

North American Search Dog Network



Evaluation Standards and Sample Judging Sheets

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Rules and Procedures

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

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

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

Evaluation Judge Requirements

Each judge will have the following minimum experience.

Senior Judge:

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

Judge:

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

Novice Judge:

Anyone with basic canine experience.

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

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

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

Air Scent Area Search Evaluation

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

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

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

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

Land Cadaver Detection Dog Evaluation

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

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

More than one testing area may be used at the discretion of the judges. Testing order and area assignment will be determined by a random draw. Changes in the running order may be made in order to accommodate special needs. Handlers taking this test may request minor changes in the testing format such as the size of hides in order to let them document their proficiency in certain areas. These requests will be accommodated if the changes can be made without disruption to other activities.

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

Basic Mantrailing Evaluation

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

- be approximately 440 yards in length
- contain 2 turns of less than 90 degrees each
- be in moderate vegetation
- have aged 90 minutes to 4 hours

The person laying the trail will be hidden at the end. The judges will have a map of the trail prior to starting the test. Trails will not be used for testing more than one team.

A sterile gauze pad will be handled by the person laying the trail. A judge will give that scent article to the canine handler at the beginning of the test. The time limit for this test will normally be 1 hour. The actual time limit will be determined by the judges. The handler will describe the canine's indication at the start of the test. The team will be allowed one restart if needed. A minimum average score of 70 points will be required to pass. Each judge will give points as follows:

Start	0 - 10 points
Each leg (three)	0 - 10 points each
Finding and indicating correct person	60 points

Testing order will be determined by a random draw. Changes in the running order may be made in order to accommodate special needs.

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

Advanced Mantrailing Evaluation

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

- be approximately 1 mile in length
- meander and have 2 turns of at least 90 degrees each
- be in a heavily contaminated wilderness, public park or industrial area
- be on three types of surface (roads, water crossing, bridge, or terrain)
- have aged 24 - 36 hours

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

The judges will have a map of the trail prior to starting the test. Trails will not be used for testing more than one team.

A sterile gauze pad will be handled by the primary runner. A judge will give that scent article to the canine handler at the beginning of the test. The time limit for this test will normally be 1 hour. The actual time limit will be determined by the judges. The handler will describe the canine's indication at the start of the test. The team will be allowed one restart if needed. A minimum average score of 70 points will be required to pass. Each judge will give points as follows:

Start	0 - 15 points
First and second leg	0 - 10 points each
Successfully working past cross trail	0 - 5 points
Finding and indicating primary runner	60 points

Testing order will be determined by a random draw. Changes in the running order may be made in order to accommodate special needs.

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

NASDN Air Scent Area Search Evaluation Score Sheet

Handler's Name _____ Date _____
Canine's Name _____ Time Allowed _____
Judge _____ Size of Area _____ Time Used _____

Handler maintained control of canine. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (no= failure of test) Comments: _____ _____
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Name of hidden person _____ Find (60 pts) _____
Hidden in Buried Ground Cover Elevated Indication(0-5 pts.) _____
 Vehicle Other _____
Comments _____

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

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

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

Total _____

NASDN Cadaver Detection Dog Evaluation Score Sheet

Handler's Name _____ Date _____

Canine's Name _____ Time Allowed _____

Judge _____ Size of Area _____ Time Used _____

Handler maintained control of canine. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Comments: _____ _____
--

Hide #1

Material _____ Amount _____ Find (25 pts) _____

Hidden in Buried Ground Cover Hanging Indication(0-5 pts.) _____

Vehicle Other _____

Comments _____

Hide #2

Material _____ Amount _____ Find (25 pts) _____

Hidden in Buried Ground Cover Hanging Indication(0-5 pts.) _____

Vehicle Other _____

Comments _____

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

Comments _____

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

Comments _____

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

Comments _____

Total _____

NASDN Basic Mantrailing Evaluation Score Sheet

Handler's Name _____ Date & Time _____

Canine's Name _____ Time Allowed _____

Judge _____ Length of trail _____ Time Used _____

Name of trail layer _____ Date & Time trail laid _____

Handler maintained control of canine. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (no= failure of test) Comments: _____ _____
--

Map of trail:

Comments _____

Start (preparation, use of scent article etc.) (0-10 pts.) _____

Comments: _____

First leg (0-10 pts.) _____

Comments: _____

Second leg (0-10 pts.) _____

Comments: _____

Third leg (0-10 pts.) _____

Comments: _____

Finish (indicating trail layer correctly) (60 pts.) _____

Comments: _____

Total Score _____

NASDN Advanced Mantrailing Evaluation Score Sheet

Handler's Name _____ Date & Time _____
Canine's Name _____ Time Allowed _____
Judge _____ Length of trail _____ Time Used _____
Name of primary trail layer _____ Date & Time trail laid _____
Name of primary cross layer _____ Date & Time trail laid _____

Handler maintained control of canine. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (no= failure of test) Comments: _____ _____
--

Map of trail:

Comments _____

Start (preparation, use of scent article etc.) (0-15 pts.) _____
Comments: _____

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

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

Cross trail (0-5 pts.) _____
Comments: _____

Finish (indicating primary trail layer correctly) (60 pts.) _____
Comments: _____

Total Score _____