



**New Zealand
Urban Search & Rescue**

www.usar.govt.nz

Best Practice Guideline
Canine Readiness Evaluation Process

Basic Level

In support of NZQA Unit Standard 19659

USAR Training Standards Working Group

Version 2.0 August 2005

Introduction

Background

These standards are the result of agreement between the New Zealand National Urban Search & Rescue Steering Committee and the New Zealand Urban Search & Rescue Search Dog Association.

The basis of this guideline was the Type II Basic Disaster Dog, FEMA Disaster Canine Readiness Evaluation from the United States.

The FEMA standard has been tested extensively both in training and in operations. It has been found to be a practical and realistic standard that has worked in the field and has facilitated the successful deployment of search teams internationally.

This guideline should be read and used in conjunction with NZQA unit standard *19659 train a dog for urban search and rescue incidents, and carry out a simulated search.*

Objectives

The objectives of this Canine Readiness Evaluation Process for Disaster Search are to:

- Provide uniform methods to determine the current operational level of all Canine Search Teams.
- Ensure trainees are clear about what they are expected to achieve.
- Develop a fair and objective process that can be conducted locally.
- Provide operational certification consistent with international guidelines.
- Provide feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of Canine Search Teams for targeted improvement.
- Use the review process as an opportunity to share techniques and ideas between Canine Search Specialists on how to address issues arising during the assessment process.
- Provide a process that can be internationally peer reviewed.

Revision

Revisions of this document and the standard it defines require consultation with all current evaluators as well as the organisations listed below:

NZ USAR SDA	NZLSAR
USAR Training & Standards Working Group	INSARAG
NZ Police National Dog Training Centre	ANTECH

Process

Pre-requisites

a) Canine Search Specialist:

The Canine Search Specialist must be at least 18 years of age and be a full member of the NZ USAR Search Dog Association (inc).

The Canine Search Specialist must be a USAR CAT1 Responder, i.e. hold the FRSITO Industry Certificate in USAR Response (a USAR Orange Card). In addition they must have a current first aid certificate.

The handler shall hold a training logbook that provides evidence of competency against the basic USAR search dog unit standard (i.e. elements 1 and 3 of US19659). This shall be made available to the NZ USAR Search Dog Association, CREP Evaluators and/or USAR Training & Standards Working Group.

b) Disaster Search Canine

The Disaster Search Canine shall be a minimum of 18 months old and comply with the aggression policy.

The canine shall have implanted a microchip, type approved by the NZ Veterinary Association. This may however be implanted at the time of successful completion of the CREP.

The canine shall be registered with a local authority and hold a current vaccination certificate for at least canine distemper, infectious canine hepatitis, canine parvovirus, canine parainfluenza, leptosporosis and Bordetella bronchiseptica (kennel cough).

Evaluators

Each CREP must be assessed with at least two USAR Canine Search Evaluators present. At least one of these is to be a Police Evaluator and at least one is to be a Civilian Evaluator. Where possible two Civilian Evaluators should be present. Before each CREP one of the evaluators must be chosen to take the role of Chief Evaluator. To act as Chief Evaluator an Evaluator must have already served as a USAR Canine Search Evaluator on at least two earlier CREPs.

The evaluators for each CREP are to be taken from a pool of evaluators appointed by the USAR Training & Standards Working Group. The USAR Training & Standards Working Group must appoint at least two and not more than five Civilian Evaluators. Where possible they should be spread evenly around the country. There must be at least one Police Evaluator and not more than three. Where possible there should be one in each Island.

All Civilian Evaluators shall meet the following requirements:

1. FRSITO Industry Certificate in USAR Response (Orange Card).
2. Hold unit standard 4098 *Assess candidates using standards*.
3. Hold NZ USAR Basic Canine Search Specialist Certification as a minimum (however holding Advanced certification is preferable).
4. Formal endorsement by NZ USAR Search Dog Association.
5. Hold either unit standard 497 or 10425 – Health & Safety.

The position of Police Evaluator is designed to add neutrality and professional search dog experience to the evaluator team. All Police Evaluators will be appointed by the National Coordinator – Police Dogs.

A veterinary advisor shall also be appointed. The veterinary advisor shall evaluate element 5 and provide veterinary support throughout the CREP. Veterinary advisors shall hold current registration as a Veterinary Surgeon with the Veterinary Council of New Zealand.

Application for Evaluation

Canine Search Teams that wish to be evaluated for disaster work must forward their application form to:

USAR Canine Search Programme
C/- SDA Coordinator
12 Wiltshire Mews
Christchurch, 8042

Application forms are available from the rear of this guideline. To be considered for evaluation the application must be received no less than eight weeks before the date of the CREP. Receipt of a valid application does not guarantee that an evaluation will be offered. The USAR Training & Standards Working Group in consultation with the USAR Search Dog Association may have to consider factors including TF/RT team affiliation, geographical risk/resource balancing, previous applications and of course time available. Additional information regarding the standard of the handler/dog may be sought, particularly if it has tested several times unsuccessfully.

Operational Status (Certification)

Canine Search Specialists that pass the evaluation and associated unit standard will become an operational asset for use in events requiring USAR capability.

The USAR Steering Committee will hold a national register of operational specialists. The names of certified specialists may be published on the USAR website.

Certification does not entitle the canine search specialist to membership of a USAR Task Force or Registered Response Team. Should the specialist be invited to join a Task Force or Response Team, further training and recruitment requirements may be applied.

Specialists that are attached to either a USAR Task Force or a Registered Response Team may request to have a letter of authority issued by the Director of Civil Defence & Emergency Management for the purposes of the Dog Control Act 1996, specifically to provide special allowances for control of dogs in a public place, liability for damages and working dog class registration.

Upon certification, the specialist shall make application to FRSITO to have their USAR Orange Card endorsed for *K9 Basic*.

Between evaluations it is the responsibility of the certified canine search specialist to notify the Coordinator of NZ USAR Search Dog Association, and if applicable their Task Force, or Response Team Leader, of any change in their operational status.

If a certified canine search specialist resigns from or is forced to leave the NZ USAR Search Dog Association then their certification is immediately revoked.

Skills Maintenance

All dogs certified and deemed operational under this guideline are subject to the following skills maintenance and revalidation requirements.

All handlers are responsible for maintaining their dog's skills and performance between evaluations up to or beyond the Basic CREP standard. If the handler believes that their dog has fallen below the required standard it is his/her responsibility to notify the NZ USAR Search Dog Association Coordinator, and if applicable their Task Force or Response Team Leader.

All handlers shall have a personal training/operational logbook that is formatted similarly to the standard logbook as designed by the NZ USAR Search Dog Association and recognised by the USAR Steering Committee. A sample of the logbook shall available from www.usar.govt.nz.

Having passed the Basic CREP a dog and handler will retain their operational status for one year. After this time the dog and handler must be fully re-assessed at another CREP. For practical purposes a 90 day grace period is allowed after the year end for the dog and handler to attend this CREP before they actually lose their operational status.

If a dog and handler successfully pass two consecutive CREPs, not closer than 9 months apart but within 15 months, then they qualify for a two year operational period. Again there is a 90 day grace period after the end of two years to simplify the scheduling of the CREP. For as long as the dog and handler keep passing their two-yearly CREPs they maintain the privilege of a two year operational period. However as soon as one CREP is failed, the dog and handler must return to yearly assessments.

Video Storage

This procedure applies to any video footage taken and formally used for certification and revalidation. Video footage outside these occasions is not affected by the procedure.

Footage may be provided on VHS Tape, DVD or CDROM on a commonly available format.

Footage shall be forwarded to the Ministry of Civil Defence and stored for moderation, reference, appeals and review. And is subject to use both internally, externally, both nationally and internationally.

Revalidation footage may be disposed of, or returned should archive storage become an issue. In such case, the minimum footage kept by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management shall be the dog/handlers respective initial evaluation and most recent revalidation.

Aggression

Aggression Policy

Each Handler shall be responsible for ensuring that aggressive behaviour by their dog is modified. An aggressive canine shall not be eligible to participate in evaluations or operations.

A canine must be able to tolerate other canines off lead, and under Handler supervision, without showing aggression.

A canine must allow another person to move it to a different location in the absence of its Handler without showing aggression.

Proof of Sociability

Each handler must provide a written statement, preferably from their Team Leader, that the canine/s meets the above criteria.

Aggression Testing

Aggression tests are incorporated into the obedience portion of the Evaluation.

Evaluation Procedure

1. The evaluators shall determine the testing area.
2. A safety officer must be present at all times.
3. Rescue and medical capabilities must be readily available.
4. Only one Canine Search specialist shall be evaluated at a time, with the exception of the stay evaluation.
5. The Handler must report to the Evaluators as directed.
6. The Evaluation will consist of 6 elements (Obedience, Bark Indication, Direction and Control, Agility, Veterinary Care and Disaster Site)
7. At least two approved evaluators shall conduct the evaluation of every element. For element 5 the Veterinary Advisor is to be one of the evaluators.
8. The Chief Evaluator shall moderate any dispute over evaluation.
9. All elements shall be video recorded and centrally filed with the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, and made available for review, publicity and moderation as required.
10. Video footage may also be subject to international review, to ensure national capability is moderated internationally.
11. Video footage of each element should be un-edited and continuous, however any failure to adhere to this is the responsibility of the evaluators and as such will not affect the candidate's ability to pass that element.
12. A pass must be achieved in all elements to achieve certification. Elements 1 to 5 must be achieved before undertaking element 6.
13. In Elements 1-5 if a dog fails an element, or component of an element they will be given one attempt to complete the element. They must pass it to proceed to Element 6.
14. The first five elements can be tested in any order at the discretion of the evaluators, however element 5 is to be scheduled by the evaluators at a time that is least likely to impact the dog's ability and inclination to undertake any following elements.
15. The handler shall hold a training logbook that provides sufficient evidence of competency against elements 1 and 3 of the basic USAR search dog unit standard (19659). This shall be made available to the NZ USAR Search Dog Association, CREP Evaluators and/or USAR Training & Standards Working Group.
16. Media, VIPs and other observers may be present at evaluations and although efforts will be made to reduce unnecessary distractions the presence of distractions is an operational reality.
17. At the end of the evaluations, evaluators will meet and form a decision.
18. An individual debrief shall be given to each handler.
19. In the event of an NYC, a team which has previously been operational has 90 days to complete a reassessment of the Elements which they failed. A team that has not previously been operational must wait for the next full CREP.
20. Evaluation shall be conducted consistent with Unit Standard 19659.

Appeals

This appeals procedure applies to both certification and revalidation.

In the first instance the handler shall make an appeal to the Chief Evaluator within 7 days of the assessment. Ideally, the handler shall raise any issues at the time of evaluation and then discuss within the feedback session.

If the appeal is unresolved with the evaluator, the handler shall make an appeal in writing to the NZ USAR Search Dog Association within 30 days of the evaluators appeal decision.

The Committee shall then convene an appeals panel consisting of:

- Training Standards Working Group member.
- Police Evaluator
- Civilian Evaluator.
- ANTEC/NZQA Provider Moderator (if assessed for unit standard).

Such panel members shall not hold multiple positions within the panel.

International experts may also be co-opted onto the appeals panel.

The appeal panel's decision shall be final and binding.

Appeals outside this procedure shall not be entertained.

Ground Rules

The following rules apply to all Evaluations:

1. A reward is allowed on the rubble.
2. No collars or search vests on agility or rubble pile.
3. Muzzles are not permitted in any phase of the evaluation process.
4. No short lead, traffic lead, training tab or other weighted object may be attached to the collar at any time.
5. No prong or electronic collars.
6. No practice on any element before the evaluation.
7. The Handler must maintain continual control of the canine.
8. The Handler is responsible for the care and safety of the canine at all times.
9. Safety procedures must be followed. The Handler is required to wear the following safety gear on the rubble pile: helmet, gloves, eye protection, long sleeve shirt, long pants and safety toe, steel shank boots and whistle.
10. Aggression will not be tolerated at any time.
11. All testing teams will complete all elements unless excused by agreement of the evaluators for reasons of aggression, lack of safety or control, injury, at Handler request or for failing two or more of the first five elements.
12. Any accident/emergency shall be reported immediately to the Evaluators, and safety officer.
13. Dogs shall be toileted before assessment.
14. The handlers must not carry a cellphone or pager during the disaster search element.
15. Food must not be dropped on the rubble pile by any handler.

Element Descriptions

Element 1- Obedience

- **Rationale**

- The canine must be under the control of the Handler at all times and non-aggressive to both people and other canines. The canine, for its safety, must be responsive to an emergency stop command.

- **Required skills**

- Non-aggressive to strangers
- Non-aggressive to canines
- Heels off lead
- Emergency Stop
- 10 minute stay

- **Evaluation: Aggression**

- The Handler ties up the canine and leaves it unattended. The Handler proceeds to a designated area out of the canine's sight. After a minimum of 1 minute out of sight, a stranger unties the canine and returns the canine to the Handler. The stranger must act in a friendly manner.
- The canine must complete a Figure 8 around two Handlers with their canines ("post teams") on lead sitting at their side and spaced about 2 metres apart. The testing team shall complete the pattern, on loose lead, passing within 1 metre of each of the post teams.

- **Evaluation: Obedience**

- The team must perform the following commands as directed while heeling off lead:
 - Right turn,
 - Left turn,
 - About turn,
 - Halt,
 - Change of pace (normal, fast, slow)

This component shall be conducted in a simulated crowd environment (at least six people walking around).

- Heeling is defined as the canine maintaining position at either side of the Handler so as to be attentive to the Handler and under their control at all times. Additional or repetitive commands are acceptable. The same combination and order of commands is to be used by the evaluators for all handlers.
- The canine must complete a 10 minute stay (sitting or lying). The Handler shall stay in view of the canine for the first 5 minutes then move to a designated area out of the canine's sight for the next 5 minutes. Where multiple canines are being assessed they shall be placed 2-3 metres apart. If a canine fails the assessment and in the evaluators' opinion has unreasonably distracted the other canines then the stay test can be repeated but not for the canine that moved first. There shall be no leads left on or near the dogs when in the stay position.

- **Evaluation: Emergency Stop**

The canine shall be placed 25 metres from the Handler and the evaluator. Upon direction from the evaluator, the Handler shall call their canine.

The Handler will then stop their canine when directed by the evaluator. Once the stop command has been given, an immediate change in gait is required and the canine must then come to a complete stop.

The canine may drop, sit or stand and will be judged by the quickness of its response. The Handler may give multiple commands. The canine shall remain stationary until released or recalled by the Handler at the direction of the evaluator.

- **Course Construction**

The course shall consist of an appropriately sized area that has been cleared of hazards to the canine. A designated Handler area must be established.

Element 2- Bark Indication

- **Rationale**

Due to the varied and stressful demands of disaster search, an enthusiastic and obvious indication is imperative. Penetration and digging is desired to help identify the scent source. However, when the canine is searching, the **bark indication** method is the only method that can be recognized from out of sight. With this information, the search team manager can request other resources as needed to confirm the victim's location.

- **Required skills:**

- Spontaneous repetitive barking for at least 20 seconds. (Barking may be interspersed with digging and attempts to penetrate).
- The canine stays within 2 metres of the victim location after the indication of scent.

- **Evaluation:**

- The Handler will remove the canine's lead before the exercise begins. The canine may be given a hand signal and voice command to start them searching. If the canine does not go directly to the victim location, the Handler may use additional commands as necessary to direct the canine towards the scent cone. The Handler may not move from the starting position.
- The Handler may direct the canine toward the victim location but once the canine has committed to the victim's scent, the Handler cannot communicate with the canine until the evaluators advise that the indication is acceptable. Once the canine has committed to the victim location, it must remain and demonstrate an "independent of handler" bark indication..
- The Handler will be told when he or she can go to the canine and may praise it. The canine will not be allowed access to the victim. When the exercise is over the canine must be put on the lead and leave the area.
- The exercise must be completed in 5 minutes.

- **Course construction:**

- A victim location will be set up in as isolated an area as the site permits. The victim shall be in a place at least 10 minutes before the canine is sent.
- The location should be made/constructed of a material that can be buried in a dirt bank to give the optimum control of scent (eg barrels, concrete pipe etc). Ideally, scent should only be detected from the front. There should be a snug fitting cover with holes at the bottom for scent to escape. This cover may have a handle/grab bar on the inside for the victim to hold or it may be securely taped in place.
- The starting point shall be measured and clearly marked 25 metres from the victim location.

Element 3- Direction and Control

- **Rationale**

- In order to search areas that the Handler may not access or to avoid a hazardous area, the canine must demonstrate the ability to be directed and controlled by the Handler.

- **Required skills**

- Goes up on required elevation at the direction of the Handler
- Waits on elevation until directed by Handler

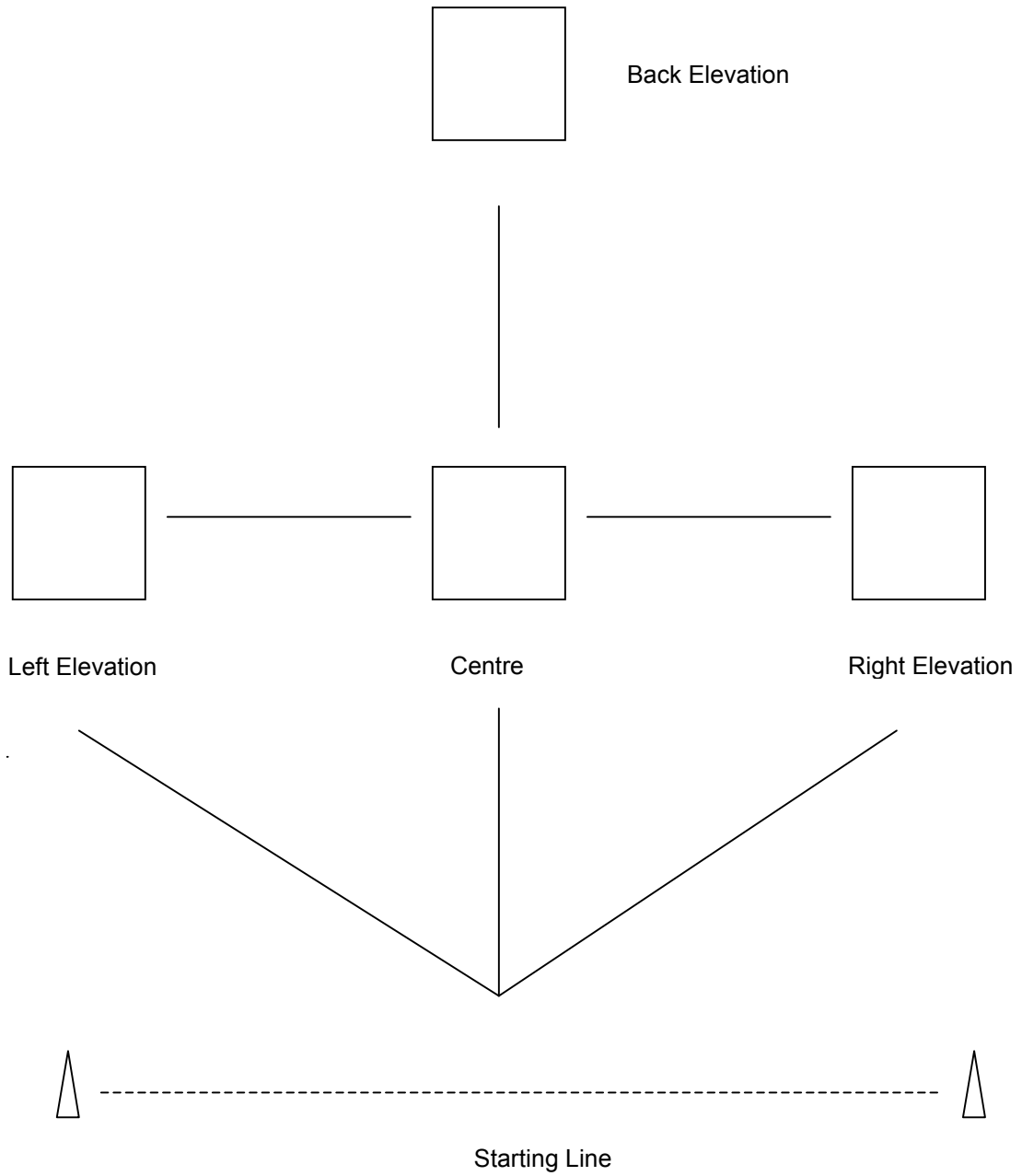
- **Evaluation**

- The evaluator will instruct the Handler to direct the canine to each elevation in a specified order along any of the solid lines shown in the diagram. The exercise will end with a recall to the Handler.
- The canine must stay on each elevation for 5 seconds (either sitting, standing or lying).
- The Handler must remain at the start line and may give multiple commands, redirect or recall the canine.
- The exercise must be completed in 5 minutes.

- **Course construction**

- The course shall be laid out in a diamond shape. The area shall be clear as possible. The start shall be a 10m starting line that is clearly marked (see diagram).
- The centre elevation shall be 25 m from the base of the starting line. All the other elevations shall be 25 m from the centre elevation.
- The elevations should be clearly visible to the canine. Elevations should be approximately 1-2m wide and 150mm-1m high. The elevations may consist of two or three different types of objects.
- The course shall be conducted in a flat and open area without any significant obstacles, other than the four elevations.

Canine Directability



Approximately 25 m between elevations

Element 4- Agility

- **Rationale**

- The canine should be able to search rubble areas without the Handler being overly concerned about its safety. In order to safely search the rubble for victims, the canine must acquire certain specific skills and overcome some of its natural instincts. Specialised agility training will give the canine confidence on rubble.

- **Required skills**

- Completes 5 of 6 obstacles, including four mandatory obstacles
- Demonstrates slow, stop and turn on plank
- Canine precedes Handler

- **Obstacles (*=mandatory):**

- *Two 2m ladders secured at a 45-degree angle. One upward (round or flat rounds) and one downward (flat rounds).
- *A plank elevated at least 1m and no more than 2m off the ground. The 250-300mm wide, 3m long plank is to be stable.
- *Unsteady/wobbly surface 3m in length (warped boards etc), not more than 1m off the ground.
- *A dark, narrow tunnel/passageway containing one right angle turn and at least 3m in length total. The canine should not be able to see from one end of the tunnel to the other. Partial covering of the exit is permitted. The canine should fit into the tunnel without crawling.
- A seesaw (3m long x 200-300mm wide on a pivot point of 300mm to 500mm height)
- A slick, slippery or unpleasant surface e.g sheet of wet corrugated iron
- A moving plank- sitting on two 200L drums (3m long by 300mm wide)
- Object that requires the canine to crawl on its belly for at least 1m (must be adjusted to approximately one half the height at the withers of each canine).

Non-mandatory obstacles are chosen by the evaluators and are not required to be disclosed until the time of evaluation.

- **Evaluation**

- The team shall have 5 minutes to complete the agility course.
- The Handler will be directed to the clearly marked beginning of the course.
- The Handler shall remove the canine's collar and lead before starting.
- The course should be completed in the sequence numbered. However if a canine refuses an obstacle at the Handler's direction the team may complete the course and re-attempt the obstacle in the remaining time.
- The canine should work as independently as possible following the Handler's direction. Multiple commands are permitted.
- The canine should negotiate the obstacles confidently, carefully and under control.
- Once the canine has started an obstacle, the Handler should remain as stationary as possible.
- If the Handler precedes the canine the evaluator will instruct the Handler to restart the canine on the obstacle. The Handler may lift the canine off the obstacle or turn it around to restart- The Handler may slow, stop or encourage the canine, and may assist the canine as needed for safety reasons. Any physical assistance will require a restart.
- The Handler shall demonstrate their ability to command the canine to slow, stop and turn on the plank. If this turn around plank is between the two ladders the two obstacles may be combined, but the canine must go up one ladder and down the other.
- On the ladder obstacle, the canine must walk up and down the ladder, not jumping over any more than 2 rungs when going up or down.

- **Course construction**

- A different layout / combination of obstacles will be used for each CREP
- The goal should be to demonstrate the canine's ability to perform the required skills as well as the canine's confidence in the Handler and willingness to undertake unfamiliar agility obstacles.
- The course shall be constructed to include six of the listed obstacles (including the compulsory obstacles).
- The course may be set up as six separately constructed obstacles. Each obstacle must be designed to test the canine on the element described.
- The course should be designed in such a way that the canine can precede the Handler.
- Obstacles should be numbered to correspond with the Performance Criteria and Evaluation Form.

Element 5 – Canine Welfare and Maintenance

- **Rationale**

- Disaster sites pose particular risks to search dogs that may affect their welfare and performance. Feet may be injured or contaminated by the surfaces dogs are working on. Dust and other contaminants may accumulate in the dog's nasal passages and eyes, interfering with scenting ability and sight. Handlers must be aware of these hazards and be able to minimise their effects.

- **Required Skills**

- Handler can examine pads, webbing, toes and nails of dog and treat minor injuries and contamination.
- Handler can thoroughly irrigate nasal passages and eyes of dog.
- Dog is compliant.

- **Evaluation**

- Veterinary Advisor (Vet) asks Handler to examine feet of canine, and describe what Handler is checking for and how they would treat the condition. Examination should include pads, webbing, nails and bones of foot, and potential conditions should include (but not be limited to) cuts, abrasions, foreign bodies, torn nails, fractures and sprains, and irritant substances.
- Handler irrigates eyes and nasal passages with sterile saline in a competent and thorough manner. Both sides should be irrigated.

Element 6- Disaster Site

- **Rationale**

- The rubble search demonstrates the ability to integrate all the previously evaluated elements, in a realistically simulated disaster environment.

- **Required skills**

- Handler's Interview techniques (uses Interview checklist)
- Canine responsive to Handler direction and control
- Canine searches independently
- Repetitive barking on two victims with no false indications
- Canine demonstrates strong commitment to each scent source, however the focus of the indication may be towards either the victim or the handler.
- Handler informs evaluator of canine's indication/location of each scent source
- Canine's agility
- Handler's agility (the ability to negotiate the rubble in a safe manner and without the assistance of other personnel)

- **Interviewer's Checklist**

At a minimum the following questions are to be asked by the Handler during the briefing/interview process:

1. What time did the structure collapse?
2. What type of occupancy was the structure (school, office building etc)?
3. What is the number of suspected missing persons?
4. Has the structure been searched before?
5. Has a structural engineer checked the building?
6. What were the findings?
7. Is it safe to enter?
8. Are blueprints available?
9. Has HazMat checked the building?
10. What were the findings?
11. Have the utilities (Gas, Electricity, Water) been secured? How and by whom?
12. Is heavy rescue available?
13. Is medical support available?
14. Is there a veterinarian available?

- **Evaluation**

- There should be 5 minutes for the briefing/interviewing process. After asking at least seven of the questions unaided, the Handler may refer to a field operations guide/aid memoire to recall the remaining questions.
- One of the evaluators will do the Handler briefing. The Evaluator team will be in attendance during the briefing.
- The Handler should inform the evaluators of the search strategy. Evaluators will then proceed to the pre-determined locations to view the site before the team starts searching.
- Evaluators may or may not be positioned on the pile while the canine is searching.
- The Handler shall direct the canine to search the area.
- The team shall be allowed 15 minutes to search the area for two victims.
- The Handler will send the canine on an independent search.
- The Handler may not initially access the Disaster Site. The Handler may direct the canine to search but shall not encourage the canine's indication.
- The canine will be required, if possible to do the first indication out of sight before the Handler can enter the search area. The evaluator will instruct the Handler to go to the canine. The Handler may now praise and encourage the canine. The Handler must proceed directly and safely to the area indicated by the canine. The Handler must quickly identify the scent source by the canine's actions.
- Upon the first indication, if the Handler is unable to quickly locate the scent source by the canine's actions, he or she must immediately leave the site at the direction of the evaluators and restart the search.
- After identifying the area of the first indication, the Handler will have full access to the search area and may direct/control the canine for the remainder of the allotted time. The Handler may reward the canine on the site.
- Although the canine may be out of the view of the handler, it must give a focused bark indication. This will be judged by the evaluators but typically will consist of at least 5-10 strong audible barks. The indication may be focused on either the victim location or in the direction of the handler. The dog must stay near the victim, and must clearly identify the source of scent.

Course construction

- There must be more potential victim locations than victims so that neither handlers nor dogs can rely on information about the location of victims from earlier evaluations.
- The victims shall be well concealed from both Handler and canine.
- The hiding area shall be carefully constructed to prevent canines from accessing the victims.
- All victims shall have a radio with an earpiece (if available) and shall be monitored on a constant basis.
- The victims must be in place at least 10 minutes before the evaluation starts.
- The evaluators must have a clear view of the canine's work.
- The Disaster site will have a minimum average height of 2m and consist of an area 400 square metres (typically 20m x 20m). It should consist predominately of concrete or a mixture of materials common to disaster sites. Banner tape is to be used to reduce the search area when larger rubble piles are being used.
- Victims shall be placed at least 5 metres from each other.
- Victims must not be familiar to the canine. As a guideline the canine must not have searched for the victim within eight weeks of the evaluation.
- Consideration must be given when establishing observation or media zones to avoid inappropriate pressure or distractions.
- A flag or wind sock should be flown and placed to indicate wind direction for the video footage.
- Video camera should be in an elevated and totally unobstructed position that gives full view of the site and canine.

Disaster Search Canine- BASIC Application for Evaluation

Test Date	Test Location
Applicant's Personal Information	
Name	Training Unit
Address	
City	Date of Birth
Home Phone	Pager/Cellphone
Work Phone	Fax
e-mail address	NZQA ID
Physical data (please list any relevant physical limitations)	
Emergency contact	Relationship
Address	Home Phone
Pager/Cellphone	Work Phone
Canine Information	
Name	Date of Birth
Breed/markings	Microchip Ref
Sponsoring Unit	Gender
Date of evaluation	
Location	
Canine Immunisations (or attach copy of vaccination certificate)	
Type	Date
My dog and I are physically sound and are currently under no restrictions. I understand and accept that the evaluator's decisions are final and binding. I agree to the terms and conditions of the USAR Best Practice Guideline: Canine Readiness Evaluation Process.	
Signature	Date
Supervising Authority Endorsement	
The dog team above complies with the USAR Best Practice Guideline: Canine Readiness Evaluation Process. The above team has completed the aggression test and is considered ready to participate in this evaluation.	
Team Leader	Date
Applicant	Date

Disaster Search Canine Evaluation Form

Name of Handler

Date

Name of Canine

Age of canine

Canine Microchip Ref

Evaluators

Location

Recommended for certification (circle one)

Yes

No

Chief Evaluator Signature

Element	Required Skills	Completed	Did not complete	Comments
Pre-requisites	CAT1R Orange Card			
	Current First Aid Cert			
Dog Requirements	Current registration			
	Current vaccinations			
	Micro chipped (ISO/NZVA)			
Ground Rules:	Handler followed all Ground Rules			
Obedience:	Human Aggression Test			
	Canine Aggression Test			
	Off-lead handling			
	Emergency Stop			
	10 minute stay			
Bark Indication	Barks repetitively and remains focused			
	Stays at victim location/barrel after locating source of scent			
	Handler does not communicate with canine after first indication of scent			
Direction & Control:	Goes up on elevation as directed			
	Waits on elevation until directed by Handler			

New Zealand Urban Search & Rescue:
Best practice guideline: Canine Readiness Evaluation Process (Basic)

Agility:	Must complete 5 of 6 obstacles including the 4 compulsory (*)	Obstacles		Canine precedes Handler	
		Completed	Did not complete	Completed	Did not complete
Obstacle 1	Ladder*				
Obstacle 2	Elevated plank*				
	Stop, slow and turn on plank				
Obstacle 3	Wobbly surface*				
Obstacle 4	Tunnel*				
Obstacle 5					
Obstacle 6					

Disaster site		Completed	Did not complete	Interview	Asked	Didn't ask
	Handler interview process			Time of collapse		
	Responsive to Handler direction and control			Type of occupancy		
	Searches independently			Known missing		
	Indicates by barking on both victims with no false indication			Suspected missing		
	Focused commitment to each scent source			Searched before		
	Informs evaluators of finds			Structural engineer		
	Canine agility/ability to negotiate rubble			-findings		
	Handler able to negotiate rubble			-safe to enter		
				-prints / plans		
K9 welfare	Handler able to irrigate nose and eyes of dog			Hazmat checked		
	Handler able to check condition of feet pads (dog)			-findings		
Notes:				Utilities-gas, elec, water		
				Utilities-gas, elec, water		
				-who / how		
				Medical support		
				Veterinary support		