

Kent County Search and Rescue K9 Unit

Trailing Level I Evaluation

Level I requirements must be met by both, handler and K9 before moving on to Level II

K9 requirements:

1. Understand and be able to trail a subject.
2. Be able to scent off an article and follow a trail to a subject.
3. Be able to trail a subject without watching them walk away.
4. Be able to follow a trail that has more than one turn.
5. Be able to follow a trail that is up to 6 hours old.
6. Be able to follow a trail that crosses various terrains. (field, woods, hard surface)
7. Have an identifiable ID on the subject being trailed.
8. Be able to trail a subject both in daylight and at night.
9. Be able to trail a subject in a variety of weather conditions. (hot, cold, rain, snow, etc)

Handler requirements:

1. Be able to properly harness the K9.
2. Be able to properly scent the K9 off a scent article.
3. Have some knowledge of and be able to explain scent theory.
4. Be able to identify when the K9 is on or off the trail.
5. Be able to properly utilize support personnel.
6. Have some knowledge of and be able to collect a scent article.
7. Be able to effectively debrief after a trail.
8. Have K9's vaccines up to date and a copy of them turned in to appropriate leaders.
9. Begin and maintain training logs.

Level I test:

Trail will be unmarked and will be aged at least 1 hour but no more than 6 hours. The trail will cross over various terrains and will include no more than 5 turns. The trail will be at least ¼ mile but no longer than 1/2 mile long. The K9 must utilize a scent article to start the trail. A predetermined ID must be utilized when the K9 reaches the subject.

Level I requirements and testing must be completed successfully within 16 weeks of joining the K9 Unit. Failure to do so will result in re-assessment of the K9 team by leadership and may result in dismissal of the K9, the handler or both from the unit.

Kent County Search and Rescue K9 Unit

Trailing Level II Evaluation

Level II requirements must be met by both, handler and K9 before moving on to Level III

K9 requirements:

1. Be able to follow a trail that is 24 hours old.
2. Be able to follow a trail that enters and exits a building, indicating on the doors that the subject used.
3. Be able to work a split trail and locate and indicate on the correct subject.
4. Be able to work a trail off of a variety of scent articles. (clothing, car keys, toys, etc)
5. Be able to work a trail where a different person has crossed over the original trail.
6. Be able to start and follow a trail that is laid in a heavily contaminated area.
7. Be able to work a trail through heavy distraction or animal scent without leaving the trail. (heavy vehicle traffic, crowded areas, heavy wildlife traffic, etc.)

Handler requirements:

1. Have knowledge and demonstrate how to restrain an injured K9
2. Have knowledge of K9 first aid
3. Be able to do a physical exam on the K9
4. Have vehicle properly equipped to be able to support you and your K9 for 24-48 hours.
5. Have the knowledge of other K9 disciplines and be able to explain how they work. (air scent, HRD, disaster, etc)
6. Have training logs up to date and explain why it is important to keep training logs.
7. Demonstrate how to properly collect and maintain a scent article.
8. Have KCSAR membership requirements completed.

Level II test:

Trail will be unmarked and be aged at least 12 hours but no more than 24 hours. The trail will be laid in a contaminated area, with human, vehicle and/or animal contamination, and will cross various terrain. A second person will cross the trail at some point. The trail will be at least ½ mile but no more than 1 mile long. The handler will collect their own scent article to use to scent the K9. A predetermined ID must be used when the K9 reaches the subject.

Level II requirements and testing must be completed successfully within 20 weeks of completing Level I. Failure to do so will result in re-assessment of the K9 team and could result in dismissal of the K9, handler or both from the unit.

Kent County Search and Rescue K9 Unit

Trailing Level III Evaluation

Level III requirements must be met by both, handler and K9 before taking the mission ready test.

K9 requirements:

1. Be able to follow a trail that is over 48 hours old.
2. Be able to follow a trail that ends with a vehicle pickup, with the K9 properly indicating to the handler that the trail has ended.
3. Be able to cast about, find and follow the freshest trail from an area that is heavily contaminated by the trail layer. (subject's house, work place, etc.)
4. Be able to work a trail where the subject has back tracked.
5. Be able to locate the subject in a variety of places. (up in a tree, laying down in something, hidden under a tarp, etc.)
6. Be able to determine and properly indicate to the handler that a scent article is a "negative" trail.
7. Be able to follow a trail and indicate on the subject while subject is in a group of people.

Handler requirements:

1. Be able to set up and run base command at trainings.
2. Be able to accurately report information about the trail to search managers.
3. Be able to properly fill out search reports (crew assignment, crew debrief, etc.)
4. Have a good working knowledge of missing person behavior.
5. Training logs maintained and up to date.

Level III test:

Trail will be unmarked and aged at least 48 hours but no more than 72 hours. The trail will be at least 1 mile long but no longer than 2 miles long. The trail will begin in a heavily contaminated area and will cross various terrain. The trail layer will enter at least one building. The trail layer may or may not exit the building. A scent article will be presented to the handler that may or may not be a negative. The team must determine whether or not it is the scent article is from the trail layer or a negative. If it is a negative, a second scent article will be presented that does belong to the trail layer so the trail can be run by the team. A predetermined ID must be used when the K9 reaches the subject. The subject may or may not be in an unusual position for the K9 to locate.

Level III requirements and testing must be completed successfully within 20 weeks of completing Level II. Failure to do so will result in re-assessment of the K9 team and could result in the dismissal of the K9, handler or both from the unit.

Kent County Search and Rescue K9 Unit

Mission Ready Evaluation

K9:

- Must take scent from the scent article collected by the handler
- Must be able to cast about, find the trail and successfully find the subject
- Must be able to identify the subject with a predetermined ID

Handler:

- Must check into staging when arrives on scene
- Must gather any needed information on the missing subject
- Must be able to enter the house, building, vehicle and collect a scent article
- Must be able to fill out a crew assignment sheet
- Must be able to brief field support on needs and expectations
- Must be able to scent the K9 and complete the trail successfully
- Must be able to properly relay information on the radio to staging regarding the find.
- Must be able to properly debrief with management after returning to staging.
- Must be able to properly fill out the crew debrief form