

SAR Dog News

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Visit us at n-sda.org

Founding members: K-9 Stryker, K-9 Thor, K-9 Beau, Eileen M. Nobles, Susan Bulanda, K -9 Roo, Leslie Godchaux, Brian R. Hendrickson, Continental Kennel Club, Inc., K -9 River, K-9 Persha, Dana Kirsch Ray, Jan Thompson

JOIN NSDA

Do you want to help shape the future of SAR dog handlers? Do you have K-9 needs that are not being met by other groups?

If so, then the National Search Dog Alliance is for you.



Join an organization whose aim it is to provide programs designed and developed for the dog handler. Take part in the building of those programs and standards. Assist in the progression of SAR canine training and certification. Work with and learn from the best dog handlers in the country

See the Alliance's website at www.n-sda.org for further information and an application.



EXTENSION of CONTESTS

NSDA needs a motto AND a logo. Therefore the organization is holding two (2) contests.

NSDA's motto and logo need to be easily recognizable. The motto needs to be short and to the point, the logo indicative of the organization's standpoint.

Winners of each contest will receive a free year's membership to NSDA, item with logo and slogan imprinted on it, permanent recognition on the website that they designed the logo and/or came up with the slogan.

Each contest entries are due by _____. Submit entries to newsletter@n-sda.org

HERNANDEZ AWARD

The National Search Dog Alliance and Kai Thompson Hernandez are pleased to announce that Curt Engle is the recipient of the 2007 Hernandez Search Dog. NSDA is very pleased and honored to be able to partner with Mrs. Kai Thompson Hernandez to present this sponsorship.

Curt Engle was chosen after thorough review of all applications. Curt has been involved in canine search and rescue since 2001 and is a member of the California Rescue Dog Association and Madera County SAR K-9 Team. When notified of the award Curt replied, "I am honored to have been selected for the sponsorship."

This sponsorship was established to honor the memory of Kai's deceased husband, Glen Thompson, who was killed during the attack on the World Trade Center on 9/11/2001. It also honors the others who lost their lives as well as all those who responded and conducted searches in the aftermath of the attack on our country.

Kai has said that she was so touched, impressed and appreciative of all who responded to 9/11 that she wanted to give something back. She was especially drawn to the search canines and their handlers who responded and put themselves at risk in their attempts to help. She knows that there is a great deal of time and personal expense borne by the canine handlers. This sponsorship is one of her ways of saying THANK YOU and helping to ensure that there continues to be qualified handlers and canines.

AWARD WINNER PROFILE

Curtis (Curt) E. Engle of Clovis, California, is a member of the California Rescue Dog Association (CARDA) and Madera County SAR K-9 team.

Curt has been involved with K-9 SAR since 2001. Since that time, Curt has achieved Mission Ready Status as an area handler for CARDA, certified as a NASAR type 1 area handler and become the K-9 team leader for his Madera County SAR unit.

Curt's current working K-9 is over seven years old and will probably be retired in the next 1.5-2.0 year. Because it will take that amount of time to bring a new puppy to operational status, Curt wanted to start a puppy as soon as possible.

The correspondence sent to Curt by Review Committee Chairman Art Wolff stated, "After reviewing your application, it is obvious that you are a person dedicated to SAR. You have received a high level of training and we have no doubt that you will continue to represent the SAR community well and continue to serve the "victims" in their time of need."

Curt's response was, "I am so happy to hear this wonderful news. I feel honored to have been selected for the sponsorship."

NSDA Committees Seeking Assistance



NSDA committees are developing the first drafts of standards for Air Scent, Tracking, Cadaver, Disaster and Avalanche. The organization needs qualified canine handlers from across the country to review these standards and make suggestions on improvements and/or local needs. The water standard is not yet drafted.

Please contact us at the email address listed below if you have a desire to assist with Public

Relations, Marketing, Education, the 2008 Conference or Fund Raising. Water standards will be developed at a later date."

NSDA staff is in the process of contacting people who previously volunteered but wants to make sure the list is complete. Please take a moment to contact NSDA to make sure your name and request are on file. If there is more than one area in which you would like to help, please prioritize them.

Send your name and email address to the NSDA Secretary, Sherry Scruggs at k-9tracer@cox.net.

TAKE OUR RESEARCH SURVEY

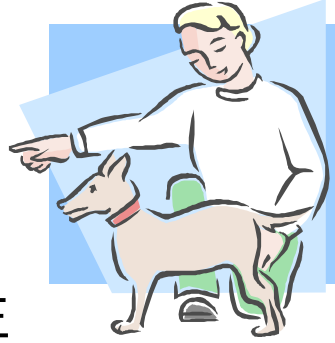
Ben Alexander, Cen-Tex Search & Rescue

As search dog handlers and trainers, we are aware of the valuable impact our search dogs can have in locating missing persons or human remains. There is, however, very little scientific evidence to date that corroborates our dogs capabilities. In an ever increasingly technical and skeptical society, it is essential that research scientists evaluate this field. Research is needed in every facet from physiological factors such as thresholds and scent generalization to canine development and learning theory.

Research is currently being undertaken at Texas A&M University to determine correlations between competent, independent performance of search dogs and various training methodologies. This research will be performed through a questionnaire survey that has been designed to evaluate these relationships and identify key factors.

The National Search Dog Alliance understands the need for research and supports endeavors that will further our understanding and knowledge. NSDA would like to offer its members the opportunity to participate in this research. All surveys are confidential and in compliance with Texas A&M University's institutional review board. Your candid answers and honesty can help shape the future of this research and benefit the entire search dog community.

Log onto the NSDA website at www.n-sda.org where you will find the link to complete the survey. It will only take you a few minutes of your time but could provide much needed insight into canine training."



TRAINING PAGE

Abbreviated information of upcoming schools and conferences will be listed in each newsletter. If you know of one and/or are sponsoring one, please let us know at newsletter@n-sda.org so it can be included.

NSDA provides this list for your convenience.

September 23-28, 2007: Canine Search & Recovery, Inc 2007 Seminar at Camp Rockmont near Black Mountain, NC. For more information, including instructors, classes and seminar application, visit the Canine Search and Recovery web site at www.csar.org or contact Carolyn Knapp at cknapp@nemonet.com.

September 23-28, 2007: NASDN Multi purpose K9 Seminar in Oregonia, Ohio (near Cincinnati). Classes in Mantrailing, Air Scent and Cadaver Detection. Details at <http://www.nasdn.org>

September 27-29, 2007: Cadaver Dog Seminar, Getting Ready for the Real World: Camp Dodge in Johnston Iowa. Fee: \$100 for K9 teams, \$75 for auditors. For application and further information, contact robin@pawsoflife.org or call 515-233-1186.

October 6-7, 2008: Southern SAR Dawg Symposium at Prince William Forest Park in Triangle, VA (Washington, D.C./Metro area). For more information about the American Rescue Dog Association annual training weekend, including instructor bios, classes and registration information, visit the ARDA website at www.ardainc.org or contact traininginfo@vsrda.org or call 888-775-8871.

October 8-12, 2007: Urban Trailing Class; Philippi, WV. Classes run from 0830 until 1700 hours daily. For more information and/or a registration form, contact: Marcia Koenig, 253-630-0444 or marciakoenig@earthlink.net

October 8-12, 2007: The Network of Canine Detection Services Working Dog Seminar, Wall Doxey State Park, Holly Springs, MS. The cost of the seminar includes meals and lodging. For more information on classes and instructors and to print the registration form, check out <http://nocds.250free.com/nocds.htm> NOCDS Evaluations will be held on Sunday, October 7. To find out more about the area, check out: www.visithollysprings.org

October 19-21, 2007; trailing seminar, in North Central Connecticut with the Mark Holmes. Information and Registration at www.task-9.org

October 27-28, 2007: K911: Emergency Life Support for the Search and Rescue Dog, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI. Registration and information available at www.wmrl.net/k911

November 9-11, 2007: The Dupont Rescue Experience, Henderson/Transylvania, NC; simulated search and rescue operations in a wilderness environment. Information and registration at <http://www.ncsar.com/dupont2007.pdf>

Feb 28-March 1st 2008; Airscent Seminar hosted by North Alabama Search Dog Assoc. For more information: <http://www.nasdak9.org/airscent08.htm> or email info@nasdak9.org

**Doggie Treats
(for dogs only)
Your dog will love
them....guaranteed!**

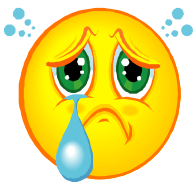


1½ cups flour, divided as below
¾ cup oatmeal
¾ cup wheat germ
¼ cup peanut butter
¼ cup vegetable oil
¼ cup honey
1 tsp baking powder
½ cup water

Preheat oven to 300°. In a large bowl, with mixer at low speed, mix one cup of flour with remaining ingredients until well blended. Stir in remaining ½ cup flour with a wooden spoon. (Optional: ingredients can be mixed entirely by hand.)

With floured hand, on well-floured surface, knead dough until dough holds together. Roll dough to ¼ inch thickness. Cut out with cookie cutters or use knife to make 1" x 1" squares. Bake on two large, ungreased cookie sheets for 20-30 minutes. Turn oven off and let cool in oven. Store in airtight container (if they last that long).

Anita Randle



Dealing with Grief

By Sue Wolff

Losing a companion animal and/or a SAR dog is devastating. But handlers/owners don't receive the kind of emotional support expected if we had lost a human family member – especially from those who have never shared a special bond with an animal. Losing a canine, especially a SAR canine where a bond is often very deep, or other companion animal is losing a member of your family.

Anytime a dramatic loss is suffered, it is appropriate to grieve. Your first priority should be to come to grips with the fact that it is okay to grieve the passing of your SAR K-9 or companion animal. Accepting the *magnitude* of your loss can facilitate the process of grieving. The more you fight to suppress your feelings, the worse your grief can become.

Grief takes many forms: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and ultimately, acceptance. While many think that there are definite "stages" of grief, some may not experience any of the forms and others may experience many simultaneously.

Those who have experienced a recent loss should find comfort in knowing that there are outlets for your feelings. Instead of feeling helpless (a common reaction) someone who is grieving can do something positive to remember their canine. There are several organizations, including NSDA, that allow you to contribute funds in the memory of your animal. Many of these groups will publish an announcement of your gift along with a special message of tribute. In this way, you can create a legacy for your companion. Rainbow Bridge website offers this service as well as other forms of grief relief.

Know that you are not alone in your experience. Talk to other handlers about your loss and spend time sharing memories about your best times together, too.

It is very important to take care of yourself physically because grief takes a toll on our physical well being. Be sure to allow extra time to sleep; be sure to exercise and eat well.

Don't arbitrarily assign time limits to your grief. The bottom line is -- as with most emotional processes – it takes as long as it takes.



Yip-Yap

By Dana Kirsch Ray

Q: How do I find training in my area?

A: The first place to look is Google. (Of course) Try using key words like 'search and rescue', 'canine' and 'your city'. Most search teams have websites online and you can see what disciplines are their specialties. Perhaps you wish to join a canine-only group. Or maybe you're looking to join a multi-discipline team with ATVs, swiftwater rescuers, high angle techs, trackers and more. Looking at websites might help you make a decision on what field to work in or may open up a whole new spectrum of opportunity.

Contact your local sheriff's office. If they do not have a SAR team of their own, they may be able to tell you who they use when they need a nearby dog team.

===== Your Boards =====

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Some teams recommend new people visit without the dog for several sessions. SAR dog work takes a huge amount of time, many years of commitment, and deep personal dedication. I suggest you visit a few teams before you decide which group you like most. Watch what other people are doing. Try to envision what kind of lifestyle changes you may have to make. Think about your family and what their reaction will be.

Look at your job situation. Can you leave at a moment's notice? Will your customers understand if you miss a deadline because you were on a search for five days?

Some people find it comfortable to bring their dog to work so they can socialize the dog and so they can respond quickly when the pager goes off. Will your employer allow that? What will people at your workplace think if you have a dog at your side?

Lastly, it's great that you've found the NSDA. That means you're doing your homework! Keep in touch; we've got a lot to give!

Questions for this column can be sent to trainingquestions@n-sda.org

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