). Brief registering of interest is permissible as long as it does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the search.

1.B.2.b.3. After alerting, the dog must be willing to approach the subject.

1.B.2.b.4. After finding the subject, the dog must give the previously described indication that he has found.

1.B.2.b.5. For teams with refinds, the dog and its handler must return to the subject.

1.B.2.b.6. During the evaluation, the handler will be asked to call his dog. The dog must return promptly to the handler.

1.B.2.c. Evaluations

Evaluations will be requested, arranged, and conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section Three.

1.B.2.c.1. 20/20 Field Evaluation

The objective of the 20/20-acre evaluation is to assess the progress of Applicants in attaining the skills necessary to become an Operational dog team. The handler and dog need to demonstrate the skills listed in paragraphs 1.B.2.a and 1.B.2.b above. A 20-acre site will be chosen by the evaluators. The evaluation site shall include fields, wooded areas, and a variety of terrain features (ridges, drainages, knolls, etc.). The applicant will be given 1.5 hours to complete Parts I & II and 1 hour to complete Part III. The handler shall arrive on time and with appropriate gear (as listed in Section 6.A.) for the evaluation.

The 20/20-acre evaluation shall be composed of three parts.

Part 1. Handler shall be given a map with a 20-acre area outlined on the map. Evaluators will provide basic information, but the handler should demonstrate at least some victim awareness (e.g., asking questions about the subject). The handler will then outline a search strategy. The search strategy should be based on wind and terrain. Handler will not be expected to take victim characteristics or scent movement into consideration when developing a search strategy.

Part 2. Handler shall then be asked to follow the search strategy he has outlined for the evaluators. The dog need not accompany the handler on this portion of the

evaluation. The handler will be asked to demonstrate basic handler skills during this part of the evaluation.

Part 3. After completing Part 2, one of the evaluators shall place a subject in the sector the handler has just searched. The handler will then follow his search strategy again. The handler will be expected to describe his dog's alert and the indication his dog gives when he finds the subject.

Grading

The evaluators shall assess the effectiveness of the dog and handler as a team in searching a small area. Applicants and evaluators should critique the performance in each part. Strengths and weaknesses should be included in the critique. The evaluators shall assign a pass/fail which will be recorded in the Applicant's training records.

To pass the evaluation, the dog must locate the subject and the team must pass 80% of the skills listed on the Evaluation form. Failure of either dog or handler to pass 80% of the skills shall result in the failing of the evaluation. A failing mark on any starred skill on the Evaluation form shall result in a failure of the evaluation. If either the handler or the dog fails, the subsequent evaluation shall retest both.

1.B.3. Operational

1.B.3.a. Handler Skills

The following are the requirements/skills that Candidates need to successfully demonstrate to achieve Operational status:

1.B.3.a.1 Handler shall be expected to assess the scenario provided by the evaluators and ask appropriate questions which may influence his search strategy.

1.B.3.a.2 Handler shall outline and carry out an effective search strategy based on the search area, wind conditions, time of day, and the scenario provided by the evaluators.

1.B.3.a.3 Handler shall describe his dog's alert and indication. He shall advise evaluators when his dog alerts and indicates during the evaluation. He shall be able to differentiate between animal and human alerts, if applicable.

1.B.3.a.4 Handler shall mark on his map his path of travel, wind direction, clues, alerts and subject location (if applicable).

1.B.3.a.5 Handler shall demonstrate a working ability to land-navigate utilizing map and compass.

1.B.3.a.6 Handler shall demonstrate radio skills, and communicate to Base the coordinates of any clues and/or finds.

1.B.3.a.7 Handler shall debrief at the end of every task and give a POD of the search areas.

1.B.3.b. Dog Skills

The following are the requirements/skills that Candidate dogs must successfully demonstrate to achieve Operational status.

1.B.3.b.1. The dog must be actively searching. He should move out away from the handler.

1.B.3.b.2. The dog must continue to search despite common distractions associated with the search environment (i.e., livestock, wildlife, noise). Brief registering of interest is permissible as long as it does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the search.

1.B.3.b.3. After alerting on the subject, the dog shall approach the subject.

1.B.3.b.4. After finding the subject, the dog must give the previously described indication that he has found.

1.B.3.b.5. For teams with refinds, the dog must lead the handler directly back to the subject without guidance or excessive urging from the handler.

1.B.3.b.6. Dog must respond to handler commands. During the evaluation, handler may be asked to call and/or halt his dog. Dog must respond accordingly.

1.B.3.c. Field Evaluations

Evaluations will be requested, arranged, and conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section Three.

The dog and handler shall be assessed as to their effectiveness as a team. The goal is not just to locate the subject(s) but to evaluate planning and technique. It is possible for a team to do an adequate job of searching an area and to achieve a realistic P.O.D. without finding all of the subjects. It is also possible for a team to locate all of the subjects and still fail an evaluation.

A dog team must achieve a minimum score of 80% of the total applicable points for handler and dog skills to pass the evaluation. Failure of either the handler skills or dog skills section shall result in a failure of the evaluation. If either the handler or the dog fails, the subsequent evaluation shall retest both. There shall not be a separation of the sections. A failing mark on any starred skill on the evaluation form shall result in a failure of the evaluation.

The handler shall arrive on time and with appropriate gear for the evaluation (as listed in Section 6.A).

1.B.3.c.1. 40-Acre Night Evaluation. The objective of this evaluation is to assess the ability of the dog team to effectively function at night. Handler should be knowledgeable of scent movement at night. There will be one or two subjects

placed within a 40 acre sector. The evaluation time shall take no longer than 3 hours.

1.B.3.c.2. 160-Acre Evaluation. The objective of this evaluation is to assess the ability of the dog team to effectively search a large area for an extended period of time. There will be a minimum of 2 subjects for this evaluation. The evaluators will assess the dog's willingness to continue to work after he has made a find. The 160-acre area will be divided into 2 sectors. The first sector will contain 0-2 subjects. The second area will contain 1-2 subjects, for a minimum of 2 subjects and a maximum of 4 subjects. The handler will not be advised as to the number of subjects in the sectors. If unfavorable wind conditions prevent the dog from finding some of the subjects or if the handler sights any of the subjects before the dog alerts, the evaluators may assess the performance of the dog team based upon one find in the second sector that was not made under these conditions. This find must show that the dog alerted, found, indicated. The dog team shall search the first sector for a minimum of 2 hours. The evaluation time shall not take longer than 6 hours.

1.B.3.d The Candidate must pass the DOGS-East written test for wilderness search dog teams. A score of 80% or higher constitutes a passing grade. A maximum of 2 hours shall be allowed to complete the test.

1.B.4. Recertification Evaluation

1.B.4.a. The handler shall arrive on time with appropriate gear for the evaluation (see Section 6.A.). The recertification evaluation will consist of a 40-acre sector with zero to two victims placed in the sector. The evaluation time shall be at least one hour and no longer than 2.5 hours. The handler and dog shall demonstrate the skills outlined in paragraphs 1.B.3.a. and 1.B.3.b. above.

1.B.4.b. The evaluators shall assess whether the dog team has maintained the skills necessary to be an effective search team, and will not pass the team if the weaknesses are such that the team cannot effectively search an area.

1.B.4.c. The evaluators shall critique the team. The critique shall outline strengths and weaknesses in the team (both dog and handler) as well as offer suggestions on how to correct any weaknesses.

1.B.4.d. If the dog team does not pass, the evaluators shall meet with the handler and the Standards Officer to discuss the weakness and a means of correcting them. The evaluators shall then reschedule a reevaluation within two months of the original test date.

1.B.5. Wilderness-HRD Dog Teams

After attaining Operational Wilderness status, a team may elect to test to become a Wilderness-HRD dog-team. These teams will be eligible to respond to searches for suspected recently (up to 14 days) deceased persons (i.e. despondents, disasters, and exposure).

1.B.5.a. Handler Skills

The following are the requirements/skills that the team will need to successfully demonstrate to achieve Operational Wilderness-HRD dog-team status:

1.B.5.a.1 Handler shall be expected to assess the scenario provided by the evaluators and ask appropriate questions which may influence his search strategy.

1.B.5.a.2 Handler shall outline and carry out an effective search strategy based on the search area, wind conditions, time of day, and the scenario provided by the evaluators.

1.B.5.a.3 Handler shall describe his dog's alert and indication. He shall advise evaluators when his dog alerts and indicates during the evaluation. He shall be able to differentiate between animal and human alerts, if applicable.

1.B.5.a.4 Handler shall mark on his map his path of travel, wind direction, clues, alerts and human remains (HR) scent source location (if applicable).

1.B.5.a.5 Handler shall demonstrate radio skills, and communicate to Base the coordinates of any clues and/or finds.

1.B.5.a.6 After making a find, the handler shall demonstrate proper procedures for handling a suspected crime scene.

1.B.5.a.7 Handler shall debrief at the end of the task and give a POD of the search area.

1.B.5.b. Dog Skills

The following are the requirements/skills that the dog must successfully demonstrate to achieve Operational Wilderness HRD dog-team status.

1.B.5.b.1. The dog must be actively searching. He should move out away from the handler.

1.B.5.b.2. The dog must continue to search despite common distractions associated with the search environment (i.e., livestock, wildlife, noise). Brief registering of interest is permissible as long as it does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the search.

1.B.5.b.3. After alerting on the HR scent, the dog shall approach the HR scent.

1.B.5.b.4. After finding the HR scent, the dog must give the previously described indication that he has found.

1.B.5.b.5. For teams with refinds, the dog must lead the handler directly back to the HR scent without guidance from the handler.

1.B.5.b.6. The dog shall not disturb the crime scene or scent source.

1.B.5.c. Field Evaluations

Evaluations will be requested, arranged, and conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section Three.

The dog and handler shall be assessed as to their effectiveness as a team. To pass the evaluation, the dog must locate the scent source. Should the dog not locate the scent source, the evaluators must demonstrate that the test sample is a viable scent source. It is also possible for a team to locate the HR scent and still fail an evaluation.

A dog team must achieve a minimum score of 80% of the total applicable points for handler and dog skills to pass the evaluation. Failure of either the handler skills or dog skills section shall result in a failure of the evaluation. If either the handler or the dog fails, the subsequent evaluation shall retest both. A failing mark on any starred skill on the evaluation form shall result in a failure of the evaluation.

The handler shall arrive on time and with appropriate gear for the evaluation (as listed in Section 6.A).

1.B.5.c.1. 5-Acre Wilderness-HRD Evaluation

The objective of this evaluation is to assess the ability of the dog team to effectively search for recently deceased victims. Handler should be knowledgeable of potential hazards associated with searching for a despondent or victims of accidents, exposure, or disasters.

There will be one HR scent source placed within a 5-acre sector. The scent source should be placed between 12-24 hours of the test time. The scent source should be strong enough to simulate recent death, and shall include clothing or other items that are consistent with the search scenario provided. The scent source should be lightly covered, or camouflaged to avoid allowing the handler to inadvertently locate the scent source by sight. The evaluation shall take no longer than 1 hour. The evaluators shall not place any distracting scents (e.g., food or dead animals) in the sector.

1.B.6 Wilderness-HRD Recertification Evaluation

The objective of the Wilderness-HRD Recertification Evaluation is to assess whether the dog team has maintained the skills necessary to be effective as listed in paragraphs 1.B.5.a and 1.B.5.b.

The evaluators shall select a 1 acre site consistent with the scenario to be used. The site shall contain 1 scent source placed a minimum of 3 hours and a maximum of 6 hours prior to the start of the evaluation. The source shall be such that it will

simulate recent death and may include clothing or other items. The evaluation shall take no longer than 30 minutes. The evaluators shall not place any distracting scents.

If the dog team does not pass, the evaluators shall meet with the Standards Officer and the handler to discuss the weakness and a means of correcting them. The evaluators shall then schedule a re-evaluation within one month of the original evaluation date.

1.C. HRD Dog Teams

In addition to the general requirements stated in Section 1.A., HRD dog teams must also meet the following requirements. HRD Dog Teams that have successfully completed the above ground, urban and buried evaluations are eligible for elevation to operational status.

1.C.1. Applicants

To be accepted as an Applicant HRD dog team, individuals must be an operational dog handler with DOGS-East and satisfy the following criteria at the time the application is submitted:

1.C.1.a. Handler Requirements

The individual should be physically capable of performing strenuous search tasks typical of search activities in the Mid-Atlantic region, and own a dog meeting the below requirements.

1.C.1.b. Dog Requirements

The dog should be at least 6 months old, in good health, and must be current on rabies and DHP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus) vaccinations. Proof of current vaccination or titer records shall be submitted to the Standards Officer. A veterinarian's health certificate may be requested by the Standards Committee in cases where the dog's health is questionable.

1.C.2. Candidates

1.C.2.a. Handler Skills

The following are the requirements/skills that Applicant handlers need to successfully demonstrate to achieve Candidate status.

1.C.2.a.1 The handler shall arrive on time and with appropriate gear (as listed in Section 6.B.) for the evaluation.

1.C.2.a.2 The handler shall be expected to demonstrate basic interview techniques that may provide clues in locating human remains.

1.C.2.a.3 The handler shall outline to the evaluators and carry out a search strategy that will adequately cover a 20-acre sector and take into account wind and terrain conditions.

1.C.2.a.4 The handler shall demonstrate the following map and compass field skills:

- Follow a compass bearing

- Follow a contour
- Identify and locate terrain features
- Provide map coordinates
- Trace route of travel on map
- Identify a bailout plan

1.C.2.a.5 The handler shall describe his dog's alert and shall advise the evaluators whenever he believes his dog alerts during the evaluation. In addition, the handler shall advise the evaluators before the evaluation begins what type of indication his dog will give when it finds the scent source.

1.C.2.a.6 The handler shall debrief with the evaluators at the completion of the task.

1.C.2.a.7 The handler has maintained a training log.

1.C.2.b Dog Skills

The following are the requirements/skills that Applicant dogs need to successfully demonstrate to achieve Candidate status.

1.C.2.b.1 The dog must be actively searching. He should move out in front of (or away from) the handler. The dog should not be consistently behind or close to the handler. The dog must be focused during the search.

1.C.2.b.2 The dog should continue to search despite common distractions associated with the search environment (i.e., livestock, wildlife, noise). Brief registering of interest is permissible as long as it does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the search.

1.C.2.b.3 After alerting, the dog must be willing to approach the scent source.

1.C.2.b.4 After finding the scent source, the dog must give the previously described indication.

1.C.2.b.5 For teams with refinds, the dog and its handler must return to the scent source.

1.C.2.b.6 During the evaluation, the handler will be asked to call his dog. The dog must return promptly to the handler.

1.C.2.b.7 The dog shall not unduly disturb the crime scene or scent source.

1.C.2.c. Evaluations

Evaluations will be requested, arranged, and conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section Three.

1.C.2.c.1. 20 Acre Map and Compass/1 Acre Above Ground
The objective of the evaluation is to assess the progress of Applicants in attaining the skills necessary to become an operational dog team. These skills include (1) navigation and

search strategy skills and (2) teaching their dogs to locate HR scent. The team needs to demonstrate the skills listed in paragraphs 1.C.2.a. and 1.C.2.b.

The evaluation shall be composed of two parts.

Part I - Map and Compass

A 20-acre site will be chosen by the evaluators. The evaluation site shall include fields, wooded areas and a variety of terrain features (ridges, drainages, knolls, etc.). The total time for Part I shall not exceed 1.5 hours.

The handler shall be given a map with a 20-acre area outlined on the map. Evaluators will provide basic information, but the handler should demonstrate minimal knowledge of victim and suspect characteristics. The handler will then outline a search strategy.

The search strategy should be based on wind and terrain. The handler will not be expected to take victim/suspect characteristics or scent movement into consideration when developing a search strategy.

The handler shall then be asked to follow the search strategy he has outlined for the evaluators. The dog shall not accompany the handler on this portion of the evaluation.

Part II - One Acre Above Ground

A 1-acre site will be chosen by the evaluators. The site shall include fields, wooded areas and a variety of terrain features (ridges, drainages, knolls, etc.) and shall have clearly delineated boundaries or be marked by flagging tape. The evaluators will place one HR scent source between one hour and two hours before the dog team is to start the search. The placement must be on the ground and out of plain site. The evaluators shall not place any distracting scents (e.g. food or dead animals) in the sector. The team will be given a scenario. The dog team has one hour to locate the scent source and report their findings. Should the dog not locate the scent source, the evaluators must demonstrate that the test sample is a viable scent source.

Grading

The evaluators shall assess the effectiveness of the team in searching a small area. The evaluators should critique the performance in each part. Strengths and weaknesses should be included in the critique. The evaluators shall assign a pass/fail which will be recorded in the Applicant's training records.

To pass the evaluation the team must pass 80% of the skills listed on the Evaluation form. A failing mark on any starred

skill on the Evaluation form shall result in a failure of the evaluation.

1.C.3. Operational

1.C.3.a. Handler Skills

The following are the requirements/skills that Candidate handlers need to successfully demonstrate to achieve operational status:

1.C.3.a.1. Handler shall be expected to assess the scenario provided by the evaluators and ask appropriate questions which may influence his search strategy.

1.C.3.a.2. Handler shall outline and carry out an effective search strategy based on the search area, wind conditions, time of day, and the scenario provided by the evaluators.

1.C.3.a.3. Handler shall describe his dog's alert and indication. He shall advise evaluators when his dog alerts and indicates during the evaluation.

1.C.3.a.4. The handler shall be able to tell when the dog is interested in HR scent vs. distraction scent.

1.C.3.a.5. Handler shall advise the evaluators before the evaluation begins what type of indication his dog will give when it finds the scent source.

1.C.3.a.6. The handler shall be able to read his dog and describe the scent boundaries for cases in which the dog cannot pinpoint the source of the scent.

1.C.3.a.7. Handler shall mark on his map his path of travel, wind direction, clues, alerts and location of finds.

1.C.3.a.8. Handler shall demonstrate a working ability to land-navigate utilizing map and compass.

1.C.3.a.9. Handler shall demonstrate radio skills and communicate to Base the coordinates of any clues and/or finds.

1.C.3.a.10. Handler shall demonstrate knowledge of crime scene preservation.

1.C.3.a.11. Handler shall recommend excavation strategies for buried scent sources.

1.C.3.a.12. Handler shall demonstrate probing strategies to be used in locating buried scent sources.

1.C.3.a.13. Handler shall debrief at the end of every task and give a POD of the search areas.

1.C.3.a.14. Handler must be able to control his dog on and off lead.

1.C.3.a.15. Handler has attended at least one HRD dog training seminar approved by the Standards Committee.

1.C.3.a.16. Handler has maintained a training log.

1.C.3.b. Dog Skills

The following are requirements/skills that Candidate dogs need to successfully demonstrate to achieve Operational status.

1.C.3.b.1. The dog must be actively searching. He should move out in front of (or away from) the handler. The dog should not be consistently behind or close to the handler. The dog must be focused during the search.

1.C.3.b.2. The dog should continue to search despite common distractions associated with the search environment (i.e. livestock, wildlife, noise). The dog should not display excessive interest in dead animal scent. Brief registering of interest in any distraction is permissible as long as it does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the search.

1.C.3.b.3. The dog must give a recognizable alert to the handler.

1.C.3.b.4. After alerting the dog should try to locate the source of scent or try to set boundaries for the scent source.

1.C.3.b.5. After finding a scent source the dog must give the previously described indication that he has found.

1.C.3.b.6. For teams with refinds, the dog and its handler must return to the scent source.

1.C.3.b.7. The dog shall not unduly disturb the crime scene or scent source.

1.C.3.c. Evaluations.

Evaluations will be requested, arranged and conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section Three.

The dog team must arrive at evaluations on time and with appropriate gear (as listed in Section 6.B.).

To pass an evaluation the dog team must locate or set boundaries for all scent sources. Should the dog not locate a scent source, the handler has the right to request a demonstration of the validity of the scent sources using an operational HRD team that should be available within 15 minutes or a no-test will be declared.

It may be, in some cases, the dog may not be able to determine the exact location of the scent source. In such cases, the scent source must be located within the area defined by the handler. The radius of the defined area must be 4 feet or less.

A dog team must achieve a minimum score of 80% of the total applicable points for handler and dog skills to pass the evaluation. Failure of either the handler skills or dog skills section shall result in a failure of the evaluation. A failing mark on any starred skill on the Evaluation form shall result in a failure of the evaluation. There shall not be a separation of the sections. The dog and handler shall be assessed as to their effectiveness as a team. If either the handler or the dog fails, the subsequent evaluation shall retest both.

The evaluators shall critique the team. The critique shall outline strengths and weaknesses in the team (both dog and handler) as well as offer suggestions on how to correct weaknesses.

1.C.3.c.1. Above Ground

The objective of this evaluation is to assess the ability of the dog team to search for human remains that may be disarticulated over an extended period of time. The handler and dog need to demonstrate the skills listed in paragraphs 1.C.3.a and 1.C.3.b.

A test site will be chosen by the evaluators. The site shall include fields, wooded areas and a variety of terrain features (ridges, drainages, knolls, etc.) and will be divided into three sectors, each of which shall not exceed 2 acres. The sectors shall be no fewer than 100 feet apart. Areas shall have clearly delineated boundaries or be marked by flagging tape.

The test shall have one sector which contains from zero to two sources; one sector which contains from one to three sources; and one sector which contains from zero to two sources. A minimum of two sources must be included in these three sectors. One sector shall be blank and one sector shall contain at least one dead animal scent source placed at the time the HR sources are placed. The sources will be out of plain sight, but not buried. No scent source can be higher than 4 feet off the ground.

The evaluators will place all HR scent sources at least 12 hours, but not more than 24 hours, before the dog team is to start the search. The handler will be given a brief scenario, at which time the handler can ask questions, which may affect their search tactic. There will be a one-hour time limit to search each sector with a maximum of 15 minutes to rest and debrief, including POD, prior to proceeding to the next sector.

If unfavorable conditions prevent the team from finding one of the sources, the evaluators may assess the team based on their performance with respect to finding the other sources.

1.C.3.c.2. Urban

The objective of the urban evaluation is to assess the ability of the dog team to search for human remains in an urban

setting. The handler and dog need to demonstrate the skills listed in paragraphs 1.C.3.a and 1.C.3.b.

The designated evaluators will be responsible for locating a building plus one other area from the following list. The test site must be comprised of an enclosed building that is between 600-800 square feet plus either a lumber/debris pile (not a first responder type); a vehicle; a crawl space; or a dumpster.

The evaluators will set out 1 -3 sources in the test site. The evaluators will place all HR scent sources at least 12 hours, but no more than 24 hours, before the dog team is to start the search. The placement must be out of plain site.

The problem shall include at least one distracting scent source. The distracting scent sources shall be placed at the time the HR sources are placed.

The handler will be given a brief scenario, at which time the handler can ask questions, which may affect their search tactics. There will be a one-hour time limit to search the sector. However, the evaluators can extend the time limit if they feel the team is actively working and needs more time. Each area will be debriefed, including estimation of POD immediately after the search.

1.C.3.c.3. Buried

The objective of this evaluation is to assess the ability of the dog team to search for human remains that are buried. The handler and dog need to demonstrate the skills listed in paragraphs 1.C.3.a and 1.C.3.b.

A test site will be chosen by the evaluators. The site shall include fields, wooded areas and a variety of terrain features (ridges, drainages, knolls, etc.) and will be divided into two sectors, each of which shall not exceed 1 acre. The sectors shall be no fewer than 100 feet apart. Areas shall have clearly delineated boundaries or be marked by flagging tape.

The test shall have one sector with a buried scent source placed not less than 6 inches, but not more than 12 inches, below the top of the soil. The area around the source should blend in with the surrounding soil and vegetation. One sector shall be blank. False holes may be in both sectors. One sector shall contain a least one dead animal scent source placed at the time the HR sources are placed.

The evaluators will place the HR scent source at least 12 hours, but not more than 24 hours, before the dog team is to start the search. The handler will be given a brief scenario, at which time the handler can ask questions, which may affect their search tactics.

There will be a one-hour time limit to search each sector with a maximum of 15 minutes to rest and debrief, including POD, prior to proceeding to the next sector.

1.C.3.c.4. Recertification Evaluation

The objective of the HRD recertification evaluation is to assess whether the dog team has maintained the skills necessary to be an effective search team. The handler and dog need to demonstrate the skills listed in paragraphs 1.C.3.a and 1.C.3.b.

The designated evaluators will be responsible for selecting two half-acre sites, consistent with the scenario that is to be used. They can be varied in terrain and vegetation. The sectors shall be no fewer than 100 feet apart. Areas shall have clearly delineated boundaries or be marked by flagging tape.

One sector shall contain at least one scent source. The second sector may or may not contain scent sources, at the discretion of the evaluators. All scent sources will be placed a minimum of 12 hours and a maximum of 24 hours prior to the test. Scent sources may be placed on the ground and out of plain sight or hung at a height no less than two feet, but not more than four feet off the ground out of plain sight. Scent sources may be buried a minimum of six inches and a maximum of ten inches from the top of the ground. The area around the source should blend in with the surrounding soil and vegetation. Both sectors may contain false holes dug at the time the samples were placed. One sector shall contain one above ground dead animal scent source. Handler may use a probe.

The handler will be given a brief scenario, at which time the handler can ask questions, which may aid in the location of the scent sources.

There will be a one hour time limit to search each sector with a 20-minute rest in between. Each sector will be debriefed, including estimation of POD after the 20-minute rest and prior to proceeding to the next sector.

The evaluators will not pass the team if the weaknesses are such that the team cannot effectively search an area.

If the dog team does not pass, the evaluators shall meet with the handler and the Standards Officer to discuss the weakness and a means of correcting them. The evaluators shall then reschedule a reevaluation within 2 months of the original test date.

1.C.3.d. Other Requirements

1.C.3.d.1. The Candidate has passed the DOGS-East written test for HRD search dog teams. A score of 80% or higher constitutes a passing grade. A maximum of 2 hours shall be allowed to complete the test.

1.C.4. HRD-Wilderness Dog Teams

After attaining Operational HRD status, a HRD only team may elect to test to become an HRD-Wilderness dog-team. These teams will be eligible to respond to searches in large wilderness areas.

1.C.4.a. Handler Skills

The following are the requirements/skills that the team will need to successfully demonstrate to achieve Operational HRD-Wilderness dog-team status:

1.C.4.a.1 Handler shall be expected to assess the scenario provided by the evaluators and ask appropriate questions which may influence his search strategy.

1.C.4.a.2 Handler shall outline and carry out an effective search strategy based on the search area, wind conditions, time of day, and the scenario provided by the evaluators.

1.C.4.a.3 Handler shall describe his dog's alert and indication. He shall advise evaluators when his dog alerts and indicates during the evaluation. He shall be able to differentiate between animal and human alerts, if applicable.

1.C.4.a.4 Handler shall mark on his map his path of travel, wind direction, clues, alerts and HR scent source location (if applicable).

1.C.4.a.5 Handler shall demonstrate radio skills, and communicate to Base the coordinates of any clues and/or finds.

1.C.4.a.6 After making a find, the handler shall demonstrate proper procedures for handling a suspected crime scene.

1.C.4.a.7 Handler shall debrief at the end of the task and give a POD of the search area.

1.C.4.b. Dog Skills

The following are the requirements/skills that the dog must successfully demonstrate to achieve Operational HRD-Wilderness dog-team status.

1.C.4.b.1. The dog must be actively searching. He should move out away from the handler.

1.C.4.b.2. The dog must continue to search despite common distractions associated with the search environment (i.e., livestock, wildlife, noise). Brief registering of interest is permissible as long as it does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the search.

1.C.4.b.3. After alerting on the HR scent, the dog shall approach the HR scent.

1.C.4.b.4. After finding the HR scent, the dog must give the previously described indication that he has found.

1.C.4.b.5. For teams with refinds, the dog must lead the handler directly back to the HR scent without guidance from the handler.

1.C.4.b.6. The dog shall not disturb the crime scene or scent source.

1.C.4.c. Field Evaluations

Evaluations will be requested, arranged, and conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section Three.

The dog and handler shall be assessed as to their effectiveness as a team. To pass the evaluation, the dog must locate the scent source. Should the dog not locate the scent source, the evaluators must demonstrate that the test sample is a viable scent source. It is also possible for a team to locate the HR scent and still fail an evaluation.

A dog team must achieve a minimum score of 80% of the total applicable points for handler and dog skills to pass the evaluation. Failure of either the handler skills or dog skills section shall result in a failure of the evaluation. If either the handler or the dog fails, the subsequent evaluation shall retest both. A failing mark on any starred skill on the evaluation form shall result in a failure of the evaluation.

The handler shall arrive on time and with appropriate gear for the evaluation (as listed in Section 6.A).

1.C.4.c.1. 40-Acre HRD-Wilderness Evaluation

The objective of this evaluation is to assess the ability of the dog team to effectively search a large wilderness area for a deceased subject. The Handler should be knowledgeable of potential hazards associated with searching for a despondent subject or victims of accidents, exposure, or disasters.

There will be one to three HR scent source(s) placed within a 40-acre sector. The scent source(s) should be placed between 12-24 hours before the test time. The source(s) shall be comprised of a combination of tissue, decomp fluid, bone, and shall be combined with articles of clothing with live human scent that are consistent with the search scenario provided. The scent source(s) should be lightly covered or camouflaged to prevent the handler from inadvertently locating the scent source(s) by sight. The evaluation time shall take no longer than 2.5 hours. The evaluators shall not place any distracting scents (e.g., food or dead animals) in the sector.

1.C.4.d HRD-Wilderness Recertification Evaluation

The objective of the HRD-Wilderness Recertification Evaluation is to assess whether the dog team has maintained the skills necessary to be effective as listed in paragraphs 1.C.4.a and 1.C.4.b.

The evaluators shall select a 40-acre site consistent with the scenario to be used. The site shall contain 1 scent source placed a minimum of 12 hours and a maximum of 24 hours prior to

the start of the evaluation. The source shall be such that it will simulate recent death and may include clothing or other items. The evaluation time shall take no longer than 2.5 hours. The evaluators shall not place any distracting scents.

If the dog team does not pass, the evaluators shall meet with the Standards Officer and the handler to discuss the weakness and a means of correcting them. The evaluators shall then schedule a re-evaluation within one month of the original evaluation date.

1.D. Water Dog Teams

Type I Water Canine Team - Canine team is qualified to search for HR under water from the shoreline and from a boat.

Type II Water Canine Team - Canine team is qualified to search for HR under water from the shoreline only. They will not be required to take the boat evaluation or complete skills related to boat handling. However, this team will be required to know the same material as a team doing the boat evaluation.

In addition to the general requirements stated in Section 1.A., water dog teams must also meet the following requirements.

1.D.1. Applicants

To be accepted as an Applicant water dog team, applicant must currently be an operational dog team with DOGS-East. Applicant water dog teams must meet the requirements for Operational status within 18 months after becoming an Applicant.

1.D.2. Candidate - Not applicable

1.D.3. Operational

1.D.3.a. Handler Skills

The following are the requirements/skills that handlers need to successfully demonstrate to achieve Operational status:

1.D.3.a.1. Handler shall wear a USCG approved life vest.

1.D.3.a.2. Handler shall be able to retrieve K-9 from the water into one of the following crafts:

- Canoe
- John boat
- Power boat

1.D.3.a.3. Handler shall demonstrate knowledge of common water hazards.

1.D.3.a.4. Handler shall demonstrate knowledge of water safety.

1.D.3.a.5. Handler shall demonstrate knowledge of the following safe boating procedures:

- Entering boat
- Exiting boat

- Loading boat

1.D.3.a.6. Handler shall demonstrate knowledge of how scent works in water (still and moving water) and how it is affected by wind.

1.D.3.a.7. Handler shall demonstrate the ability to search an area with the aid of the scenario, the wind, and the current.

1.D.3.a.8. Handler shall use a buoy and GPS in the open water evaluation to assist in directing recovery personnel to within 30 feet of the scent source. (Type I only)

1.D.3.a.9. Handler shall use flagging tape in the shore evaluation to assist in directing recovery personnel to within 10 feet of the scent source.

1.D.3.a.10. Handler shall demonstrate the ability to swim 100 feet in calm water.

1.D.3.a.11. Handler shall describe the dog's alert.

1.D.3.a.12. Handler shall advise the evaluators when his dog alerts during the evaluation.

1.D.3.a.13. Handler shall debrief at the end of each task and submit to the evaluators a map showing the location(s) of his dog's alert(s)/indication(s), for Type I or Type II, (POD), and the location of the scent source.

1.D.3.b. Dog Skills

The following are the requirements/skills the canine needs to successfully demonstrate to achieve Operational status:

1.D.3.b.1. Dog shall demonstrate the ability to swim 100 feet in calm water.

1.D.3.b.2. Dog shall travel calmly and under the handler's control for a distance of at least 100 yards in one of the following watercraft:

- Canoe
- John boat
- Power boat

1.D.3.b.3. Dog shall locate the scent source or set reasonable boundaries for the scent source.

1.D.3.b.4. When in boat with handler, the dog shall not show aggressive behavior when a stranger approaches and boards boat.

1.D.3.c. Other Requirements

1.D.3.c.1. The team has completed all of the skills listed on the water search skill checklist, see Appendix B.

1.D.3.c.2. Handler has attended a water safety course. Acceptable examples of courses would be those put on by the Red Cross, Coast Guard, Canoe/Kayak groups, search and rescue groups etc.

1.D.3.c.3. Handler must attend at least two water dog training seminars approved by the Standards Committee.

1.D.3.c.4. Handler must have maintained a training log for the past six months

1.D.3.d. Evaluations

Evaluations will be requested, arranged, and conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section Three.

The dog team must arrive at evaluations on time and with appropriate gear (as listed in Section 6.C.).

To pass an evaluation, the dog must locate or set boundaries for all scent sources. It must be realized that, in some cases, the dog may not be able to determine the exact location of the scent source. In such cases, the scent source must be located within the area defined by the handler. Should the dog not locate a scent source, the evaluators must demonstrate that the test sample is a viable scent source.

A dog team must achieve a minimum score of 80% of the total applicable points for handler and dog skills to pass the evaluation. Failure of either the handler skills or dog skills section shall result in a failure of the evaluation. A failing mark on any starred skill on the Evaluation form shall result in a failure of the evaluation. There shall not be a separation of the sections. The dog and handler shall be assessed as to their effectiveness as a team. If either the handler or the dog fails, the subsequent evaluation shall retest both.

The evaluators shall critique the team. The critique shall outline strengths and weaknesses in the team (both dog and handler) as well as offer suggestions on how to correct weaknesses.

1.D.3.d.1. Shoreline Evaluation (Type I and Type II)

An evaluation site will be chosen by the evaluators. The evaluation site shall be the shoreline of a lake, pond, river or creek. The site will be divided into three sectors, each not less than one hundred fifty feet by fifteen feet, and not more than two hundred feet by 30 feet. One sector shall contain one scent source. One sector shall contain no scent source. At the discretion of the evaluators, one sector may or may not contain a scent source.

The evaluators will place all HR scent sources at least 1 hour, but no more than 4 hours, before the dog team is to start the search. The scent source will be placed no less than 2 feet and no more than 10 feet out from the shoreline. The sample must be submerged at a depth not to exceed 5 feet. If wind and weather conditions permit, the evaluation shall be

conducted in an area where the prevailing wind is directly perpendicular to the shore and off the water.

The team will be given a scenario for the problem. The dog team has 20 minutes to search each sector with a 10-minute rest period between during which time they will report their findings for each area.

1.D.3.d.2. Open Water Evaluation (Type I Only)

An evaluation site of approximately 3 to 5 acres will be chosen by the evaluators. The evaluation site will be a lake, pond or river. The evaluators will determine which one of the following types of boat will be used: canoe, john boat or power boat. The sector will contain only one scent source. One of the evaluators may observe this evaluation from shore or another boat.

One of the evaluators will place the HR scent source at least 3 hours but no more than 4 hours, before the dog team is to start the search. The scent source will be well hidden and placed at a depth of no less than 5 feet and no more than 10 feet in the water.

The team will be given a scenario for the problem. The dog team has two hours to locate and mark the scent source, and report their findings. However, due to variability of available open water and boats, the evaluators can extend the time limit if they feel the team is actively working and needs more time.

1.D.3.d.3. Recertification Evaluations

1.D.3.d.3.a Type II Recertification Evaluation

Recertification follows method outlined under the original certification for Shoreline evaluation.

If the dog team does not pass, the evaluators shall meet with the handler and the Standards Officer to discuss the weaknesses and a means of correcting them. The evaluators shall then schedule a reevaluation within two months of the original recertification test date.

1.D.3.d.3.b Type I Recertification Evaluation

Recertification follows method outlined under the original certification for Open Water evaluation.

If the dog team does not pass, the evaluators shall meet with the handler and the Standards Officer to discuss the weaknesses and a means of correcting them. The evaluators shall then schedule a reevaluation within two months of the original recertification test date.

SECTION THREE: EVALUATIONS/EVALUATORS

3.A. Evaluations

3.A.1. General Procedures

3.A.1.a. The handler should make a request for an evaluation (field or obedience) at least 2 weeks in advance of the desired evaluation date. Said request should be made to and approved by the Standards Officer. Evaluations may not be conducted during regularly scheduled training sessions. However, evaluations may take place before, or after, a regularly scheduled training session, or on some other agreeable date.

3.A.1.b. The Standards Officer shall ask two Evaluators (one of whom must be a state evaluator) to conduct the evaluations. For obedience, aggression and agility, and survival night tests only, the Standards Officer shall request one state evaluator and one operational member to conduct the evaluations.

3.A.1.c. If a dog team fails an evaluation, they may not retake the same evaluation without the permission of the Standards Officer. For field evaluations, at least one of the original evaluators shall administer the subsequent evaluation. For obedience or agility evaluations, an original evaluator is not required to administer the subsequent evaluation.

3.A.1.d. If a team fails a requirement twice, the handler shall meet with the Standards Officer and the Evaluation Committee to discuss weaknesses and a plan to correct them.

3.A.1.e. Completed Evaluation forms shall be submitted to the Standards Officer within one week from the date of the evaluation.

3.A.2. Conducting Field/Water Evaluations.

3.A.2.a.1 The field test site should include wooded areas with a variety of terrain features.

3.A.1.a.2 The water test site may be a lake, pond, river or creek.

3.A.2.b. All subjects, clues, distractions, and scent sources should be placed by at least one of the evaluators. The subjects/scent sources shall be hidden from sight.

3.A.2.c. The evaluators will provide a scenario and a map.

3.A.2.d. Evaluators shall assess the effectiveness of the dog and handler as a team in searching the assigned sectors.

3.A.2.e. The evaluators may terminate the evaluation if, in their opinion, the dog is not working.

3.A.2.f. If the dog does not locate the subject or scent source because (1) wind conditions are such that a solid find by the dog is not possible, and/or (2) the handler sees the subject or scent source before his dog alerts, or (3) the tested area is a blank area, then the evaluators shall set up a short problem to observe the dog's alert and find.

3.A.2.g. The evaluators shall also be responsible for determining whether a dog and/or its handler are physically capable of performing search tasks typical of search activities in the Mid-Atlantic region.

3.A.2.h. Unless previously approved by 2/3 vote of the Standards Committee, electronic collars shall not be worn during an evaluation. In all cases, the electronic collar shall be disabled by the evaluators.

3.A.2.i. Evaluators shall prohibit the use of a GPS by the team during an evaluation unless otherwise stated in these standards.

3.B. Evaluation Committee.

The Standards Officer shall chair the Evaluation Committee. Members of the Evaluation Committee may be Operational dog handlers and/or Operational members who were previously Operational dog handlers in Dogs-East. All evaluation Committee members must have met the following criteria:

3.B.1. Criteria for Evaluators.

3.B.1.a. An evaluator must have been an Operational dog handler for at least one year.

3.B.1.b. The evaluator must have met attendance requirements as set forth in Section 4.B.

3.B.1.c. A prospective evaluator must shadow evaluate at least one Applicant and two Candidate field evaluations.

3.B.1.d. The Evaluation Committee shall present a list of proposed evaluators to be voted on by the Standards Committee at the first Standards Committee meeting of the calendar year. Evaluators must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Standards Committee.

3.B.1.e. Once voted to evaluator, new evaluators shall serve as an apprentice evaluator, alongside a lead evaluator on two Candidate field evaluations.

3.B.1.f. Members of the Evaluation Committee shall serve one-year terms which may be renewed. Any member of the Evaluation Committee who is unable to meet his responsibilities as an evaluator to DOGS-East may be removed by the Standards Officer in accordance with the DOGS-East Bylaws.

3.B.2. Responsibilities

3.B.2.a. The Evaluation Committee shall report at each Standards Committee meeting. The Standards Committee shall discuss any weaknesses that any dog team may be having and try to assess how to correct these weaknesses.

3.B.2.b. The evaluators will meet with dog handlers after an evaluation to discuss the evaluation and performance of the dog team.

3.B.2.c. The Evaluation Committee shall, based on their observations of the dog teams, make recommendations to the Training Director on aspects that need to be focused on at training sessions.

3.B.2.d. The Standards Officer shall schedule at least one meeting each year at which the criteria for evaluation shall be discussed.

SECTION FOUR: ADMINISTRATIVE

4.A. Submitting Applications

4.A.1. New Members

Anyone wishing to become a member of DOGS-East must submit an application to the Standards Officer. Dog team applications will not be accepted until the dog is at least six months old. A separate application must be submitted for each dog-team track (wilderness, or HRD) that an individual wishes to pursue. Applications must be submitted no later than a person's fourth DOGS-East training session after becoming eligible to apply for membership. The Standards Committee must vote to accept or deny the application no later than the end of the following quarter. A person is considered to be an Applicant and non-voting Member of DOGS-East once their application has been accepted by the Standards Committee.

4.A.2 Current Members

Any member who wishes to begin training a new dog must submit an application to the Standards Officer. Applications will not be accepted until the dog is at least six months old. A separate application must be submitted for each track (wilderness, HRD, or water) that an individual wishes to pursue. Applications must be submitted no later than the team's fourth DOGS-East training session after becoming eligible to apply. The Standards Committee must vote to accept or deny the application no later than the end of the following quarter.

4.B. Maintaining Active Membership

4.B.1. Attendance

4.B.1.a. All members must attend 50% of scheduled wilderness training sessions per quarter or other qualifying activities as defined by the Standards Committee in order to maintain active status. Teams in the wilderness-HRD track must participate in

HRD training at least one time a quarter at a regularly scheduled training.

Participation in team trainings for specialty disciplines such as HRD or Water will count toward the required 50% training attendance.

Substitutions for scheduled training sessions may be approved by the Board of Directors. Notwithstanding the immediately preceding sentence, any member who responds to a search within 24 hours prior to a scheduled training session or during a scheduled training session shall have that mission response automatically counted towards the required 50% attendance, provided that the member notifies the Training Director prior to the end of the quarter in which he or she responded to the mission. A request for substitution for scheduled training shall not be required from the Board of Directors.

4.B.1.b. Attendance records shall be maintained by the Training Director. The Training Director shall report to the Standards Officer at the first of each quarter on each Member's attendance for the previous quarter. The Standards Officer shall notify, in writing, each Member that becomes inactive.

4.B.2. Leave of Absence

4.B.2.a. Any member who wishes to take a Leave of Absence must submit a written request for a Leave of Absence to the Standards Officer within one week of taking leave. The request must stipulate the length of the Leave of Absence, which may not be for a period longer than 3 months. A member who is on an approved Leave of Absence and wishes to terminate the Leave of Absence before its completion must notify the Board of Directors in writing. A Member on a Leave of Absence is an inactive member.

4.B.2.b. If a Member requests a Leave of Absence due to a medical issue (either the handler or dog), then their timeline to complete the requirements for membership will stop. The remainder of their original time will resume upon their voted return to active member by the standards committee. This applies to operational, candidate, and applicant status.

4.B.3. Recertification

As required to maintain Operational status (see sections 1.A.5, 1.B.4, 1.C.4 and 2.E).

4.C. Criteria for Elevating Member's Status

Members must satisfy the requirements listed below. However, completion of these does not automatically qualify a Member for advancement. The Standards Committee is charged with ensuring that Operational dog teams fielded by DOGS-East are fully qualified for their potential assignments and, therefore, is expected to utilize all appropriate means to determine their suitability for advancement in training levels and deployment as active Operational dog teams.

4.C.1. Members must have met attendance requirements described in Section 4.B.1.

4.C.2. Members must have successfully passed the applicable criteria and evaluations for their category and level as outlined in Sections One and Two.

4.C.3. Applicant and Candidate dog handlers must have maintained a training log. The training log shall be checked at least once per quarter by the Training Director or any Operational member.

4.C.4. Each advancement of a dog team from Applicant to Candidate status, Candidate to Operational status, and Operational to Operational Leader status must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Standards Committee.

4.C.5. A dog team that completes the evaluations but is not voted in as Operational shall meet with the Evaluation Committee to discuss whether the weaknesses of that team can be corrected. Any training changes must be completed within 6 months of this meeting. The Evaluation Committee shall submit a report that outlines the proposed training schedule and criteria for evaluation to the Standards Committee. At the end of (or before) the 6-month deadline, the Evaluation Committee shall make a recommendation to the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee shall then vote on the status of the dog team. This vote shall be final without recourse of further action by the dog team.

4.D. Returning From Inactive Status.

4.D.1. All Members returning from inactive status must meet the attendance requirements as described in 4.B.1.

4.D.2. Field evaluations must be successfully completed as described in Section 3.2 of the DOGS East Bylaws.

4.D.4. Leave of Absence. Return to active status will be in accordance with 4.D.1, 4.D.2.

4.E. Operational Handlers/Non-Operational Dogs.

4.E.1. Operational handlers training a new dog are not required to participate in survival night with the dog or re-take the written test. Operational handlers who begin training an operational dog in a second track are not required to retake the basic obedience test, the advanced obedience test, the agility test, the written test or the survival night.

4.E.2. Operational wilderness dog handlers who begin training a new dog for wilderness shall be required to pass the 160-acre evaluation, the 40-acre night evaluation, the basic obedience evaluation, the agility evaluation, and the advanced obedience evaluation to be considered for Operational status as a wilderness

dog team. The handler and new dog must meet these requirements within 18 months of their application being accepted by the Standards Committee.

4.E.3. Operational HRD dog handlers who begin training a new dog for HRD shall be required to pass the above ground evaluation, the urban evaluation, the buried evaluations, the basic obedience evaluation, the agility evaluation and the advanced obedience evaluation to be considered for Operational status as a HRD dog-team. The handler and new dog must meet these requirements within 18 months of their application being accepted by the Standards Committee.

4.E.4. Active Operational wilderness handlers who begin training a HRD dog are exempt from taking the 20-acre map and compass section (Part I) of the 20/1 acre Above Ground field test. The team must meet the requirements to become an operational HRD team within 12 months of their application being accepted by the Standards Committee.

4.F. Operational Dog Team From Another Unit.

4.F.1 Wilderness Dog Teams

An Operational wilderness dog team from another unit may apply for membership to DOGS-East. However, the dog team shall not assume Operational status until the below-listed requirements are met. The team must then be approved for Operational status in DOGS-East by 2/3 vote of the Standards Committee.

4.F.1.a The handler shall submit a letter from the Standards Officer or Training Officer of the group he has transferred from, which attests that the dog team was Operational and in good standing with that group.

4.F.1.b. The handler shall submit a copy of his training records from the group he was last affiliated with, including evaluation forms.

4.F.1.c. The dog team shall take the 160-acre evaluation (Section 1.B).

4.F.1.d. The dog team shall take the advanced obedience test (Section 1.A.).

4.F.1.e. The dog team shall attend 50% of scheduled wilderness training sessions for a minimum of 3 consecutive months.

4.F.1.f. The handler shall take and pass the VDEM written test for wilderness dog-teams.

4.F.1.g. The handler has a current certification in basic First Aid and CPR (approved course given by the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, or other recognized agency).

4.F.2. HRD Dog Teams

An Operational HRD dog team from another unit may apply for membership to DOGS-East. However, the dog team will be treated as any other Applicant dog-team and shall not assume Operational status until it has met all of the requirements of HRD dog teams.

SECTION FIVE: GLOSSARY/DEFINITIONS

Alert: When a dog reacts to scent and physically shows interest

Base Operations Personnel: Members whose primary task will be providing search management skills and expertise. Base Operations personnel must also be skilled in field techniques and search dog handling (Section Two)

Debrief: Report of search results

Dog Team: Dog handler and his dog

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

FTL/FTM: Field Team Leader/Field Team Member

GSAR: Ground Search and Rescue Institute run by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (DEM)

HRD: Human Remains Detection

Inactive Members: Those members who have not met the requirements for active membership during a period of three months or who have submitted a request for a Leave of Absence

Indicate/Indication: When a dog demonstrates a trained behavior to notify the handler of a find

MSF/MSO: Managing Search Functions/Managing Search Operations

OFDA: Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (within the Agency for International Development)

Overhead Personnel: Base Operations personnel

POA: Probability of Area

POD: Probability of Detection

Special Support Personnel: Members who provide specialized skills such as vertical rescue, dive rescue/recovery, etc.

Standards Committee: Consists of Operational DOGS-East members. Only active members have voting privileges.

Survival Night: An overnight bivouac using only gear normally carried in the Member's field pack. The dog handler will have his dog with him during this bivouac.

SECTION SIX: EQUIPMENT LISTS

6.A. Wilderness Dog Teams

1. 2 compasses (one must be an orienteering type compass)
2. Whistle
3. Knife or similar type tool
4. Pen or pencil, and paper
5. Leash or parachute cord
6. Waterproof matches or lighter, and tinder
7. Flagging tape
8. Plastic bags (assorted sizes)
9. Space blanket
10. Flashlight with extra batteries
11. Radio and spare battery (this will be provided during evaluations)
12. Rain gear
13. First aid kit (sterile pads; medical tape; roller gauze or vet wrap or ace bandage; latex gloves)
14. Essential personal medical requirements (e.g., epi pen, glasses, etc.)
15. Water for person and dog
16. Suitable container for heating water
17. Wool socks or the equivalent (NOT cotton)
18. Ski cap or the equivalent
19. Appropriate Footwear (NOT tennis shoes)

6.B. HRD Dog Teams

1. 2 compasses (one must be an orienteering type compass)
2. Whistle
3. Knife or similar type tool
4. Pen or pencil, and paper
5. Leash or parachute cord
6. Flagging tape
7. Plastic bags (assorted sizes)
8. Flashlight with extra batteries
9. Radio and spare (this will be provided during evaluations)
10. Rain gear
11. First aid kit (sterile pads; medical tape; roller gauze or vet wrap or ace bandage; latex gloves)
12. Essential personal medical requirements (e.g., epi pen, glasses, etc.)
13. Water for person and dog
14. Appropriate Footwear (NOT tennis shoes)
15. Latex gloves
16. Camera
17. Tape measure
18. Trowel or shovel (in vehicle)
19. Probe (in vehicle; this will be provided for 20/1 Acre evaluation)

6.C. Water Dog Teams

6.C.1 Boat searches

1. 2 compasses (one must be an orienteering type compass)
2. Personal Floatation Device
3. Whistle (preferable attached to PFD with short string)
4. Knife or similar type tool attached to PFD that can be released with one hand
5. Pen or pencil, and paper
6. Leash or parachute cord
7. Flagging tape
8. Radio and spare battery (this will be provided during evaluations)
9. Essential personal medical requirements (e.g., epi pen etc.)
10. Water for person and dog
11. Appropriate Footwear (may be tennis/boat shoes)
12. Latex gloves
13. Camera
14. Buoys
15. Throw rope (in vehicle)

6.C.2 Shoreline searches

1. 2 compasses (one must be an orienteering type compass)
2. Personal Floatation Device
3. Whistle
4. Knife or similar type tool
5. Pen or pencil, and paper
6. Leash or parachute cord
7. Flagging tape
8. Plastic bags (assorted sizes)
9. Flashlight with extra batteries
10. Radio and spare (this will be provided during evaluations)
11. Rain gear
12. First aid kit (sterile pads; medical tape; roller gauze or vet wrap or ace bandage; latex gloves)
13. Essential personal medical requirements (e.g., epi pen, glasses, etc.)
14. Water for person and dog
15. Appropriate Footwear (NOT tennis shoes)
16. Latex gloves
17. Camera
18. Throw rope (in vehicle)

6.C.3 Items not required but suggested

1. GPS
2. Thermometer
3. Small waterproof light pinned to PFD
4. Waterproof bags for gear (including map)

APPENDIX A: EVALUATION FORMS

APPENDIX B: WATER SEARCH SKILL CHECKLIST

Skill	Date	Observed By:
1. Handler's ability to swim 100 feet in calm water		
2. Dog's ability to swim 100 feet in calm water		
3. Handler's ability to safely navigate a boat in calm water		
4. Handler's ability to retrieve a dog into:		
A. Canoe		
B. John Boat		
C. Power Boat		
5. Handler attended water safety seminar		
6. Handler's ability to know how to use a throw rope		
7. Practice directing divers to locate scent source in open water		
8. Practice marking scent source location with GPS		
9. Exposure of dog to working moving water from shore		
10. Exposure of dog to working moving water from a boat		

