NIST: Standards and guidelines for detection dogs - WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU?

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Establishing consensus based best practices for the use of detection teams aimed at improving the consistency and performance of deployed teams and optimizing their combination with electronic detectors.
Partnership of local, state, federal and international agencies including private vendors, law enforcement and first responders

55 members

http://swgdog.fiu.edu/
SWGDOG was established as the reliability of detector dogs were increasingly under attack due to limited peer reviewed research and lack of best practices for the certification of teams.

- 2nd District Court of Appeal, Matheson v. Florida, August 1, 2003. “Razor’s reliability for detecting the presence of contraband in the field was unguaged... In light of these facts, Razor’s alert could not have given the deputies probable cause to search under any test.”

- “Dog Trainer Given Maximum Sentence for Fraud: ... Convicted of Providing Bomb-Sniffing Dogs that Couldn’t Smell Out Explosives” Washington Post, September 8, 2003


- "Scott Peterson's defense takes bite out of canine's tracking skills", CourtTV.com, Sept. 1, 2004. Where the defense attorney pointed out that a supervisor of the Contra Costa County search and rescue team said in a preliminary hearing that dog tracking was "not a science. It's an art."

- “Critics say it's `scent' evidence that's suspect - Some - including jurors - doubt the bloodhound science used against a man awaiting possible retrial in Riverside serial arson.”, LA Times, March 9, 2007.
Recognized by:

- 2013 U.S. Supreme Court in FL vs. Harris
- HSPD-19: Combating Terrorist Use of Explosives in the United States

an assessment of the effectiveness of, and, as necessary, recommendations for improving Federal Government training and education initiatives relating to explosive attack detection, including canine training and performance standards
Subcommittees

Scientific Working Group on Dog & Orthogonal detector Guidelines

Unified terminology

Min. Standards
Selection of dogs
Selection of handlers

Kenneling, health care
Presenting evidence in court
Research and Technology

Training and certification of
Substance dogs: Explosives, Arson, Drugs
Scent dogs: Tracking, Trailing, Scent ID, SAR
Knowledge Management
Why was SWGDOG established?

In order to benefit local, state, federal and international law enforcement agencies by improvements in the performance and overall reliability of detector dogs and their optimized combination with electronic detection devices.

SWGDOG benefits:
- national security,
- border protection,
- drug and contraband interdiction,
- law enforcement and criminal investigations,
- disaster response

Establishing best practices for detection teams improves interdiction efforts as well as courtroom acceptance of dog alert evidence by improving the consistency and performance of deployed detector dogs.
WE WILL BE ADOPTING THE BEST PRACTICES IN OUR INDUSTRY, JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

IF EVERYONE IS DOING IT, BEST PRACTICES IS THE SAME THING AS MEDIocre.

STOP MAKING MEDIOCRITY SOUND BAD!

SORRY.
Guidelines
Standard (norm)

- established by consensus
- approved by a recognized body (SDO)

- based on science, technology, and experience, and aimed at the promotion of optimum community benefits.
Standards
2014

AIM: strengthen forensic science collaborative body

- >500 forensic science practitioners/experts
- From local, state, and federal agencies; academia; and industry.

Development and promulgation of forensic science consensus documentary standards and guidelines,

Ensure that a sufficient **scientific basis** exists for each discipline.
Subcommittee on Dogs and Sensors

Focus on standards and guidelines for continual improvement of:
- consistency
- performance
- legal acceptance of deployed detection teams.

& the optimal integration with other sensors designed to improve overall detection capabilities.
OSAC Dogs and Sensors Subcommittee (20 members)

http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/sub-dogs.cfm
The Process

A standards developing organization (SDO)

- develops/coordinates,
- promulgates/publicizes,
- revises/amends/reissues,
- interprets,
- or otherwise produces

**technical standards** that are intended to address the needs of a relatively wide base of affected adopters.

Human factors
Current Resources

- **SC1 Terminology**
  - [http://swgdog.fiu.edu/approved-guidelines/](http://swgdog.fiu.edu/approved-guidelines/)
  - **ALERT**: A characteristic change in ongoing behavior in response to a trained odor, as interpreted by the handler. The components of the alert may include: COB, interest, and final response or indication.
Current Guidelines

• SC2 General Guidelines
• SC3 Selection of Serviceable Dogs
• SC4 Kenneling and Healthcare
• SC5 Selection of Handlers
• SC5 Canine Career Field Progression System
• SC6 Presentation of Evidence in Court
• SC7 Research and Technology
Current Guidelines

• **SC8 Substance Dogs**: Accelerants; Agriculture; Contraband; Explosives; Human Remains; Narcotics; Pest & Insect

• **SC9 Scent Dogs**: Article Search; Avalanche Search; Location Checks; Non-specific Human Scent Wilderness Area Search; Pre-Scented Canine Aged Trail; Scent Identification Lineups; Searching for Live People in Disaster Environments; Track/Trail People based on Last Known Position
SC 9 - HUMANS SCENT DOGS
Searching for Live People in Disaster Environments

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INITIAL TRAINING

- Handler training
- Dog training
CANINE TEAM ASSESSMENTS

- Odor recognition
CANINE TEAM ASSESSMENTS

- comprehensive assessment
CANINE TEAM ASSESSMENTS

- comprehensive assessment (rubble search)
The certification shall be comprised of an operational assessment together with either an odor/scent recognition assessment or a double-blind assessment, or both.

Every 3 years

- Plus annual team assessments
MAINTENANCE TRAINING

- Minimum of 16 hours of training per month
RECORD KEEPING AND DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT

- Training
- Certification
- Proficiency
- Veterinary
Research
Priorities

- Identification of odorant chemicals
- Methods for monitoring levels of contamination of aids
Priorities

- Reliable surrogate continuation aids
- Comparison of detectors
Get Involved!

- Apply for membership
- Comment on documents

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Save the Date

APRIL 20-23, 2018
PHILADELPHIA, PA

PENN VET WORKING DOG CONFERENCE 2018
CREATING THE WORKING DOG: Puppy to Professional