

# SEARCH & RESCUE DOG ASSOCIATION (WALES)



## Mountain Search Dog Training Stages

### GUIDELINES:

- 1- Dogs with out a Acceptance test will not be eligible for training on land that has be cleared for Tuesday Nights or weekends, and must remain on a lead at all times
- 2- Acceptance tests may be undertaken by any 2 full mountain and or lowland dog handlers or a suitably Qualified person.
- 3- Stage assessments may be undertaken by any 2 full mountain or lowland dog handlers.
- 4- Handlers must show consistency at the highest Stage of each colour before starting a new colour, if that stage is not reached then the next stage down is assessed and the next, until a stage is reached were consistency is shown.
- 5- Stages in red must be completed in order
- 6- Dogs and handlers will not become eligible for assessment without passing the highest stage of Each colour and hold a current recognised first aid Qualification.
- 7- Novice full and regrade search dog assessment may be undertaken by Any 2 internal and any 1 external assessor.

### ACCEPTANCE TEST

#### OBEDIENCE TEST

Test Situation	Response
1- Dog to walk to heel on and off the lead.	Remains next to heel with the minimum of commands.
2- Dog stay 10 minute, handler to walk up to 25m from dog 5 minutes with handler out of sight of dog.	Dog to remain at stay position until recalled or released.
3- Dog recalled whilst mixing with other dog / handlers.	Dog returns on recall.
4- Dog put into down/stop position away from handler. plus whilst mixing with other dog.	Dog responds to commands, and remains stationary until recalled or released.

#### STOCK TEST

1- Dog will be recalled through a number of sheep in a controlled area.	Dog returns on recall showing no interest in sheep.
2- Dog will be given a stay command and sheep are herded within 5m of the dog.	Dog to remain at stay position until recalled showing no interest in sheep.

Dogs will fail if they attack or show interest in sheep during the test. It is quite acceptable for dogs to break their stay if subjected to pressure provided they retreat or go to their handler. The assessor must be satisfied that each dog can be controlled in the presence of stock.

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**Revised 28/09/2009**  
**REWARD**  
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Test Situation	Response
<p><b>STAGE 1</b>                      Handler sets up exercise.                      body runs out calling dog (10m), Drops down out of sight, gives no more indication of their location once down. Handler releases dog.</p> <p><b>STAGE 2</b>                      As for Stage 1</p> <p><b>STAGE 3</b>                      As for Stage 1 &amp; 2.                      (with distance increased)</p> <p><b>STAGE 4</b>                      As for Stage 1 but dog does not see final location of body (with distance increased).</p>	<p>Correct venue, brief body. (the body's ability to intervene and regain dogs focus is imperative at this stage).</p> <p>As for Stage 1                      Dog attempts/returns to handler and takes handler back to body.</p> <p>As for stage 1 &amp; 2 but dog returns to handler and indicates spontaneously.</p> <p>Dog shows keenness to find body.                      Handler giving correct commands and use of body language to encourage and direct dog.                      Then as for stage 3.</p>
<p><b>STAGE 5</b>                      Handler completes a scent and search questionnaire.</p>	<p>Pass level 80%</p>
<p><b>STAGE 6</b>                      Handler sets up area for a `C' search. dog sees body leave, but does not see final location (build up time to approx 3 minutes).</p> <p><b>STAGE 7</b>                      Handler sets up area for a `C' search (build up time to approx 5 minutes).</p>	<p>Prior to search, handler to estimate location at which the dog will strike. Dog will demonstrate hunting ability and keenness to find, maintaining interest. Handler demonstrates ability to give correct commands and encouragement to direct dog. Dog returns to handler and indicates spontaneously.</p> <p>As for Stage 6</p>
<p><b>STAGE 8</b>                      Handler sets up area for a search with 1 body. Dog does not see body leave. Area is set up for 5-10 minutes search. Pop ups?</p> <p><b>STAGE 9</b>                      Assessor to set up an area of open ground approx 5 minutes search. Handler knowing and has good observation of exact location of body throughout the</p>	<p>As for stage 6 with dog effectively quartering in order to strike. Handler using correct and consistent commands, signals body language to assist dog. Effective find sequence on dog locating body.</p> <p>Handler advises assessors of an effective search strategy and estimates the location of the dog's strike. Dog quartering, ranging and hunting freely. good directional control shown by handler. Effective find sequence on dog locating body. Handler gives an account of completed search</p>

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<b>Test Situation</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p><b>STAGE 10</b>  Assessors set up a search area of 15 minutes, of steep mixed ground.  Bodies - variable amount  handler knows location  may be out of sight during search</p>	<p>Handler advises assessors of an economic and effective search strategy and demonstrates competence. Moving on steep mixed ground working dog. Handler and dog demonstrate a good partnership with dog ranging, quartering and hunting freely and effectively through the area. Effective find sequence on dog locating bodies.</p>
<p><b>STAGE 11</b>  Approx 45 minutes mixed search area set up by assessors. Trainee handler accompanies full search dog and handler through the area. Trainee handler directs the search of the area. Number of bodies in area - variable. Location of bodies not known to handlers.</p> <p><b>STAGE 12</b>  Assessors set up a search area of 30 minutes, of steep mixed ground.  Bodies - variable amount  handler knows location  may be out of sight during search</p>	<p>Trainee handler demonstrates a good understanding of search strategy by effective and economic search of area by full search dog and handler.</p> <p>Handler advises assessors of an economic and effective search strategy and demonstrates competence. Moving on steep mixed ground working dog. Handler and dog demonstrate a good partnership with dog ranging, quartering and hunting freely and effectively through the area. Effective find sequence on dog locating bodies.</p>
<p><b>STAGE 13</b>  As for stage 12 with time increased to 1hour.</p> <p><b>STAGE 14</b>  As for stage 12 with time increased to 90 minutes at dusk into night.</p> <p><b>STAGE 15</b>  Assessors set up a mixed search area of approx 30 minutes.  Bodies - variable amount  handler does not know location</p> <p><b>STAGE 16</b>  Assessors set up a mixed search area of approx 50 minutes containing bodies or articles or both. Articles to be at least rucksack size. Navigator in attendance.</p>	<p>As for stage 12</p> <p>As for stage 12</p> <p>As for stage 12</p> <p>As for stage 12</p>

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<b>Test Situation</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p><b>STAGE 17</b>                      Assessors set up forest path search. Approx 30 minutes duration. Handler remains on path, setting dog to quarter into tree line. Handler only enters forest if dog indicates                      Bodies - variable amount                      handler does not know location</p>	<p>Handler demonstrates trust in dog with a confident search, resulting in a clean sweep of search area with no false indications.</p>

**NOVICE LOWLAND SEARCH DOG ASSESSMENT**

<p><b>STAGE 18</b>                      Urban search scenario. 45 minutes search Handler does not know location of bodies / articles (at least rucksack size and hidden).</p> <p>Building and fine search 45 minutes search Handler does not know location of bodies / articles (at least rucksack size and hidden).</p> <p>Forest search approx 1 hour duration. Handler does not know location of bodies / articles (at least rucksack size and hidden).</p> <p>And a fourth search area can be any of the above but in a different location from the previous three.</p>	<p>Dog and handler to show ability to work an Urban search pattern Effectively.</p> <p>Dog and handler to show ability to work a fine search pattern Effectively.</p> <p>Handler demonstrates both by defined search strategy and operation of search, also problems associated with working forest area.</p> <p>Dog and handler to show ability to work Effectively</p>
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**HANDLER AND DOG ARE THEN ADDED TO THE LOWLAND SEARCH DOG CALL OUT LIST**

<p><b>STAGE 19</b>                      2 hour search of large complex area on ground normally associated with mountain search operations. Navigator in attendance.</p> <p><b>STAGE 20</b>                      Night search with 2 assessors navigating for handler. Real search scenario as per operational search.</p>	<p>As for stage 12 with dog handler demonstrating their ability to operate on steep rough ground.</p> <p>Assessors are to ensure task given by Search Control is effectively and efficiently undertaken. Then as per stage 12.</p>
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**NOVICE MOUNTAIN SEARCH DOG ASSESSMENT**

<b>STAGE 21</b> To be conducted on designated SARDA WALES's novice assessment. 5 areas of up to 2 hours to be completed within 3 day SARDA WALES assessment on mountain terrain.	As for stage 12
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**FULL MOUNTAIN SEARCH DOG ASSESSMENT**

<b>STAGE 22</b> To be conducted on designated SARDA WALES full assessment, within a period of two years. 5 areas of up to 2 hours to be completed within 3 day SARDA WALES assessment on mountain terrain.	As for stage 12 Handler and dog demonstrate a greater effective and efficient all round search
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**REGRADE 1**

To be conducted on designated SARDA WALES degrade assessment, after a period of three years. 2 areas of up to 2 hours to be completed within 3 day SARDA WALES assessment on mountain and lowland terrain.	As for stage 12 Handler and dog to maintain or improve on previous stage
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**REGRADE 2**

To be conducted on designated SARDA WALES degrade assessment, after a period of three years. 2 areas of up to 2 hours to be completed within 3 day SARDA WALES assessment on mountain and lowland terrain.	As for stage 12 Handler and dog to maintain previous stage standard.
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**REGRADE 3**

To be conducted on designated SARDA WALES degrade assessment, after a period of three years. 2 areas of up to 2 hours to be completed within 3 day SARDA WALES assessment on mountain and lowland terrain.	As for stage 12 Handler and dog to maintain previous stage standard.
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**Revised 28/09/2009**

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