

# SWGDOG SC 9 - HUMAN SCENT DOGS

## Article Search

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**8. Article search** - This canine discipline is used for searching areas, usually near crime scenes, for human-scented articles that were thrown away or left behind.

**8.1 Goal** - Canine shall search an area and indicate all human-scented articles in that area.

**8.2 Odor recognition assessment**

OBJECTIVE: This assessment tests the following:

- The ability of the canine to indicate human-scented articles.
- The handler's interpretation of the canine's behavior.
- The canine's response.
- The handler's interpretation of the canine's response.

8.2.1 One to three individuals shall be utilized to place human scent on articles and throw them into a search area where the canine usually works (e.g., urban/suburban/rural).

8.2.2 The articles shall be held in a closed hand(s) for a minimum of 30 seconds prior to being thrown.

8.2.3 A minimum of 4 scent articles shall be thrown into an area of at least 1600 square feet (150 m<sup>2</sup>).

8.2.4 Neither the handler nor dog shall observe the placement of the human scented articles.

8.2.5 Neither the scent contributor nor the handler shall enter the search area at any time.

8.2.6 The set time shall be appropriate to the time the article was in human contact and shall be determined by the testing agency.

8.2.7 The search time shall be appropriate to the search area and the number of articles and should impose pressure on the search team.

8.2.8 The articles shall not be visible to either the dog or the handler either before or during the placement of the human-scented articles.

8.2.9 The handler shall be informed of the search area parameters.

8.2.10 The handler shall inform the assessor of the canine's trained response (active or passive) prior to the test.

8.2.11 The assessor shall know the correct outcome of the search.

8.2.12 The handler shall know the number of articles placed in the search area.

8.2.13 The canine must be able to locate at least 75% of the articles either through a trained active or passive response that the handler must discern and communicate to the assessor prior to the assessment.

8.2.14 Responding to articles that were not introduced into the search area for assessment purposes will not be considered a failure. Such responses are not considered correct positive responses, but are also not considered false positives since it is currently impossible to determine the absence of human scent on such an article.

**8.3 Comprehensive Assessment**

OBJECTIVE: This assessment tests the following:

- The ability of the canine to indicate human-scented articles.
- The handler's interpretation of the canine's behavior.
- The canine's response.
- The handler's interpretation of the canine's response.
- The handler's ability to conclude the search (nothing left to find).

*NOTE: A comprehensive article search assessment as conducted below incorporates odor recognition to such an extent that a separate odor recognition test is not necessary.*

- 8.3.1 One to three individuals shall be utilized to place human-scented articles within a search area where the canine team typically works (e.g., urban/suburban/rural).
- 8.3.2 The articles shall be held in a closed hand(s) for a minimum of 30 seconds prior to being thrown.
- 8.3.3 A minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 human-scented articles will be thrown into an area of at least 1600 square feet (150m<sup>2</sup>).
- 8.3.4 Neither the handler nor dog shall observe the placement of the human scented articles.
- 8.3.5 Neither the scent contributor nor handler shall enter the search area at any time.
- 8.3.6 The set time shall be appropriate to the time the article was in human contact and shall be determined by the testing agency.
- 8.3.7 The search time shall be appropriate to the search area and the number of articles and should impose pressure on the search team.
- 8.3.8 The articles shall not be visible to either the dog or the handler either before or during the placement of the human-scented articles.
- 8.3.9 The handler shall be informed of the search area parameters.
- 8.3.10 The handler shall inform the assessor of the canine's trained response (active or passive) prior to the test.
- 8.3.11 The assessor shall know the correct outcome of the search.
- 8.3.12 The handler shall not know the number of human-scented articles in the search.
- 8.3.13 The canine must be able to locate at least 75% of the human-scented articles through a trained active or passive response that the handler must discern and communicate to the assessor prior to the assessment.
- 8.3.14 Responding to articles that were not introduced into the search area for assessment purposes will not be considered a failure. Such responses are not considered correct positive responses, but are also not considered false positives since it is currently impossible to determine the absence of human scent on such an article.

#### **8.4 Double-Blind Assessment -**

**OBJECTIVE:** This assessment demonstrates the proficiency of the canine handler team in an operational setting.

- 8.4.1 The search area shall be prepared in the type of environment in which the canine handler team usually works.
- 8.4.2 The size of the search area shall depend on operational requirements.

- 8.4.3 Neither the handler nor dog shall observe the placement of the human scented articles.
- 8.4.4 The area shall be prepared to represent an operational setting. Human-scented articles shall not be visible to the dog, the handler, or the assessor.
- 8.4.5 The set time and search time shall be determined by the size of the area to be searched and operational requirements.
- 8.4.6 The handler and the assessor shall be informed of the search location, but shall not be given further information.
- 8.4.7 Neither the canine handler, nor the assessor, nor any individual present shall know the correct outcome of any portion of assessment.
- 8.4.8 The handler shall inform the assessor of the canine's trained response prior to the test.
- 8.4.9 The assessor shall observe the canine handler team and compare the search results with the parameters of the search at the conclusion of the assessment. This may be done immediately after the handler concludes his canine has completed its trained response, or after the conclusion of the whole assessment.