MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6 December 2004

FOR: Rory Rehbeck, Chair
             Search Working Group

FROM: Canine Sub-Committee

SUBJECT: Canine Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

Please find the attendance and agenda items addressed on the recent Canine Sub-Committee conference call:

MEETING DATE(s) >>	12-6-04		Call # 83	
MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE				
Teresa MacPherson Chair				
Member	**Y/N**	**Member**		**Y/N**
Mike Marks	Y			
John Gilkey	Y			
Ann Wichmann	Y			
John Dean	Y			
Fred Pitts	Y			
Shirley Hammond	Y			
Bruce Berry (SWG)	Y			

AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION

- Meeting agenda

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Evaluator Conference Call Review
- When:
  - 12-8-04 Wednesday, 1200 EST, 35 people, 1 hr
  - 12-14-04 Tuesday, 1700 EST, 35 people, I hr
  - Call in number--1 800 320 4330--code 533753#

- INTRODUCTION: Bruce Berry
  - In the first ½ hour we will address:
  - Roll Call – Bruce Berry
  - CSC Update—Teresa
  - Program Office Update—Dean
- After Action Reports – Fred Pitts
  - Overview of new form.
  - Emphasis on complete information including who failed and passed
- Chief Evaluator App and PD – Ann Wichmann
  - Overview
  - When it is implemented everyone who is eligible and willing will need to apply. Nobody will be grandfathered in.
- Shopping/refinds--when is it a fail? – John Dean
  - Does the canine exhibit a focused bark?
- Type II Set-up (moving teams thru as a single unit) – Fred Pitts
  - Is not designed to put further stress on the team. Evaluators arranging the format for this purpose are incorrect.
  - It has evolved into two different styles and you may see either at an evaluation. One is taking teams through the elements in groups of four, or at least smaller groups. The other is to take the entire group through as a numbered unit.
  - It is slated to be a topic of sub-committee discussion.
- Ladder--up and/or down? – Mike Marks
  - Up only in the evaluation. Up and down in training.
- "Slow" what should it be, and how to evaluate it – Mike Marks
  - Visible change of pace. We are looking for control over the canine. Use common sense and don't fail a dog only for this issue.
- Lack of control -- what is it? – Shirley Hammond
  - Control and safety. Use common sense, it is somewhat subjective. Our goal is not to seek ways to fail teams but to certify that a team has demonstrated a base level of skill.
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- Agility—John Gilkey
  - Q--The DSCREP says (in the agility portion of the Type II test) that the canine "should" negotiate the obstacles "confidently and carefully". It doesn't say they must, and it isn't on the eval. sheet. Does this mean that even if a dog falls repeatedly, and/or slips and slides, crashes and cries his way up the ladder, or across the plank, or wobbly surface, that it must be a pass? Is there any performance criteria except that the canine eventually gets across the obstacle
  - A--The handler is responsible for the care and safety of the canine. Use common sense, it is somewhat subjective. Our goal is not to seek ways to fail teams but to certify that a team has demonstrated a base level of skill.
- False alerts—Teresa
  - Q--Can a handler call more than 2 alerts and then pick 2 at the end?
  - A--Type I & II the alert is set at the point you mark the location.
  - Q--On the same topic of false alerts, alerting on a distraction while searching on a limited access pile or perimeter- these 2 I rule it as a false alert since they gain access to the pile that they would not have without an alert. What about full access, I've always allowed the handler to dismiss an alert if they call it false. Is this correct?
  - A—handler must restart on a limited access pile after gaining access and correctly calling a false alert
  - Any distractions need to be well hidden.
  - Don't put the distractions right next to a victim. Try to have a distinct scent area for each.
  - Handler Suggestion that the number of distractions be limited to 0 to 3 on any one pile.
- Pinpointing as time runs out--how much time? – Ann Wichmann
  - Must occur before the time runs out, period. May do so from a short remote distance.
- Evaluator payment means that evaluators are being paid to set-up the Type II and Type I tests, not off doing personal business. – John Gilkey
  - This is fraud. It is a task force responsibility to ensure that employees are working.
- Mapping Access—Fred
  - Q--Could you go over mapping access on the Type I test? Some evaluators give handlers their original access (perimeter or limited) PLUS the ability to return to any alert sites, while others limit them to only the original access.
  - A--Access is set to the site criteria.
- The second ½ hour we would like to address specific questions from you. In the interest of time and expediency, we ask that you email your Regional Representative with a question you would like addressed. The last 15 minutes the moderator will take questions/comments from the floor relevant to what has been discussed.
- These calls will be strictly held to one hour.
- If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Representative found on the disasterdog.org website. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation.
- Questions and Answers – All

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL
- December 30, 2004