

Land HRD Written Test Study Guide

This guide outlines topics covered by NSDA's written exam for Land HRD, which is pre-requisite to the Land HRD Field Test and a required component of the certification process K9 Land HRD.

Handlers are required to successfully complete NSDA's Disciplines Prerequisite Exam prior to taking the written exam for Land HRD. A study guide for the Disciplines Prerequisite Exam is available on the NSDA web site.

Handlers wanting to certify for Land HRD should be knowledgeable in the following topics:

- **Processes and stages of human decomposition**
 - Disarticulation, putrefaction, Livor mortis, Liquefaction
- **Compounds created by human decomposition**
 - Adipocere
- **Relationships between environmental variables, decomposition and search strategies**
 - Soil type: sandy, loam, clay,
 - Soil moisture: wet, dry, swamp vs desert
 - Weather Conditions: hot dry vs cold wet, windy vs calm
 - Vegetation
- **Operational aspects of a Search**
 - Search area definition and strategies
 - missing hunter
 - missing child
 - homicide
 - Search along roads
 - unpremeditated homicide vs premeditated homicide vs suicide
 - Factors highly correlated with the success or failure of a K9 team
- **Scent dispersal as related to topography, vegetation, weather, ground cover, water movement**
- **Changes in ground conditions often associated with a burial site**
- **Kinds of animal activity often associated with a burial site**
- **Safety precautions**
- **Law Enforcement Aspects of working potential crime scenes**
- **Procedures for searching buildings and vehicles, private property**
- **Dog Team record keeping**

References

Scent and the Scenting Dog by William G. Syrotuck 1972

Cadaver Dog Handbook by Andrew Rebman, et al, 2000