



# Cadaver Search Certification

To be eligible to certify a k-9, one must be a full time paid law enforcement officer, paid full time fire fighter with assigned search and rescue duties, or corrections officer either local, state, federal or retired law enforcement/correctional officer in good standing with the NNDDA prior to retirement.

OR

A civilian member in good standing with the NNDDA with a letter of endorsement from the Head of a Law Enforcement Agency that verifies that the cadaver team is used to assist in law enforcement sanctioned searches. An updated endorsement letter will be required each time the team renews certification. A civilian member may only attend seminars and certifications in the cadaver field.

The handler must be at least eighteen (18) years of age to certify a K-9.

## SECTION 1. TYPE OF CADAVER AIDS TO BE USED FOR CERTIFICATION:

Only Human remains will be used as aids. To certify the team is required to alert to bone, fluid, and tissue. Urine cannot be used as a fluid for certification.

### FAILURES:

At least one hide of animal remains will be placed in one of the search areas. Alert on animal remains results in a failed certification. Consumption of any aid results in a failed certification. The second alert on a non-hide location or a second missed hide results in a failed certification.

### NO PSEUDO AIDS WILL BE USED FOR CERTIFICATION

### SIZE and AMOUNT of AIDS:

The amount and size of the aid will dictate the depth of the hide (smaller amounts will be shallow, etc.).

### HEIGHT and DEPTH of AIDS:

Aids will be hidden at various heights and depths to be determined by the certifying official but no shallower than 6 inches, or deeper than 36 inches, or higher than six feet.

## SECTION 2. TIME ISSUES

There must be at least a 30 minute set time for each aid. Certifying official will dictate how long an aid will need to set given the environment, depth, and nature of the hide.

The team will be allowed the necessary time required to do a systemic search of the area.

The handler may request a rest break if the canine tires or shows signs of heat exhaustion.

The time limit at a given area will be at the discretion of the certifying official. The dog must show competence and continued interest in working and in locating the cadaver aid.

### **SECTION 3. ALERTS**

Each handler is responsible for notifying the certifying official the type of alert (passive or aggressive) to expect. Handler must announce each canine alert to the certifying official.

### **SECTION 5. SEARCH AREA**

The team may certify in land, or water, or both

**LAND SEARCH** will consist of at least three of the following:

1 aid hidden in rubble, concrete, lumber, building material, etc.

1 aid hidden on the surface concealed with leaves, brush, etc.

1 aid buried with additional diggings added to area to disguise the actual hide location

1 aid concealed above the ground

1 aid hidden at the discretion of the certifying official that is similar to actual finds from the case history of the area.

Only one aid will be hidden in no less than a 50 yard by 50 yard area with a maximum of 50 yard by 100 yard. Final determination of appropriate sized area will be left to the certifying official.

The canine team must alert on at least two different types of aids (fluid, tissue, bone) in two different environments to pass certification.

### **WATER SEARCH**

The area of the water search will be defined by the certifying official and clearly described to the canine team. At least three finds will be submerged at different depths.

The canine team must alert on at least two different tissue aids in two different depths to pass certification.

### **SECTION 6. FAILURE OF CERTIFICATION**

There will be a thirty days waiting period to attempt to certify again unless circumstances at the time of the certification has been determined by the certifying official to warrant another attempt. All rulings by the certifying official are final.

## **OPTIONAL CADAVER ENVIRONMENTS**

To certify in the optional environments a team must have already qualified under the cadaver certification standards.

Only certain cadaver certifying officials will be able to test a team on the optional environments. The certifying official will provide their own certifications aids. No outside aids will be used.

### **OPTION ONE, Large Buried Find with Distraction**

Several pounds of aid buried with distracter holes in an area not less than 50 yards by 50 yards. Bury depth not to exceed 30 inches. A distracter consisting of buried animal remains will be included in the area. An alert on the animal remains will result in a failure.

### **OPTION TWO, Vehicle Searches**

At least three vehicles spaced several feet apart, spacing will be determined by the certifying official. One aid consisting of blood, fluid, or tissue in or on one of the vehicles. An alert on a vehicle without the aid would constitute a failure.

### **OPTION THREE, Building Search**

A building, dwelling, or residence with several rooms to search. Some of the rooms should have furnishings as distracters. One aid consisting of blood, fluid, or tissue should be hidden. An alert on an area without the aid would constitute a failure.

### **OPTION FOUR, Scatter (Disarticulated) Bone**

The bone scattering should in an area approximately 10 feet in circumference. Area should also have animal bone as a negative aid. An alert on animal bone will result in a failure.

### **OPTION FIVE, Exposed Find**

Several pounds of aid in an area at least 50 by 50 yards laying on the surface. The aid must be packaged in a manner to prevent damage to the aid or exposure to the team. Any attempt by the canine to consume or urinate on the aid will result in a failure.

## **TO BECOME A CERTIFYING OFFICIAL**

### **IN CADAVER DETECTION**

To be eligible to be a certifying official, one must be a full time paid law enforcement officer, or corrections officer either local, state, federal.

Applicant must be a current member in good standing with NNDDA for the last three (3) years.

Proof of certifications and/or expertise must add up to three years of experience in the selected field.

Applicant may have certified with NNDDA in cadaver for three years, show that there is a need for a certifying official in this area, have written endorsement from a senior (3 years) cadaver certification official with the NNDDA.

**OR**

Applicant may produce written proof of at least three years expertise in the cadaver detection field with a written endorsement from senior (3 years) cadaver certification officials, or NNDDA Board Member.

**OR**

A combination of both.

Applicant must produce written support from his or her agency.

Applicant will request a certifying official packet from the Secretary of the NNDDA.

Applicant will complete the packet and return it to the Secretary of the NNDDA.

All information submitted will be validated by the NNDDA Board of Directors.

The Board will notify the applicant of the results.

The Board will determine which seminar the applicant must attend to work with a senior certifying official(s).

Applicant must pass an interview with the Board Members during the seminar.

Certifying Officials must attend a Board Approved Seminar at least every other year in certification field.

Certifying Officials must have access to equipment and training aids to conduct this certification.

Each certifying official must ensure that they possess a current copy of NNDDA Certification Standards and certify to that standard.

**A CERTIFYING OFFICIAL MAY NOT CERTIFY A DOG HE/SHE HAS TRAINED THE FIRST TIME THE DOG TEAMS CERTIFY**

A Certifying Official may be removed from certifying official status by a majority vote by the Board of Directors.