

SWGDOG SC 9 - HUMAN SCENT DOGS

Location Checks

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5. Location Checks - Location checks are used to identify the presence or absence of the odor of a specific person to the exclusion of all other odors at a given location. In this discipline, the canine is used to odor match a “pre-scented” object or pad to the odors present at the check site. This technique may be used for subject exclusion or inclusion odor checks.

5.1 Goal - The canine shall indicate the presence or absence of the odor of a specific person at a given location.

5.2. Odor recognition assessment - OBJECTIVE: This assessment tests the following:

- The ability of the canine to scent discriminate and follow the odor trail matching the human target.
- The canine’s response.
- The handler’s interpretation of the canine’s response.
- The canine handler team shall be tested on at least 4 locations with a separate human target and separate human distracters for each location.

5.2.1 For each location check, one human target and one or more human distracters are utilized to lay human odor tracks/trails in an environment similar to where the canine usually works (e.g., urban/suburban/rural).

5.2.2 The handler shall be informed of the start location and not given the direction of travel taken by the target.

5.2.3 The handler shall be provided an odor sample from the human target.

5.2.4 Prior to the assessment, the handler shall specify the type of odor sample (object, scent pad) used to train his canine.

5.2.5 The assessor shall know the correct outcome of each scent check.

5.2.6 The handler shall not know the correct outcome of each scent check.

5.2.7 A successful completion of a location check is the ability to find the correct direction of travel and follow the odor trail beyond the turn.

5.2.8 The assessor may take into consideration environmental influences on odor in determining whether or not the canine handler team has successfully completed the location check.

5.2.9 The canine handler team shall properly scent discriminate matching odor in at least 75% of the locations checked.

5.3 Comprehensive Assessment - OBJECTIVE: This assessment tests the following:

- The ability of the canine to indicate the presence or absence of the target human odor.
- The handler’s interpretation of canine behavior.
- The canine’s response.
- The handler’s interpretation of the canine’s response.

- 5.3.1 At least 6 location checks, with the odor of 6 different human targets, in at least 3 different areas, with different human distracters shall be performed in this assessment.
- 5.3.2 Each location check shall be conducted in an environment similar to the one where the canine usually works.
- 5.3.3 At least half of the location checks shall be negative location checks.
- 5.3.4 A negative location check shall have no matching odor trail.
- 5.3.5 A positive location check shall have a matching odor trail aged approximately 24 (20-28) hours with no human target at the end.
- 5.3.6 The trail shall be a minimum of 50 yards in length.
- 5.3.7 The handler shall be informed of the start location and not given the direction of the target's travel.
- 5.3.8 The handler shall be provided with a different odor sample from a matching target or a non-matching target at each location check.
- 5.3.9 The handler shall specify the type of odor sample (object, scent pad) prior to the assessment.
- 5.3.10 Each location check shall be completed in less than 5 minutes.
- 5.3.11 The assessor shall know the correct outcome of each location check.
- 5.3.12 The handler shall not know the correct outcome of each location check, nor the number of checks to be conducted.
- 5.3.13 The canine shall be required to correctly indicate the presence or absence of the matching odor at each start location.
- 5.3.14 The handler must be able to discern canine's final response and communicate this to the assessor.
- 5.3.15 At least 80% of the location checks shall be performed correctly.

5.4 Double-Blind Assessment - OBJECTIVE: This assessment demonstrates the proficiency of the canine handler team in an operational setting.

- 5.4.1 One or more targets may be utilized to lay odor trails in the search area.
- 5.4.2 The search area, trail age and odor sample shall be appropriate to operational requirements.
- 5.4.3 The assessment will include negative scent match check locations.
- 5.4.4 Neither the canine handler, nor the assessor, nor any individual present with the canine handler team shall know the correct outcome of any portion of the assessment, including whether there is a scent match.
- 5.4.5 The assessment may or may not be timed.
- 5.4.6 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 made its trained response, or after the conclusion of the whole assessment.