

**SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG/HANDLER**  
**MEMBERSHIP and WILDERNESS**  
**PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION GUIDELINES and REQUIREMENTS**

of

**MASSACHUSETTS**  
**RESCUE AND RECOVERY K9 UNIT, INC.**

Adopted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

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MEMBERSHIP and WILDERNESS  
PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION GUIDELINES and REQUIREMENTS

Section 1                      General.

(a)     MASSACHUSETTS RESCUE AND RECOVERY K9 UNIT, INC. (“MARK9”) has developed the following "Search and Rescue Dog/Handler Performance Expectations" in order to:

- (i)     To provide user agencies and SAR Managers with recommended performance expectations for both the SAR dog and the handler at a search scene; and
- (ii)    To identify the performance standards to which the developing dog and handler team must train so as to contribute successfully in a search for missing persons.

(b)     In establishing, implementing and making any amendments hereto, MARK9 expressly states that its performance standards will at all times meet, at a minimum, the performance standards and Certification Testing process set forth in the Massachusetts Search

Dog Standards, in effect within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as of September 19, 1999.

(c) In implementing these standards, MARK9 will seek to certify canines that assertively seek out human scent, reliably follow that scent to source and independently indicate the find. Further, MARK9 will encourage the training and deployment of strong, confident, independent, hunt-driven canines by drawing from such working breeds as the German Shepherd, Malinois and Doberman Pinscher, with consideration of other working breeds at the discretion of the Charter Members, so as to make more likely the rapid resolution of missing person searches.

## Section 2                      Applicants.

Parties meeting the requirements set forth in MARK9's By-Laws, and who are interested in becoming members of the Corporation, must attend at least three (3) but not more than five (5) consecutive weekly trainings as observers only. During this observation period, the party's canine (if any) will be evaluated relative to its aptitude for search and rescue training but no training will be provided for such canine. After observing the third training, the party will be encouraged to submit an application to the Corporation seeking Probationary Trainee status in the Corporation. Applications for Probationary Trainee status shall be reviewed as soon as possible after submission but will also be listed as an agenda item at the Regular and Annual General Meetings. Charter Members will vote on all applicants. If approved as a Probationary Trainee by majority vote, the Probationary Trainee will be invited to attend (6) months of scheduled training accompanied by their canine (if applicable) to begin to attain the skills necessary to meet the qualifications and/or certification requirements established for Certified Field Assistants and to begin to attain the skills necessary to meet the qualifications and/or certification requirements established for Certified Handlers (if applicable). Following this period of time, the Charter Members will review the Probationary Trainee's progress and vote as to whether to invite the Probationary Trainee to train with the Corporation another six (6) month period of time. The results of this vote will be to either grant further participation in the Corporation to said Probationary Trainee, to decline further participation in the Corporation to said Probationary Trainee or to tentatively allow the Probationary Trainee another six (6) month period of time to develop the skills necessary to meet the qualifications and/or certification requirements established for Certified Field Assistants and Certified Handlers. Following this second Probationary Period, the Charter Members again will review the Probationary Trainee's progress and vote as to whether to grant Active Membership to the Probationary Trainee. The results of this second vote will be to either grant Active Membership to said Probationary Trainee or to decline Active Membership to said Probationary Trainee. While training to develop and to begin to attain the skills necessary to meet the qualifications and/or certification requirements established for Certified Field Assistants and Certified Handlers, Probationary Trainees shall pay an annual processing fee in accordance with the provisions hereinafter set forth but shall have no voting powers and can hold no office. An applicant may be given Probationary Trainee status with or without a canine.

## Section 3                      Probationary Trainees.

(a) Probationary Trainees Without Canines. After attaining Probationary Trainee

status, "Probationary Trainees Without Canines" will be assigned a Certified Field Assistant, if possible, who will serve as the Trainee's Primary Mentor. The Probationary Trainee, with the assistance of the Primary Mentor, must work toward developing the skills necessary to meet the qualifications established for Certified Field Assistants. Certified Field Assistants and Certified Handlers collectively will review each Probationary Trainee's progress six (6) months after attaining Probationary Trainee status. If Certified Field Assistant status is not attained within one (1) year after being granted Probationary Trainee Status, the Probationary Trainee will be dropped from the training program barring extraordinary circumstances.

(b) Probationary Trainees With Canines. After attaining Probationary Trainee status, "Probationary Trainees With Canines" will be assigned a Certified Handler, if possible, who will serve as the Probationary Trainee's Primary Mentor. The Probationary Trainee, with the assistance of the Primary Mentor, must work toward developing the skills necessary to meet the qualifications established for Certified Field Assistants and Certified Handlers. A training program will be established for the Probationary Trainee's canine upon the Probationary Trainee attaining Probationary Trainee status. Certified Field Assistants and Certified Handlers collectively will review each Probationary Trainee's progress six (6) months after being granted Probationary Trainee status. If Certified Field Assistant status is not attained within one (1) year after attaining Probationary Trainee Status, the Probationary Trainee will be dropped from the training program barring extraordinary circumstances. If certification of Probationary Trainee's canine is not started after two (2) years of attaining Probationary Trainee status, the canine will be dropped from the training program barring extraordinary circumstances.

#### Section 4

#### Certified Field Assistants.

(a) Field Modules. Within one (1) year after attaining Probationary Trainee Status, Probationary Trainees must demonstrate proficiency in the following Field Modules:

(1) Map and Compass (must pass a written test and must demonstrate the ability as follows:

- (i) A test area will be selected where the terrain is predominantly wooded with underbrush, and should be representative of a typical wilderness area found in Massachusetts. The handler should be unfamiliar with the evaluation area. [Has not trained or searched in the evaluation area.]
- (ii) The evaluation area will have 2 easily recognizable boundaries (roads, major trails, utility lines, stream, etc.); the other 2 boundaries may be delineated by a compass bearing or terrain features.
- (iii) The handler will be given a photocopy of a map of the evaluation area, with the boundaries clearly indicated
- (iv) The handler's equipment will be checked to be certain it is

appropriate for the weather and terrain. [Evaluators may cancel evaluation if not appropriate.]

- (v) The handler will be asked to demonstrate their map and compass skills as follows: (a) by first walking along a known boundary of the test area; (b) then navigating along the next boundary line by following compass bearing; (c) then navigating along the second boundary by following the next set of compass bearings; (d) then walking 100 meters along the next known boundary of the test area; (e) then navigating along a gridline by following a compass bearing designed to intersect with the opposite parameter line; (f) then walking 100 meters along the boundary line by following a compass bearing; and (g) finally navigating along a gridline by following a compass bearing designed to intersect with the opposite boundary line. Handler and evaluator will walk remaining distance to the starting point of the test.
- (vi) Prior to entering the field, the handler must describe, draw, and explain his search strategy as if he were working his canine. [The handler may amend his strategy at any time, as field conditions warrant].
- (vi) During the evaluation, the handler should trace her route and be able to reasonably approximate his/her location at the evaluator's request.
- (vii) At one point during the evaluation, the handler will be asked to note his/her access route, and instruct evaluators to be prepared to reverse their route in the event that the subject's location is a crime scene.

(2) Weather (must pass a written test);

(3) Crime Scene Prevention (must pass a written test);

(4) First Aid (must pass a written test; First Responder and/or CPR certification is encouraged but is optional);

(5) K-9 First Aid (must pass a written test);

(6) Radio Operational Procedures (must pass a written test and must demonstrate basic operating and programming skills); and

(7) Physical Fitness (must demonstrate the ability to hike three (3) miles with 24-hour pack (including water for handler and canine) in under two (2) hours).

(b) Probationary Trainees who demonstrate proficiency in the Field Modules set forth above in section 4(a) shall become Certified Field Assistants.

(c) Full Operational Status; Certified Field Assistants. Certified Field Assistants shall be considered fully operational in the event of an emergency response event.

(d) Any renewable certificates, including but not limited to, First Aid and/or CPR, should be current and maintained on file with the Secretary.

Section 5                      Certification Canine Testing Process; Certified Handlers.

(a) The Certification Canine Testing Process will consist of an Obedience Test and five (5) Search Tests as hereinafter set forth:

OBEDIENCE TEST:

The canine on incident must be under the control of the handler at all times, capable of heeling through crowds, and non-aggressive to both people and other canines. When tested, the dog must not bite or snap at either humans or dogs, or growl at humans, in the following situations (excepting that a dog who is attacked by another dog will not be penalized for self-defense):

(1) Aggression Testing

i. While in a heeling position with the handler, a neutral stranger will approach the handler of the canine and engage in conversation with the handler but ignore the canine;

ii. Upon completion of the encounter with the neutral stranger, the handler and a friendly stranger will be directed to walk toward each other and the friendly stranger will engage in conversation with the handler and also make direct, but non-threatening, physical and verbal overtures to the canine (ie, speaking to the canine, reaching out and petting the canine): and

iii. While walking on a leash loose, the handler and canine shall complete a Figure "8" around two handlers with their canines ("post team") on lead, sitting at their side, and spaced eight feet apart. The handler and canine shall complete the pattern, on loose leash, passing within two feet of each post team.

(2) Obedience Testing

i. With the exception of tracking or trailing dogs which do not work off-leash, the handler and canine must perform the following commands as directed while heeling off-leash through a group of not less than five milling people:

- \* Right Turn
- \* Left Turn
- \* About Turn

- \* Halt
- \* Change of Pace (fast, slow, normal)

- ii. "Heeling" is defined as the canine maintaining position at either side of the handler so as to be attentive to the handler and under his or her control at all times.
- iii. Additional or repetitive commands are acceptable.

The "Obedience and Temperament Test Check-Off" will be performed in-house by two (2) Certified MARK9 Handlers using a form prepared for this purpose.

### SEARCH TESTS:

The following problems represent typical searching scenarios in rural or wilderness situations. In addition to these problems, the handler must meet the qualifications previously identified.

#### Search Test No. 1 -- Demonstration of an Independent Alert Behavior

The handler must identify and then demonstrate the canine's alert-behavior. For refind dogs, the canine must demonstrate an active refind (ie, dog must perform a clear signal upon returning to the handler). For bark alert dogs, the canine must demonstrate a 30-second bark alert. At the handler's discretion, the subject will either (i) be pre-placed 25 yards from where the handler will start the canine or (ii) the subject will run 25 yards away from the canine. In either case, the handler will direct the dog toward the subject but once the canine has indicated scent of the subject, the handler may not talk or signal the canine in any way. Once the dog makes contact with the subject, the dog must remain focused and demonstrate an "independent of handler" alert behavior (ie, the canine must perform its refind or bark alert with NO cueing from the handler). Canines which perform a refind alert-behavior may be asked by the handler "To Show" the subject to the handler after the canine has independently demonstrated its indication-alert behavior.

The "Search Test No. 1 Check-Off" will be performed in-house by two (2) Certified MARK9 Handlers (if available) using a form prepared for this purpose.

#### Search Test No. 2 -- Hasty search problem

A path, trail, logging road or the like, not less than ½ mile long and not longer than ¾ mile long. The canine must locate the subject within about 30 feet off the trail. The handler and canine team are limited to two (2) passes on the trail. The subject should be placed at least 20 minutes prior to the start of the search. The subject should be well-hidden. Handler must locate the subject. NOTE: In Search Test No. 2, some weakening in

the canine's alert behavior from that demonstrated in Search Test No. 1 is permissible. The handler should be able to describe that the canine is alerting, recognize the alert and follow the canine to the subject. Although it is ideal that the canine perform a clearly recognizable indication-refind or bark alert with no handler support, the end goal is whether the handler, in working with the canine, can identify that the canine has found the subject and is able to follow the canine in to the subject. The canine must eagerly move in to the subject. The handler should assess the subject for injury, accurately place the subject on the map, call the coordinates into the base and recommend any medical assistance required.

The "Search Test No. 2 Check-Off" will be performed in-house by two (2) Certified MARK9 Handlers (if available) using a form prepared for this purpose.

Search Test No. 3 -- Blind Area Problem (Day): 1 Subject:

Area problem (40 - 60 acres) during the day; 3-hour time limit. Handler should evaluate information provided regarding missing subject, determine search strategy, and search the area for the subject. The subject should be placed at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the search. The subject should be well-hidden. Handler should direct search activity according to wind, terrain and cover. Handler must locate the subject. NOTE: In Search Test No. 3, some weakening in the canine's alert behavior from that demonstrated in Search Test No. 1 is permissible. Although it is ideal that the canine perform a clearly recognizable indication-refind or bark alert with no handler support, the end goal is whether the handler, in working with the canine, and the evaluators can identify that the canine has found the subject and is able to follow the canine in to the subject. The canine must eagerly move in to subject. Handler should assess subject, identify location, contact base with location and medical assessment.

The "Search Test No. 3 Check-Off" will be performed in-house by two (2) Certified MARK9 Handlers (if available) using a form prepared for this purpose.

Search Test No. 4 -- Blind Area Problem (Night): 1 Subject

Area problem (40 - 60 acres) at night; 4-hour time limit. Handler should evaluate information provided regarding missing subject, determine search strategy, and search the area for the subject. The search should begin at least one hour after dark and the subject should be placed at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the search. The subject should be well-hidden in dark clothing. Handler should direct search activity according to wind, terrain and cover. Handler must locate the subject. NOTE: In Search

Test No. 4, some weakening in the canine's alert behavior from that demonstrated in Search Test No. 1 is permissible. Although it is ideal that the canine perform a clearly recognizable indication-refind or bark alert with no handler support, the end goal is whether the handler, in working with the canine, and the evaluators can identify that the canine has found the subject and is able to follow the canine in to the subject. The canine must eagerly move in to subject. Handler should assess subject, identify location, contact base with location and medical assessment.

The "Search Test No. 4 Check-Off" will be performed in-house by two (2) Certified MARK9 Handlers (if available) using a form prepared for this purpose.

#### Search Test No. 5 -- Multi-Subject Area Problem (Day): 2 Subjects

One area (approximately 160 acres) during the day with light brush/tree cover interspersed with open areas. (In areas where only dense foliage exists, the 160 acres may be reduced to not smaller than 80 acres). Two persons (number of subjects known to handler) hidden out of sight must be found within a 5-hour time limit. The handler should assess the sector on the map, determine the most effective way to search the sector, work the canine effectively, assess any subjects, determine their exact location, and notify base of their needs. Then, handler should continue on to next subject. Handler must locate both subjects. NOTE: Unlike Search Test Nos. 2-4 where some weakening in the canine's alert behavior from that demonstrated in Search Test No. 1 was permissible, the canine in Search Test No. 5 should report the finding of each subject with an identifiable indication-refind or bark alert. As in the prior Search Tests, however, the end goal is whether the handler, in working with the canine, and the evaluators can identify that the canine has found a subject and is able to follow the canine in to the subject. Therefore, a handler and canine team may still pass Search

Test No. 5 if the canine eagerly moves in to each subject and gives an alert sufficient for the handler and the evaluators to identify that the canine has found and the precise location of the subject. The degree to which the canine deviates from an ideal indication-refind or bark alert with no handler support may be taken into consideration when determining whether the handler and canine passes Search Test No. 5.

The "Search Test No. 5 Check-Off" will be performed by one (1) Certified MARK9 Handler and one (1) operational area search canine handler from a nearby unit (which works under similar conditions and/or terrain) using a form prepared for this purpose.

- (b) Limited Operational Status. Trainees must attain the level of Certified Field

Assistant before starting the Certification Canine Testing Process. Handler and canine team must successfully complete the Basic Obedience Test before starting the first Search Test. Handler and canine teams who have successfully completed the Basic Obedience Test and the first four (4) Search Tests shall be given Limited Operational Status. A Limited Operational Handler and canine team may be used at an emergency response event at the discretion of the Operations Leader or a Certified Handler. The Incident Command must be notified whenever a Limited Operational Handler and canine team is used.

(c) Full Operational Status; Certified Handler. Handler and canine teams who have successfully completed the Basic Obedience Test and the first four (4) Search Tests must successfully complete the Advanced Obedience Test before starting Search Test No. 5. Handler and canine teams who have successfully completed the Basic Obedience Test, the Advanced Obedience Test and all five (5) Search Tests shall become Certified Handlers and shall be considered Fully Operational in the event of an emergency response event.

Section 6                      Number of Canines Per Trainee; Number of Canines Per Certified Handler; Bark Alert; Cross-Training of Alert-Systems; Cadaver Dogs

(a) Probationary Trainees with canines who are working toward developing the skills necessary to meet the qualifications established for Certified Field Assistants and Certified Handlers, as well as those Active Members who have yet to certify a canine in search and rescue, may work with one canine only. Such canine shall be under said Probationary Trainee's and Active Member's exclusive care and control and primary training of the canine will not be shared by any other handler.

(b) Only handler and canine teams which have successfully attained the status of Certified Handler and who are considered Fully Operational are permitted to train a second canine at regularly scheduled trainings. Any such Certified Handler member who wishes to train a second canine should submit a written request to the Board of Directors. The written request should set forth the facts and circumstances explaining why the Certified Handler wishes to train a second canine. Permission to train, and ultimately field, a second canine, is subject to approval of the Charter Members and will be granted based on: (i) the facts and circumstances set forth in the written request; (ii) the age of the Certified Handler's current canine; (iii) the type of specialty detection-training toward which the Certified Handler wishes to direct the second canine; (iv) the Certified Handler's participation in regularly scheduled team trainings; (v) the contributions which the Certified Handler has made to the Corporation; (vi) the Corporation's need for such second canine in light of the number of emergency events to which the Corporation annually responds; and (vii) any other relevant facts and circumstances pertaining to the benefit which such second canine would provide to the Corporation and its members.

(c) Training a second canine without approval of the Charter Members and outside the direct supervision provided through participation in weekly group training provided to Probationary Trainees and to Active Members who have not yet successfully attained the status of Certified Handler and who are not considered Fully Operational may result in the termination of the applicant's Probationary Trainee and/or Active Member status.

(d) Probationary Trainees with canines who are working toward developing the skills necessary to meet the qualifications established for Certified Field Assistants and Certified Handlers must elect to train said canine in one alert-system only. Cross-training of alert-systems is prohibited prior to a handler and canine team successfully attaining the status of Certified Handler and becoming Fully Operational.

(e) MARK9 requires its wilderness search dogs which are cross-trained for the FEMA National USAR program to stay with the victim and perform the bark alert. Search dogs which are used exclusively for wilderness may elect whether to use a bark alert or an active refind (ie, dog must perform a clear signal upon returning to the handler), but are not permitted to cross-train in both alerts. MARK9 imposes these requirements on its members because MARK9 believes that few search dogs can be trained to effectively perform both the refind-behavior and the bark alert without some deterioration of one or both of the learned behaviors. As MARK9 strongly supports the use of the bark alert in the FEMA National USAR program, and as it firmly believes that disaster dogs which train in rugged, backwoods terrain can make superb wilderness search dogs, MARK9 therefore believes it illogical to deprive the public of a valuable emergency response resource because of the alert system the dog may happen to use.

(f) Any Certified Handler who wishes to cross-train his or her certified canine in a second alert-system should submit a written request to the Board of Directors setting forth the facts and circumstances explaining why the Certified Handler wishes to cross-train the certified canine. Cross-training certified canines in a second alert-system is not encouraged. Permission to cross-train is subject to approval by the Board of Directors and will be granted based on: (i) the facts and circumstances set forth in the written request; (ii) the age of the canine which the Certified Handler wishes to cross-train; (iii) the type of specialty detection-training toward which the Certified Handler wishes to direct the canine which necessitates a different alert-system; (iv) the Certified Handler's participation in regularly scheduled team trainings; (v) the contributions which the Certified Handler has made to the Corporation; (vi) the Corporation's need for such a cross-trained canine in light of the number of emergency events to which the Corporation annually responds; and (vii) any other relevant facts and circumstances pertaining to the benefit which cross-training the canine would provide to the Corporation and its members.

(g) Subject to the approval of the Charter Members, the sole exception to the prohibitions set forth above in subsections (a) and (b) are Certified Handlers who wish to train a second canine for cadaver-detection only. Such Certified Handlers may train a second canine for cadaver-detection only. Due to the sensitive nature, high-level of responsibility and expertise required when fielding a cadaver dog, only Certified Handlers may train, and field, a cadaver dog. Active Members with canines who are working toward developing the skills necessary to meet the qualifications established for Certified Field Assistants and Certified Handlers will only be permitted to train said canine in live find air scent wilderness search. However, once that Active Member has fully certified one canine in live find air scent wilderness search and has achieved the status of Certified Handler, such Certified Handler may elect in the future to field only cadaver dogs. In all such cases, prior approval of the Charter Members is required.

(h) As more specifically set forth below in Section 8, those handlers and canine teams who are members of, and have fully certified with, a MASSARDF-recognized search and rescue

unit including, but not limited to, (i) Federal Emergency Management Agency's Urban Search and Rescue National Task Force; (ii) State Emergency Management Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces; (iii) North American Police Work Dog Association; (iv) International Police Working Dog Association; or (v) others as accepted following review of their certification standards, and who initially are accepted for membership in the Corporation by majority vote with Limited Operational Status, will be permitted to train, and to field, a cadaver dog without also having a deployable live find air scent wilderness certified canine. In all such cases, prior approval of the Charter Members is required.

(h) Subject to the approval of the Charter Members, the sole exception to the prohibition set forth above in subsection (e) are Certified Handlers who wish to cross-train their certified canine for cadaver-detection only. In all such cases, prior approval of the Charter Members is required.

#### Section 7                      Re-Certification of a Certified Canine; Re-Certification of a Second Canine.

(a) A Certified Handler with a certified canine must re-certify every two (2) years by successfully completing Search Test No. 5 of the Certification Canine Testing Process. The "Re-Certification Check-Offs" will be performed by two (2) Certified MARK9 Handlers using a form prepared for this purpose. The "Re-Certification Check-Offs" should be conducted within 60 days of the two-year anniversary of the previous successful completion of the requirements and evolution to Full Operational Status. In addition, any certified canine which is out of service for more than 120 days should be evaluated by the Training Officer to determine whether the Certified Handler and canine needs to re-certify by successfully completing Search Test No. 5 of the Certification Canine Testing Process.

(b) Certified Handlers that have attained Full Operational Status with one canine may attain Full Operational Status with a new canine by successfully completing the Basic and Advanced Obedience Tests and Search Test Nos. 1 and 5 of the Certification Canine Testing Process.

#### Section 8                      Certification of Other NASAR-Recognized Units.

(a) Limited Operational Status. Handler and canine teams who are members of, and have fully certified with, a MASSARDF-recognized search and rescue unit including, but not limited to, (i) Federal Emergency Management Agency's Urban Search and Rescue National Task Force; (ii) State Emergency Management Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces; (iii) North American Police Work Dog Association; (iv) International Police Working Dog Association; or (v) others as accepted following review of their certification standards, may submit an application to the Corporation seeking membership in the Corporation. Applications for such membership shall be reviewed at any time during the year at a meeting called for that purpose. The Charter Members will vote on all applicants. Those applicants accepted for membership by majority vote will be granted Limited Operational Status in the Corporation for an eighteen (18) month period of time and invited to seek Full Certification with the Corporation prior to the expiration of the eighteen (18) month certification period. A Limited Operational

Handler and canine team may be used at an emergency response event at the discretion of the Operations Leader or a Certified Handler. The Incident Command must be notified whenever a Limited Operational Handler and canine team is used.

(b) Modified Certification Canine Testing Process. Those handler and canine teams who are members of, and have fully certified with, a NASAR-recognized search and rescue unit and who seek Full Certification with the Corporation must successfully complete within eighteen (18) months a modified version of the Certification Canine Testing Process consisting of a Basic Obedience Test, an Advanced Obedience Test and Search Tests No.1 and 5 as set forth above.

(c) Field Modules. Prior to the expiration of the eighteen (18) month certification period, those handler and canine teams who are members of, and have fully certified with, a NASAR-recognized search and rescue unit and who seek Full Certification with the Corporation also must demonstrate proficiency in the Field Modules required for Certified Field Assistants and set forth above in Section 4.

(d) Full Operational Status; Certified Handler. Handler and canine teams who are members of, and have fully certified with, a NASAR-recognized search and rescue unit and who seek Full Certification with the Corporation shall be considered Fully Operational in the event of an emergency response event if such handler and canine team successfully completes the Modified Certification Canine Testing Process set forth above and demonstrates proficiency in the Field Modules set forth in Section 4 prior to the expiration of the eighteen (18) month certification period.

## Section 9                      Training Logs.

Probationary Trainees, Active Members, Certified Field Assistants and Certified Handlers shall prepare Training Logs relative to the weekly training each such person and his or her canine (if any) performs. Said Training Logs shall be maintained by each Probationary Trainee, Active Member, Certified Field Assistants and Certified Handlers as their own personal training records but copies may be reviewed upon request of the Charter Members and shall be submitted to the Secretary on a monthly basis, if requested.

## Section 10                      Patches/Uniforms/Equipment.

(a) There shall be one "Team Patch" which may be purchased from the Corporation. It is recommended that the "Team Patch" be positioned on the left upper sleeve of any team shirt or outer-wear.

(b) Uniforms to be used by Certified Field Assistants and Certified Handlers when participating in any training at which the public may attend as observers, when participating in any public demonstrations and/or attending emergency response events shall include the following: (1) (i) Red Team T-shirt with logo on front and "MARK9 CANINE SEARCH" silk-screened on back; or (ii) Team Collared-Shirt (Red or Natural/Tan/Beige in color) bearing Team Patch; (2) Dark or Tan Pants; (3) Red 3/4 Jacket with patch stitched on left upper sleeve. (Optional: (i) "MARK9 CANINE SEARCH" embroidered on back); and (4) all-leather

waterproof hiking boots.

(c) The equipment which each member will be required to have for his/her personal use as well as that of his/her canine will be contained in a writing entitled "Equipment Guidelines and Requirements of MASSACHUSETTS RESCUE AND RECOVERY K9 UNIT, INC" and may be modified from time to time with Board of Director approval.

#### Section 11                      Attendance.

Probationary Trainees, Active Members, Certified Field Assistants and Certified Handlers must be able: (1) to attend at least sixty (60%) percent of the searches to which they are called, with the ability to stay for extended periods (1-3 days) if necessary; (2) to train weekly on their own and at least once per week with other members of the Corporation eighty (80%) of the year (which percentage equals a minimum attendance requirement of one group training per week for at least forty-one (41) weeks in every calendar year) barring extra-ordinary circumstances subject to the prior approval of the Charter Members; and (3) to attend the three (3) Regular and Annual General Meetings held each year during the months of May, September and December, respectively. These attendance requirements are in place because no member of any canine SAR organization becomes certified in a vacuum. Rather, it takes the combined efforts of everyone on MARK9 to train a canine and handler team to the level required for state certification. Attendance therefore is necessary so that members doing puppy-problems will have a steady supply of experienced helpers and more senior handlers have subjects willing to hide for longer periods of time. MARK9 is there to help all of these handlers....because training DOES move full-circle!!! But, more importantly, MARK9 is there because it is a TEAM – and having canines that do well not only expands the reputation of MARK9 as one of the best SAR organizations in the state, and MARK9 members all genuinely want each other's dogs to succeed.

#### Section 12                      Appreciation; Willingness to Share Information.

(a) Appreciation is one of the key components to a successful volunteer organization. And, it does not take much -- MARK9 believes that a simple “thank you,” and a sincere acknowledgment of efforts made by a MARK9 member if those efforts benefit all other members, is all that is needed to repay those good deeds. However, the Charter Members place such importance on this particular good behavior, and on basic good manners in general, that the consistent failure to show appreciation for the various things that the members of MARK9 do for one another, and to demonstrate simple good manners, will be grounds for removal of any Probationary Trainee or Active Member from MARK9.

(b) Willingness to share information is another key component to a successful volunteer organization. With few exceptions, Certified SAR Canine Handlers become proficient and successfully certify because more senior handlers freely share the information they have acquired over the years. However, such information did not come at a cost – both in time and in money – and the ability for MARK9 members to train as they currently do results directly from the enormous sacrifices of MARK9’s Charter members. It is the belief of all MARK9 Charter Members, however, that one repays their own teachers by “paying forward” and MARK9

expects similar sharing of information from all Probationary Trainees and from all Active Members.

Namaste!

I hereby certify that this document is a complete and accurate copy of the original as adopted on March 14, 2007.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Capacity: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: March 14, 2007

I hereby certify that this document is a complete and accurate copy of the original as amended on November 14, 2007.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Capacity: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

AMENDMENTS

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the foregoing "Search and Rescue Dog/Handler Performance Expectations" have been amended and adopted by majority vote taken on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2000, as follows:

(1) The performance standards now reflect the corporate name, "Massachusetts Rescue and Recovery K9 Unit, Inc." ("MARK9"), the said corporate name having been officially amended from "Massachusetts Rescue and Recovery K9 Unit, Inc." to "Massachusetts Rescue and Recovery K9 Unit, Inc."

(2) Section (1) has been amended to add the following language as subsection (b):

(b) In establishing, implementing and making any amendments hereto, MARK9 expressly states that its performance standards meet, at a minimum, the performance standards and Certification Testing process set forth in the Massachusetts Search Dog Standards, in effect within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as of September 19, 1999.

(3) Search Test No. 5 in Section (5)(a) has been amended as follows to reflect only two subjects will used for this Certification Test:

Search Test No. 5 -- Multi-Subject Area Problem (Day): 2 Subjects

One area (approximately 160 acres) during the day with light brush/tree cover interspersed with open areas. (In areas where only dense foliage exists, the 160 acres may be reduced to not smaller than 80 acres). Two persons (number of subjects known to handler) hidden out of sight must be found within a 5-hour time limit. The

handler should assess the sector on the map, determine the most effective way to search the sector, work the canine effectively, assess any subjects, determine their exact location, and notify base of their needs. Then, handler should continue on to next subject. Handler must locate both subjects. NOTE: Unlike Search Test Nos. 2-4 where some weakening in the canine's alert behavior from that demonstrated in Search Test No. 1 was permissible, the canine in Search Test No. 5 should report the finding of each subject with an identifiable indication-refind or bark alert. As in the prior Search Tests, however, the end goal is whether the handler, in working with the canine, and the evaluators can identify that the canine has found a subject and is able to follow the canine in to the subject. Therefore, a handler and canine team may still pass Search

- (4) Search Test No. 6 in Section (5)(a) has been deleted in its entirety as follows:

Search Test No. 6 -- Multi-Subject Area Problem (Night): 2-3 Subjects

One area (approximately 80 acres) at night with light brush/tree cover interspersed with open areas. (In areas where only dense foliage exists, the 80 acres may be reduced to not smaller than 60 acres). Two or three persons (number of subjects known to handler) hidden out of sight must be found within a 5-hour time limit. The handler should assess the sector on the map, determine the most effective way to search the sector, work the canine effectively, assess any subjects, determine their exact location, and notify base of their needs. Then, handler should continue on to next subject. Handler must locate all subjects. NOTE: Unlike Search Test Nos. 2-4 where some weakening in the canine's alert behavior from that demonstrated in Search Test 1 was permissible, the canine in Search Test No. 6 should report the finding of each subject with an clearly identifiable indication-refind or bark alert. As in the prior Search Tests, however, the end goal is whether the handler, in working with the canine, and the evaluators can identify that the canine has found a subject and is able to follow the canine in to the subject. Therefore, a handler and canine team may still pass Search Test No. 6 if the canine eagerly moves in to each subject and gives an alert sufficient for the handler and the evaluators to identify that the canine has found and the precise location of the subject. The degree to which the canine deviates from an ideal indication-refind or bark alert with no handler support may be taken into consideration when determining whether the handler and canine passes Search Test No. 6.

The "Search Test No. 6 Check-Off" will be performed by one (1) Certified MARK9 Handler and one (1) operational area search canine handler from a nearby unit (which works under similar conditions and/or terrain) using a form prepared for this purpose.

I hereby certify that this document is a complete and accurate copy of the original as amended on February 28, 2001.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Capacity: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2001

#### AMENDMENTS

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the foregoing "Search and Rescue Dog/Handler Performance Expectations" have been amended and adopted by majority vote taken on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 2000, as follows:

(1) Section (4)(a)(1) has been amended as follows to more closely reflect the map and compass skills which will be evaluated on each of the certification tests:

(a) Field Modules. Within one (1) year after attaining Trainee Status, Trainees must demonstrate proficiency in the following Field Modules:

(1) Map and Compass (must pass a written test and must demonstrate the ability as follows:

- (i) A test area will be selected where the terrain is predominantly wooded with underbrush, and should be representative of a typical wilderness area found in Massachusetts. The handler should be unfamiliar with the evaluation area. [Has not trained or searched in the evaluation area.]
- (ii) The evaluation area will have 2 easily recognizable boundaries (roads, major trails, utility lines, stream, etc.); the other 2 boundaries may be delineated by a compass bearing or terrain features.
- (iii) The handler will be given a photocopy of a map of the evaluation area, with the boundaries clearly indicated
- (iv) The handler's equipment will be checked to be certain it is

appropriate for the weather and terrain. [Evaluators may cancel evaluation if not appropriate.]

- (v) The handler will be asked to demonstrate their map and compass skills as follows: (a) by first walking along a known boundary of the test area; (b) then navigating along the next boundary line by following compass bearing; (c) then navigating along the second boundary by following the next set of compass bearings; (d) then walking 100 meters along the next known boundary of the test area; (e) then navigating along a gridline by following a compass bearing designed to intersect with the opposite parameter line; (f) then walking 100 meters along the boundary line by following a compass bearing; and (g) finally navigating along a gridline by following a compass bearing designed to intersect with the opposite boundary line. Handler and evaluator will walk remaining distance to the starting point of the test.
- (vi) Prior to entering the field, the handler must describe, draw, and explain his search strategy as if he were working his canine. [The handler may amend his strategy at any time, as field conditions warrant].
- (vi) During the evaluation, the handler should trace her route and be able to reasonably approximate his/her location at the evaluator's request.
- (vii) At one point during the evaluation, the handler will be asked to note his/her access route, and instruct evaluators to be prepared to reverse their route in the event that the subject's location is a crime scene.

(2) Section (5) has been amended as follows to conform with the Obedience Requirements and Temperament Requirements as set forth in the "Massachusetts Search Dog Standard," first adopted by the Massachusetts Search and Rescue Dog Committee on September 19, 1999 and thereafter amended on September 2, 2000:

Section 5                      Certification Canine Testing Process; Certified Handlers.

(a) The Certification Canine Testing Process will consist of an Obedience Test and five (5) Search Tests as hereinafter set forth:

OBEDIENCE TEST:

The canine on incident must be under the control of the handler at all times, capable of heeling through crowds, and non-aggressive to both people and other canines. When tested, the dog must not bite or snap at either humans or dogs, or growl at humans, in the following situations (excepting that a dog who is attacked by another dog will not be penalized for self-defense):

- (1) Aggression Testing

i. While in a heeling position with the handler, a neutral stranger will approach the handler of the canine and engage in conversation with the handler but ignore the canine;

ii. Upon completion of the encounter with the neutral stranger, the handler and a friendly stranger will be directed to walk toward each other and the friendly stranger will engage in conversation with the handler and also make direct, but non-threatening, physical and verbal overtures to the canine (ie, speaking to the canine, reaching out and petting the canine): and

iii. While walking on a leash loose, the handler and canine shall complete a Figure "8" around two handlers with their canines ("post team") on lead, sitting at their side, and spaced eight feet apart. The handler and canine shall complete the pattern, on loose leash, passing within two feet of each post team.

(2) Obedience Testing

i. With the exception of tracking or trailing dogs which do not work off-leash, the handler and canine must perform the following commands as directed while heeling off-leash through a group of not less than five milling people:

- \* Right Turn
- \* Left Turn
- \* About Turn
- \* Halt
- \* Change of Pace (fast, slow, normal)

ii. "Heeling" is defined as the canine maintaining position at either side of the handler so as to be attentive to the handler and under his or her control at all times.

iii. Additional or repetitive commands are acceptable.

The "Obedience and Temperament Test Check-Off" will be performed in-house by two (2) Certified MARK9 Handlers using a form prepared for this purpose.