NASDN TASK BOOK

K9 MANTRAILING

Handler: Name	Last:	First:
Organization (if applicable)		
Canine: Call Name		
Registered Name (if applicable)		
Reg. Organization		
Breed		
Gender / Age		
Color / Markings		

Purpose: The purpose of this task book is to document the combination of knowledge, skills and abilities that, when acquired, demonstrates the competencies needed to request a NASDN Canine Evaluation. Members must be observed completing all tasks and show knowledge, competency, and consistency in their performance during the completion of this task book.

Task Books: A separate Task Book must be completed for each canine discipline. A canine team is defined a specific handler with a specific canine. There are four NASDN task books; three discipline specific, and one general SAR book.
- Area Search
- Human Remains Detection
- K9 Mantrailing
- General SAR

Each discipline specific task book includes all basic and specialty skills as well as a practice skill assessment test. The general task book lists skills that are non discipline specific, but desirable for search and rescue work. These include, but are not limited to, first aid, navigation, incident command, physical fitness, blood borne pathogens, etc. Most of these skill sets are available through other professional agencies and NASDN will not evaluate teams in these areas.

NASDN Evaluations: NASDN has specific evaluation standards for the following:
- Area Search – 40-60 acre wilderness
- Human Remains Detection – small area, small source
- K9 Mantrailing – basic and advanced

NASDN also supports Specialty Evaluations, upon request. The Canine Evaluation in that discipline must have been successfully completed, prior to requesting a Specialty Evaluation.   Examples of Specialty evaluations can include, but not limited to scent specific area search, multiple victim area search, large area/large source human remains detection, etc.

Signature authority: The task books should be signed off by a qualified observer. NASDN evaluations must be conducted and signed by approved NASDN evaluators. Definitions and qualifications for these personnel are listed in the NASDN Evaluator and Instructor Standards.

Task Book Skill Sets: All tasks will be hands-on skill demonstrations. Each item has a requirement designation (R or O), as outlined below.

> **R -** Required for the NASDN Canine Evaluation.
> **O** – Optional but highly recommended

The task book required (R) skill sets must all be completed within 24 months of the earliest signature date listed in order to request a NASDN Canine Evaluation.

It is recommended that these skill sets be conducted during the daytime in moderate terrain and weather. However, it is also highly advised that the K9 team train these skills at night and in adverse conditions.   All tasks should be worked as "blind" to the handler when being signed off by a qualified observer.

The task book is not required to be repeated once initial NASDN Evaluation in that discipline has been achieved. NASDN does recommend you continue to train toward the Skill Sets listed in the Task Book and use the Skill Assessment Test to maintain proficiency.

**Due to the limited time available at NASDN seminars, NASDN prefers that Skill Sets and Skill Assessment Tests are completed locally to the greatest extent possible.

Task Book Skills Assessment Test: At the end of each discipline task book is a Skills Assessment Test. This test is a compilation of the various skills needed to prepare for an evaluation. It is a "practice" test to help the K9 team put all the individual skills together. (Compare it to a team scrimmage after all the individual players become proficient at the drills). The more proficient the K9 becomes at this exercise, the more prepared they will be to evaluate and search. It is highly recommended for the K9 Team to do these periodically. This should be conducted with a qualified observer in order to identify areas that need additional training.

Canine Evaluation: Only an approved NASDN Evaluator may conduct the Canine Evaluation. Requests should be submitted in advance, utilizing NASDN's Evaluation Request form.   Evaluations must be done either at official NASDN seminars or through specific testing requests by host teams (see policy on non-seminar evaluation requests). Once the Evaluation has successfully been completed and passed, you will be supplied with a NASDN Certificate of Completion which will expire 24 months from the date of completion.

Canine Evaluation Renewal: Only an approved NASDN Evaluator may conduct the Canine Evaluation. Requests should be submitted in advance, utilizing NASDN's Evaluation Request form.   The evaluation standard and test for renewal is the same as the initial evaluation test. The renewal evaluation will be conducted at the highest level obtained that this K9 team successfully completed (ie if you have passed a basic evaluation and then successfully passed the advanced level, when requesting to renew your evaluation, you only have to update at the advanced level, not at basic Level). K9 team will be allowed to take the advanced Evaluation for one year past its *lapsed* date before being required to start again at the basic level.

K9 MANTRAILING SKILL SETS

Skill Set 1: Canine Control

#	REQ	TASK	WITNESS	DATE
1.1	R	Canine does not display uncontrolled aggression towards humans or other canines		
1.2	R	Handler maintains control of canine at all times even in a busy environment		
1.5	R	Canine will ignore or quickly come off of natural, animal, and human distractions and continue to work through these distractions with minimal handler involvement		
1.6t	O	Canine can perform basic obedience commands (sit, down, stay, leave it) with handler on lead in busy environment		
1.7	O	Canine can remain calm in vehicle or crate, while handler is out of sight at least 10 minutes		
1.8	O	Canine can work in a busy environment and among multiple searchers (K9 and human).		

Skill Set 2: Ability to Locate Target

#	REQ	TASK	WITNESS	DATE
2.1t	R	Canine takes scent from supplied article		
2.3t	R	Canine consistently follows target scent during the search		
2.5t	R	Canine will locate target in minimal concealment		
2.6t	O	Canine will locate target in various situations • Elevated • Inaccessible behind a door or enclosure, etc.) • Moving		
2.7	R	Canine will problem solve on own with little handler guidance		
2.8	O	Canine will identify articles from target		
2.9	R	Canine will locate correct target when decoy(s) are present		
2.10	R	Canine is able to cast into the start of a trail		
2.11	R	Canine takes proper target initial direction of travel (DOT)		
2.12	R	Canine will trail through vegetation, terrain and surface changes		
2.13	R	Canine will perform a no-scent indication when target odor is not present		
2.14	R	Canine can successfully follow a trail through an intersection (where at least three directional choices are presented)		

Skill Set 3: Ability to Interpret Canine Behavior

#	REQ	TASK	WITNESS	DATE
3.1t	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets when canine is on target odor		
3.2	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets when scent is not present		
3.3	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets when canine is following non-target odor		
3.4t	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets when canine is not actively trailing		
3.5	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets permanent loss of trail, such as a car pick-up		
3.6	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets when canine needs water, breaks, other aid and provides it to them		
3.7	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets scent corridors (scent pulled between two terrain obstacles)		
3.8	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets scent pools		
3.9	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets back-trails		

Skill set 4: Final Trained Response

#	REQ	TASK	WITNESS	DATE
4.1	R	Handler can accurately articulate the canines' final trained response. It is:		
4.2	R	Canine's final trained response can be easily recognized by someone other than the handler		
4.3	R	Canine performs final trained response consistently *without prompting*		
4.4t	R	Canine takes handler in to subject		
4.5	R	Handler identifies target based on canine's final trained response		
4.6	R	Canine does not make false alerts		

Skill set 5: Handler Search Skills

#	REQ	TASK	WITNESS	DATE
5.1t	R	Handler reviews map/terrain features for hazards		
5.2t	R	Handler checks all climate & environmental conditions that affect trailing		
5.3t	R	Handler asks pertinent questions regarding the victim and any previously collected scent articles		
5.4	R	Handler carries gear needed for search		
5.5	R	Handler properly collects a scent article		

Skill Set 6: Team Search Ability

#	REQ	TASK	WITNESS	DATE
6.1	R	Handler uses proper line handling techniques		
6.3	R	Handler is cognizant of changes in climate and environment and adjusts strategy		
6.4t	R	Handler uses dog's behavioral changes to adjust trailing strategy		
6.6t	R	Handler conducts adequate verbal debrief identifying results of the trail and other information as needed		
6.11	R	Team able to halt for a break (5-10 minutes) and restart trail		
6.8t	R	Team can perform trail in a wilderness setting		
6.9t	R	Team can perform trail in a suburban setting		
7.10t	O	Team can perform trail in an urban setting		
6.12t	O	Team can perform a trail at night		
6.13t	O	Handler provides written description of trail & detailed map		

Each witness, which signs off on a task, should sign here and give full name

_____   _____
Witness Signature   Witness Signature

_____   _____
Witness Name   Witness Name

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Witness Signature   Witness Signature

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Witness Name   Witness Name

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Witness Signature   Witness Signature

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Witness Name   Witness Name

K9 MANTRAILING

SKILLS ASSESSMENT TEST

Instructions:

Each aspect of this test is a pass/fail. A fail in any item constitutes a fail overall. This test must be performed under observation of Qualified Observer.

- ➢ The test will be conducted on lead and in harness.
- ➢ The test will be conducted in a wilderness or suburban environment, on primarily soft trailing surfaces.
- ➢ The trail shall be 0.25 – 0.4 mi in length and aged 30 to 90 minutes.
- ➢ The target should be unknown to the K9.
- ➢ The test is to be completed within 20 minutes.
- ➢ The test will be conducted during daylight hours in a sparsely populated area.
- ➢ Terrain and weather conditions should not be extreme.
- ➢ Handler will be given a bagged scent article from the target.
- ➢ A different trail will be used for each K9 team tested.
- ➢ The trail may include cross-trails made inadvertently by the local population in the area; however such contamination should be uncommon and avoided when possible.
- ➢ The target will be concealed from view by items that blend in to the terrain features (such as behind a tree), but not totally enclosed preventing release of scent.
- ➢ The PLS will be provided to the team by verbal description of physical features indicated while on-site.
- ➢ The PLS shall consist of a very small, clearly defined space (no more than 1 square yard) through which the target has walked..
- ➢ A brief scent inventory (2-3 min) may be conducted at the pint last (PLS) with the canine prior to the start of the time clock. Time will start as soon as the handler gives the canine their "**take-scent**" command

Handler will be required to provide the following information prior to releasing his canine:
- • Canine's "take-scent" and, if separate, the "start trailing" command
- • Canine's final trained response

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

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

GRADING SHEET – K9 MANTRAILING SKILL ASSESSMENT TEST

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

	Ability to Locate Target	P/F
2.1t	Canine takes scent from supplied article	
2.3t	Canine consistently follows target scent during the search	
2.5t	Canine will locate target in minimal concealment	
2.11	Canine takes proper target initial direction of travel (DOT)	
2.12	Canine will trail through vegetation, terrain and surface changes	

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

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

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

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

Team completes test in required time   P/F