

TRAILING CANINE SEARCH SPECIALIST

The AERIE Trailing Canine Search Specialist Certification Examination (CE) is designed to identify the minimum knowledge, skills and abilities needed by canine team during land search operations in varied terrain at night and during daylight hours for a single subject located at the end of a track with the canine on lead. These certifications recognize the need for further training to acquire the knowledge, skills, and experience needed to become a fully competent canine handler in a wide variety of land search operations.

FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT

The AERIE Trailing CSS Fundamental Skills Assessment (FSA) is designed to identify the minimum skills needed by canine team during search operations. This assessment must be completed prior to attempting other AERIE Trailing CSS examinations.

Purpose

- The Trailing Canine Search Specialist FSA is designed to identify the minimum skills needed by an individual and their canine partner to perform as a SAR Canine Team during land search operations for a single subject located at the end of a short track, with the canine on lead, during daylight hours and will be the prerequisite for higher level AERIE canine search specialist examinations in this discipline. No certificate will be issued for this assessment.

Trailing Canine Search Specialist FSA

- The candidate and dog will be able to successfully determine direction of travel and navigate one change of direction.
- The candidate and dog will be evaluated using track that meets the following guidelines:
 - Aged two (2) to four (4) hours,
 - Approximately ¼ to ½ mile in length (.4 to .8 km)
 - Minimum of two (2) surfaces
 - One (1) cross track set towards the end of the track
 - One (1) change of direction
- The candidate and dog will be evaluated using a maximum time limit of 30 minutes including breaks.

Testing Criteria for the Trailing CSS FSA

Handler Skills

- Is the handler adequately attired and equipped?
- Did the handler articulate the dog's alerts/indications prior to entering the field?
- Did the handler interpret the dog's alerts/indications while out in the field?

- Did the handler articulate the dog's final response?
- Was the handler alert to visual clues?
- Is the handler in tune with their dog's needs?
- Did the handler properly evaluate terrain and track clues?

Dog Skills

- Did the dog successfully determine direction of travel?
- Did the dog stay focused on the search?
- Did the dog show the ability to scent discriminate (ignore cross tracks)?
- Does the dog search effectively (<~100 meters of track, on all legs)?
- Did the dog make a self-directed find on the subject?
- Did the dog demonstrate its final response?

Team Skills

- Did the dog and handler make an effective team?
- Did the dog demonstrate obedience through its reactions to handler commands?
- Is the team able to work through contamination?
- Is the team able to work through varying surface environments?
- Was the search completed within the time limit for the evaluation?

TRAILING CANINE SEARCH SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

Prerequisites: AERIE Trailing Canine Search Specialist FSA or a certification by a nationally recognized organization that meets or exceeds the criteria of the FSA.

There are two separate Trailing Canine Search Specialist CEs

- Trailing Canine Search Specialist – Type II CE is designed to identify the minimum knowledge, skills and abilities needed by an individual and their canine partner to perform as a SAR Canine Team during land search operations searching to locate a single subject using a track aged for six (6) to twelve (12) hours over varied terrain through significant scent contamination during daylight or nighttime hours and is a prerequisite for higher level AERIE canine search specialist examinations.
- Trailing Canine Search Specialist – Type I CE is designed to identify the minimum knowledge, skills and abilities needed by an individual and their canine partner to perform as a SAR Canine Team during land search operations searching to locate a single subject using a track aged for sixteen (16) to twenty-four (24) hours over varied terrain through significant scent contamination during daylight or nighttime hours.

All of these examinations and certifications meet or exceeds the criteria of FEMA 508-8 Typed Resource Definitions – Search and Rescue Resources 11/14/2005

Trailing Canine Search Specialist – Type II

Rationale

- The candidate and dog will be evaluated using track that meets the following guidelines:
 - Aged six (6) to twelve (12) hours,
 - Approximately ½ to ¾ mile in length (.8 to 1.2 km)
 - Minimum of four (4) surfaces, one trail or road crossing and one area of significant contamination or two (2) cross tracks
 - Two (2) to four (4) changes of direction
- The candidate and dog will be evaluated using a maximum time limit of one hour (1.5) including breaks.

Required Skills

- Canine
 - Successfully determine direction of travel
 - Successfully scent discriminate through significant contamination
- Handler
 - Correctly identifies indications on scent behavior and canine's final response behavior
 - Maintains control of canine
- Team

- Successfully locates the subject
- Remains approximately 100M or less from the original track

Examination Criteria for the Trailing CSS – Type II

Handler Skills

- Is the handler adequately attired and equipped?
- Did the handler articulate the dog's alerts/indications prior to entering the field?
- Did the handler interpret the dog's alerts/indications while out in the field?
- Did the handler articulate the dog's final response?
- Was the handler alert to visual clues?
- Is the handler in tune with their dog's needs?
- Did the handler properly evaluate terrain and track clues?
- Did the handler document the route traveled?
- Was the handler able to articulate the relevant meteorology?

Dog Skills

- Did the dog successfully determine direction of travel from the PLS?
- Did the dog stay focused on the search?
- Is the dog easily refocused after being distracted?
- Does the dog search effectively (<~100 meters of track, on all legs)?
- Did the dog make a self-directed find on the subject?
- Did the dog demonstrate its final response?

Team Skills

- Did the dog and handler make an effective team?
- Did the dog demonstrate obedience through its reactions to handler commands?
- Is the team able to work through contamination?
- Is the team able to work through varying surface environments?
- Was the search completed within the time limit for the evaluation?

Trailing Canine Search Specialist – Type I

Prerequisites: AERIE Trailing Canine Search Specialist – Type II

Rationale

- The candidate and dog will be evaluated using track that meets the following guidelines:
 - Aged sixteen (16) to twenty-four (24) hours,
 - Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ to one (1) mile in length (1.2 to 1.6 km)
 - Minimum of four (4) surfaces,
 - One (1) hard surface road crossing and one (1) area of significant contamination or two (2) cross tracks
 - Two (2) to five (5) changes of direction
- The candidate and dog will be evaluated using a maximum time limit of one and a half hours (1.5) including breaks.

Required Skills

- Canine
 - Successfully determine direction of travel
 - Successfully scent discriminate through significant contamination and a hard surface crossing
- Handler
 - Correctly identifies indications on scent behavior and canine's final response behavior
 - Maintains control of canine
- Team
 - Successfully locates the subject
 - Remains approximately 100M or less from the original track

Examination Criteria for the Trailing CSS – Type I

Handler Skills

- Is the handler adequately attired and equipped?
- Did the handler articulate the dog's alerts/indications prior to entering the field?
- Did the handler interpret the dog's alerts/indications while out in the field?
- Did the handler articulate the dog's final response?
- Was the handler alert to visual clues?
- Is the handler in tune with their dog's needs?
- Did the handler properly evaluate terrain and track clues?
- Did the handler document the route traveled?
- Was the handler able to articulate the relevant meteorology?

Dog Skills

- Did the dog successfully determine direction of travel?
- Did the dog stay focused on the search?

- Is the dog easily refocused after being distracted?
- Does the dog search effectively (<~100 meters of track, on all legs)?
- Did the dog make a self-directed find on the subject?
- Did the dog demonstrate its final response?

Team Skills

- Did the dog and handler make an effective team?
- Did the dog demonstrate obedience through its reactions to handler commands?
- Is the team able to work through contamination?
- Is the team able to work through varying surface environments?
- Was the search completed within the time limit for the evaluation?