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# INBTI EVALUATION GUIDELINES

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## Evaluation Disclaimer

All requirements may be fulfilled by evaluating the K9 team in each specific segment of the evaluation process separately or exercises designed to test two or more components of the evaluation in the same exercise. The discretion of whether the exercises will be set up for one or more components will be determined by the main evaluator.

The handler can be advised as to which component or segment the dog team is being evaluated prior to starting the exercises. Only the segment designed to determine if the dog team can give a proper direction of travel and the segment designed to determine if the dog team can recognize when no trail is in the area need to be given without prior notification.

## 1. INDICATION OF TRAIL LAYER FIND

*Some may wonder since they only use their dogs in SAR operations and are always given a complete description of the missing person why this component should be considered necessary. Although care is taken while collecting a scent article, one should never be fully confident that the scent the dog takes off of the article belongs to the person being sought. This confidence is only gained by observing the behavior of the dog after it is scented then forming a hypothesis of the quality of the scent article based on that behavior. It has also occurred in cases where the dog handler presented an article which was thought to ensure a missing child was being followed when in fact the murderer of the child was the one being followed. Through the dog's ability to identify a fellow searcher or family member that had inadvertently touched the scent article and been out searching is critical to the overall evaluation of the search behavior of the dog itself there-by allowing the scent article to be evaluated. Also, as alluded to in criminal cases, the dog identifying or not identifying a perpetrator has obvious implications.*

1.1 The handler will articulate how his K-9 indicates on or identifies the person being trailed, prior to starting the K-9 on the exercise or trail.

1.1.1 If the indication cannot clearly be seen, or the indication is done naturally by the dog and has to be read by the handler, or the examiners feel the indication may cause confusion; the exercise or trail will require at least one decoy, but no more than three decoys, standing approximately 10 feet from the trail layer.

1.1.2 The handler will run a trail 30-50 yards long, blind, not knowing which

subject is being trailed. Upon completing the exercise or trail the handler must correctly inform the examiners which person his dog trailed.

- 1.1.3 If the indication is one that is considered traditional or standard, or one that does not appear to be a concern and is easily read; the exercise may only have the trail layer at the end with no decoys. The handler may not prompt, entice, or influence the dog to indicate, either verbally or by any other means. If a question arises as to whether the handler had to prompt, entice or influence the dog, a trail similar to the one cited for a nontraditional indication will have to be completed, to ensure the K-9 is capable of indicating on the person it trailed.

**NOTE:** “Moderate Contamination” for the sake of INBTI testing is defined as an urban environment with stores and public places, such as a store in a small strip mall, a library, a school, etc. An area of “High Contamination” would be the front of a Walmart, a convenience store, etc. “Low Contamination” would be a field or rural setting.

## **2. ABILITY TO STOP OR REST K-9**

*This portion is given because at some point while working a case it is very probable the dog is going to have to be stopped. This could be due to many factors including: answering radio enquiries as to your position and what your dog is doing, interviewing a potential witness, traffic, etc. We want to ensure the dog has the focus on its job to restart the trail when given the command to do so.*

- 2.1 While following a trail with a scent article start of undetermined age and distance, the handler will stop his dog and simulate resting in some fashion.
  - 2.1.1 The time frame that the dog will “rest” will not be under 2 minutes and will not exceed 5 minutes.
  - 2.1.2 The area where the dog is stopped may contain moderate contamination. The contamination may consist of some people unrelated to the exercise walking through and around the stopping area. The stopping area may consist of any type ground surface i.e. grass, asphalt, concrete or a combination of different surfaces.
  - 2.1.3 The dog must demonstrate the ability to recover the trail without having the scent article presented a second time.

### **3. ABILITY OF K9 TO DETERMINE DIRECTION OF TRAVEL and IF THE K9 HAS A TRAIL**

*The most critical portion of any mantrailing team's job is the start or determining the correct direction of travel. In criminal cases, it will start providing the information or filling in the pieces of the puzzle that may be critical to the investigation or arrest. The mantrailing team should view themselves as a spoke in the investigation wheel.*

- 3.1 The handler must articulate to the evaluation team whether or not it had a trail and/or indicate the direction of travel of the trail.
  - 3.1.1 A trail layer will leave an area of moderate contamination and walk approximately 100 yards. The distance walked shall be long enough for a competent K-9 team to establish:
    - 3.1.1.1 A trail leaves the area.
    - 3.1.1.2 The direction the trail is heading.
  - 3.1.2 The trail will be aged between 4 to 12 hours.
  - 3.1.3 The K-9 team may or may not have a find at the end of this exercise, depending on whether the exercise is done in combination with the trail evaluation exercise, the vehicle pickup evaluation or done solely to determine the ability it was designed to test.
  - 3.1.4 If no find is made, the handler must articulate to the evaluation team whether or not it even had a trail and/or indicate the direction of travel of the trail.

### **4. ABILITY TO IDENTIFY THERE IS NO TRAIL IN THE AREA "NSI" – No Scent Identification**

*In many investigations, the NSI is an important tool, whether it is a false report of a crime, placing a suspect at the crime scene or in a missing person's investigation where a clue was located by a different search team (i.e. ground pounders, line searchers, air scent dogs). The ability to correctly identify that no trail of a presented scent is in the area could/should be essential to any investigation where the assistance of a dog team is requested. Although the Institute's training method brings a quick response, a dog team not trained in INBTI's method may still attempt this component as long as the handler can give a*

*definitive answer that the scent is not present and that answer can be given within a fifty yards or so from the starting point. If the attempt goes beyond that distance, but the correct answer is given a note will be written on the evaluation that it is the Institute's recommendation that the component be trained on more thoroughly.*

4.1 The K-9 team will be given a bad or false scent article and a starting area of moderate contamination and will be expected to articulate an NSI.

4.1.1 The dog handler will scent his dog and determine and articulate to the evaluator if a trail of the scent presented to his dog is in the area.

4.1.2 The handler will be expected to give a definitive answer that the scent is not present in the area within fifty yards or so from the starting point.

## **5. ABILITY TO TRAIL**

*Obviously, we want to watch the dog and handler work as a team on an unknown trail. The differential in the time an evaluation trail may be aged is designed to allow the Institute some flexibility when trying to evaluate multiple dogs at one workshop. Under no circumstances will multiple dogs be evaluated on or work the same trail. The distance is a reasonable one that will/could be encountered while working cases and one that gives some consistency and fairness to the process. Every trail is unique within itself, meaning many things that will be encountered by one dog team will not necessarily be encountered by another dog team in the same type of terrain with the same age on it. The longer the trail, the more distractions will be encountered meaning the evaluations may end up being unintentionally unfair just because of the greater distance. We placed the wording about the distance from the actual walked path of the trail layer because some organizations have failed some trailing K-9 teams because the behavior of the dog was not consistent with what may be expected of a "K-9 tracking" team.*

5.1 The K-9 team will successfully demonstrate the ability to follow a trail that is between 4 to 12 hours old.

5.1.1 The trail will be approximately ¼ to ½ mile in distance.

5.1.2 The trail will be laid out to cover multiple surfaces or changes of vegetation, in an area where contamination by people unrelated to the exercise is expected. Understanding how a trailing K-9 works, there will be no particular consideration given concerning the distance the

K-9 works from the actual track.

- 5.1.3 The evaluators will not give any assistance concerning how to work out a problem, nor will they reassure the handler in any manner.
- 5.1.4 There will be no specific time limit on this exercise and it will not be stopped unless the evaluators determine the dog has shut down or quit working and/or the K-9 team has completely left the area of the actual track with no indication of recovering.

## **6. ABILITY TO CAST FOR A START OF A TRAIL**

*A dog team may encounter cases or situations where they may have to determine if an individual has been through a specific area. Casting can be used to eliminate a direction of travel away from the PLS (place last seen) which is accomplished by stepping away from the missing child or suspect's home and casting to determine if they went in that direction. This would allow the investigation to become focused or kept in a certain direction. This ability may also be used to substantiate the claims of a suspect who says they have been out searching for the missing child when in fact they have never been in the area. In either case, it should be easy to understand why this skill was included in our testing. If a dog team can correctly identify when or if a trail has been encountered within the tested distance then they probably have the skill to cast longer if needed.*

- 6.1 Dog team must demonstrate the ability to cast for a trail, have the dog indicate on the trail and follow it with or without using a scent article.
  - 6.1.1 The age of this exercise should be fresh to one hour old.
  - 6.1.2 The length of the cast shall be no shorter than 30 yards and no greater than 100 yards.
  - 6.1.3 The area shall have no known contamination of recent human scent except for the trail layer used for the exercise.
  - 6.1.4 The ground surface shall be natural vegetation i.e. grass, leaves, or dirt or a combination of such surfaces.
  - 6.1.5 This exercise may be coupled with other components of the evaluation. If this exercise is done independently and not in combination with other components of the evaluation, the handler will notify the evaluation team within 100 yards when his dog hits or finds a trail and indicates a direction of travel.

## **7. ABILITY TO DETERMINE VEHICLE PICK-UP**

*In today's age of cell phones and vehicles, a vast number of cases will result in a vehicle being involved. It may be critical to the investigation that the point the subject entered a vehicle to drive away be identified. Those familiar with the Institute's training understand we train for a clean identification of the point the vehicle was entered. Consideration needs to be given that not all dog teams that request INBTI's evaluation will have trained to identify the spot so cleanly. That is why it is worded that no consideration will be given to the dog's reaction as long as the handler can identify the area of the pick-up. A reasonable distance from the point the trail layer entered the vehicle is expected. If the handler cannot determine the area a vehicle was entered, a note will be made on the evaluation form that the dog team should train to strengthen this component.*

- 7.1 While successfully demonstrating the ability to follow a trail of undetermined age and distance through moderate contamination, the handler will identify the area the trail layer was picked up by a vehicle.
  - 7.1.1 This exercise may be coupled with other components of the evaluation. If this exercise is done independently and not in combination with other components of the evaluation the trail leading up to the vehicle pick-up should be no less than 100 yards and can be fresh to one hour in age.
  - 7.1.2 The K-9 may stop trailing at the area of the vehicle pick-up, or the K-9 may continue following the trail layer's scent beyond the point of the vehicle pick-up. No particular consideration will be given to either reaction, as long as the handler can determine the correct area of the vehicle pick-up.

## **8. OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR AN INBTI CERTIFICATION**

### **8.1 ORAL REVIEW BOARD**

The oral review board section of the evaluation will have to be successfully completed during the first time the handler is attempting an evaluation. All re-evaluations and/or subsequent evaluations with different K-9s will not require the handler to repeat the oral review board.

- 8.1.1 The oral review board will consist of evaluators approved by an INBTI committee.

## **8.2 ORAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 8.2.1 The handler must articulate knowledge of the proper foundation needed to qualify as an expert in court, by answering questions posed by the oral review board. The proper foundation cited in the 29 American Jurisprudence 2d #575 will be used as the standard.
- 8.2.2 The handler must articulate basic knowledge of the theory of scent, by answering questions posed by the oral review board.
- 8.2.3 The handler must articulate basic familiarization with the collection process of scent articles by answering questions posed by the review board.

## **8.3 COMPLIANCE OF FOUNDATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 8.3.1 The handler will demonstrate compliance with case law requiring proof the K-9 is trained, by displaying the training logs of the K-9 being evaluated to representatives of INBTI. In the event the handler has forgotten the training logbook of said K-9 and wishes to complete the evaluation, INBTI may waive the logbook requirement; if a waiver is signed stating logs are being maintained. Two trainers approved by the Institute will witness and sign the waiver.

## **8.4 EVALUATION EXPIRATIONS AND FEES**

- 8.4.1 To insure a current level of proficiency is maintained, the Operational Evaluations are valid until the end of the next calendar year.
- 8.4.2 INBTI reserves the right to modify the evaluations at any time.
- 8.4.3 The fee to be evaluated will be \$100.00.

InterNational Bloodhound Training Institute  
**Operational Evaluation**

110 Maple Creek Rd  
 Stanardsville, VA 22973  
[www.bloodhoundtraining.com](http://www.bloodhoundtraining.com)

Evaluation Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Evaluation Fee \$100

Payment Rec'd



<b>K-9 HANDLER</b>		Last Name:		First Name:		
A	Street:					
D						
D	City:	State:		<b>K9 NAME</b>		
R	State:					
E	Zip:					
S	Phone:					
S	E-Mail Address:					

**Evaluation:**

**1. K9 Indication of Trail Layer Find**

- Evaluator followed INBTI Evaluation Protocols.  
 List any deviations from the protocol or other comments here:

**2. Ability to Stop or Rest K9**

- Evaluator followed INBTI Evaluation Protocols.  
 List any deviations from the protocol or other comments here:

**3. Ability of K9 to Determine Direction of Travel**

- Evaluator followed INBTI Evaluation Protocols.  
 List any deviations from the protocol or other comments here:

**4. Ability of Handler to Determine K9 Has a Trail**

- Evaluator followed INBTI Evaluation Protocols.

List any deviations from the protocol or other comments here:

**5. Ability to Identify No Trail in the Area**

- Evaluator followed INBTI Evaluation Protocols.

List any deviations from the protocol or other comments here:

**6. Ability to Trail**

- Evaluator followed INBTI Evaluation Protocols.

List any deviations from the protocol or other comments here:

**7. Ability to Cast for a Start of a Trail**

- Evaluator followed INBTI Evaluation Protocols.

List any deviations from the protocol or other comments here:

**8. Ability to Determine Vehicle Pick-Up**

- Evaluator followed INBTI Evaluation Protocols.

List any deviations from the protocol or other comments here:

**K9 is NOT Yet Operational (See comments above where further training is required)**

**K9 is Operational (See Comments Above for any Stipulations)**

Additional Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Primary Evaluator**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Secondary Evaluator**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**



## Guidelines for Evaluators

1. Evaluators for Operational Evaluations will consist of one of the following teams:
  - a. One Law Enforcement INBTI Instructor and one seasoned K-9 handler.
  - b. Or Two SAR INBTI Instructors.
  - c. Or One SAR INBTI Instructor and one INBTI Law Enforcement Officer (not yet an instructor).
  
2. Evaluators must stay within 30 feet of the K-9 team at all times to avoid cueing the handler. If the evaluators cannot keep up with the pace of the K-9 team, they must be moving in the same direction as the K-9 and handler.
  
3. Any clues or instructions to the K-9 handler constitute a fail for the team.

I have read the **INBTI OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES** in their entirety and agree to follow them when setting up the components.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

I agree to fill out the **OPERATIONAL EVALUATION FORM** in its entirety and ensure that INBTI receives a copy for the official files.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Main Evaluator

\_\_\_\_\_

Date