



# **GREAT BASIN K-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE**

INFORMATION PACKAGE



## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Welcome and information (Q&A)	3
Candidate Application	7
Release and Hold Harmless Agreement	11
Code of Conduct	14
Handler Requirements Sign Off Sheet	16
K9 Requirements Sign Off Sheet	17
Sample Air Scent/HRD Training log	18
Reading List	19



Thank you for your interest in joining Great Basin K-9 Search and Rescue. It is important before getting involved that you have a realistic expectation of our requirements and what we do. So, here are answers to some common questions:

### **What is Great Basin K-9 Search and Rescue?**

Great Basin K-9 Search and Rescue (GBK9SAR) is a non-profit 501 (c) (3), volunteer organization with operational members in Weber, Summit, and Salt Lake Counties. Our mission is to train and certify K9 SAR teams and provide them at no cost, to assist law enforcement, emergency response, and other official agencies.

### **How can I join GBK9SAR?**

GBK9SAR welcomes new handlers who bring commitment, relevant skills, and physical capability. Currently, our handlers all have prior SAR/Ski Patrol, Military, Law Enforcement, and/or working dog experience. Our search dogs are carefully selected for temperament, physical aptitude, and balanced working drives. K9 SAR requires thousands of hours of training, thousands of miles of driving, and a substantial financial investment for uniforms and field equipment to become a certified and deployable mission ready team. It is important to understand that even after certification, maintenance training continues through the lifetime of the dog. Although we are all passionate about K9 SAR and enjoy working with and training our dogs, K9 SAR is neither a hobby nor a sport. K9 SAR provides a service which is sometimes a life and death mission, requiring commitment and professionalism by both handlers and dogs.

### **Who can apply?**

Because we serve Law Enforcement entities, each candidate must meet these minimum requirements to apply:

- 18 years of age
- High School Diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Possess a valid Utah Driver's License (or DL of home state with Military ID.)
- Never convicted of any felony or misdemeanor involving violence or substance abuse.
- Pass a physical, or certification of good physical condition for performing strenuous physical activity as found in Search and Rescue work, from a qualified private physician.
- Not suffering from any mental illness that would impair normal reason and judgment.

## **What handler skills are required?**

K9 SAR requires many skills well beyond the scope of training a dog. When taking on new members, GBK9SAR is looking for people with extensive Search and Rescue, Medical, outdoor, and survival skills. Most of our members are former Military, Law Enforcement, or professional or volunteer rescuers. We require K9 handlers to be current in CPR and have medical first responder skills such as American Red Cross Emergency Response card, EMT, Wilderness Medicine First Aid etc. K9 handlers must be proficient in the use of GPS, map and compass, radio communications, wilderness survival skills, man-tracking awareness, lost person behavior, crime scene awareness, K9 First Aid, understanding of scent theory, weather behavior, and SAR theory. We also require completion and understanding of Incident Command System courses and the physical capability to negotiate rugged terrain for both handlers and dogs.

## **What kind of dog should I train for SAR?**

We are not looking for dogs that “can” do SAR. We are looking for dogs that were “born” to do SAR. Although many breeds of dogs are capable of doing SAR work, most are from working line herding, sporting/retriever, or hound groups. Mixed breed dogs with sound temperaments and working drives can also excel at K9 SAR. SAR dogs must be social, environmentally stable, biddable, obedient, agile, physically fit, and have the natural desire to work. Your dog will be evaluated for the following behaviors and working potential:

- Dog to person socialization
- Dog to dog socialization
- Dog’s environmental stability/recovery time
- Dog/Handler relationship/teamwork
- Overall temperament when among other dogs and people
- Overall stability when on unstable surface or stressful environment
- Noise sensitivity
- Startle response
- Food Drive
- Toy Drive
- Retrieve Drive
- Possession
- Speed to toy
- Hunt when in chase/prey
- Hunt when unseen
- Scenting ability
- Engagement
- Obedience
- Agility
- Physical capability
- Handler’s ability to manage and control dog

### **Can I start training with a puppy or is an older dog preferred?**

Training of a successful search dog can start as early as 7 weeks old. Older dogs can also be trained for SAR work, however, GBK9SAR prefers to start dogs by the age of 2 to allow for a longer working life. If you don't have a suitable dog, we recommend you attend several trainings to see what breed and working style dog you prefer. GBK9SAR handlers can assist in selection and give recommendations for working line dogs and litters with proven success in SAR.

### **What can I expect at my first training session?**

GBK9SAR requires that prospective handlers attend their first few trainings without a dog. This allows you to meet the group, learn what K9 SAR is about, learn the different working tasks of the dogs (Air Scent, Trailing, Cadaver, Water, obedience/agility requirements, different types of indications), and determine if K9 SAR is for you. You will have an opportunity to work with one or more of our handlers and participate in training exercises. You will need to bring enough food and water, clothing, and the proper gear for the terrain and weather conditions as GBK9SAR trains in all types of weather and in remote areas without facilities.

### **When can my dog attend trainings with me?**

The next step is to evaluate your dog for working drive. All dogs must be current in vaccinations before participating in any training. We require a \$100 application processing fee to be paid at the first training you attend with your dog. During the first trainings with your dog, we will evaluate and work with you and your dog, give you direction for yours and your dog's training, and guide you and your dog to capitalize on your dog's natural abilities. GBK9SAR handlers will give honest and objective feedback about your dog's progress and suitability for SAR work. We cannot, however, guarantee that your dog will be successful in achieving certified/mission ready status.

### **What equipment will I need for training?**

You will need to bring the following equipment for your dog: your dog's favorite treats and toys, leash, harness, long line, flat collar, and water. You must be able to secure your dog safely in a crate and/or your vehicle. Dogs cannot be tied out or left loose. They must have adequate ventilation and/or shade when secured in your vehicle. Reflective tarps, space blankets, mesh products all help to keep vehicles cool during warm months. All dogs must remain leashed or secured unless working a training problem.

A word of caution: as the dogs mature and learn "the search game" their excitement, enthusiasm, and frustration when not training increases. This sometimes results in damage to vehicles, seatbelts, windows, etc. when the dogs are not properly contained in a crate.

### **How often do I have to train?**

GBK9SAR handlers meet weekly for group training. Additional informal trainings in smaller groups are coordinated as schedules allow. We do require a minimum training commitment of 16 hours per month to meet minimum industry standards. Additional training takes place on an individual basis to work on obedience, agility, and control skills.

### **How long before I can go on searches with my dog?**

Training a dog and handler team to full mission ready/certified status can take 1 ½ to 2 years. However, once you have completed your field handler skills, you may be able to go on searches without your dog in support of other K9 teams to gain field experience.

### **What are the certification requirements?**

GBK9SAR is a proud member of Tri-State K9 SAR, an association of search dog teams from across the Intermountain West (Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana.) Tri-State has established a rigorous set of certification standards and all member groups have agreed not to field any dog teams that have not met these standards. To see these standards, follow this link: <http://www.tri-state-k9.org/StandardsUpd.aspx?mn=5> Some members also certify to National Standards such as NASAR, NAPWDA, IPWDA, etc.

### **What equipment will I need?**

Being safe in the backcountry with a SAR K9 requires a significant investment in equipment. Although we do not mandate what each individual carries, the following is a helpful link with a recommended equipment list:

NASAR Pack List: <http://www.nasar.org/page/61/Pack-List-and-FAQ>

### **What happens next?**

If you are interested in becoming a Candidate member of GBK9SAR, please fill out and submit the below GBK9SAR Candidate Application, Release and Hold Harmless Agreement, and Code of Conduct along with \$100 application processing fee when you attend training.



## **CANDIDATE APPLICATION GREAT BASIN K-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE (GBK9SAR)**

When you apply for Candidate status with GBK9SAR you must indicate the areas in which you have specific skills. In all cases, the statement, “one year of experience...” is understood to mean substantial and aggressive experience, not simply being involved in the activity a few times during the past year. It is required that all Candidates are skilled enough to be self-sufficient in wilderness situations. All Candidates are required to have the “ten essentials” at trainings and mission calls which are:

- flashlight and headlamp
- foul weather gear/extra clothing
- extra food and water
- water proof matches
- candle or fire starter or stove
- pocket knife
- personal first aid kit
- compass and GPS
- emergency shelter (e.g. space blanket or bivi bag)
- sunglasses

Due to the all-weather nature of SAR operations, all Candidates must have a clothing system that is not based on cotton or other non-wicking fabrics. All Candidates must have an outer shell layer of waterproof/windproof/breathable material such as Gore-Tex.® Candidates arriving for a training or mission call out without adequate clothing will not be allowed into the field.

Required skills— GBK9SAR is not a basic skills training organization. As such, we expect you to already have some skills and/or acquire additional necessary skills on your own. Ultimately, all GBK9SAR teams will be trained as SAR K9 Handlers according to Tri-State-K9 standards <http://www.tri-state-k9.org/StandardsUpd.aspx?mn=5> Required training includes but is not limited to K9 Search strategy, Scent/Odor Behavior, Incident Command System (FEMA/NIMS/ICS), helicopter safety, map/compass/GPS, basic first aid/CPR, and K9 specific training (reference GBK9SAR Handler Requirements and K9 Requirements.)

Dogs trained in protection or bite-work will not be allowed on the team unless there are special circumstances which would require approval from the Executive Committee.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION:**

Because we serve at the request of Law Enforcement entities, the following are minimum requirements for consideration to become a Candidate of GBK-9SAR:

- 18 years of age
- High School Diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Possess a valid Utah Driver's License (or DL of home state with Military ID.)
- Never convicted of any felony or misdemeanor involving violence or substance abuse.
- Pass a physical, or certification of good physical condition for performing strenuous physical activity as found in Search and Rescue work, from a qualified private physician.
- Not suffering from any mental illness that would impair normal reason and judgment.

Please use one form for each volunteer. Please print very clearly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (hm) \_\_\_\_\_, (wk) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Phone: (m) \_\_\_\_\_ (provider) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the following skills sheet. We do not expect anyone to have all the skills needed at the time of joining GBK9SAR, but it helps us to know your level of proficiency as it pertains to K9 SAR.

Previous SAR experience: \_\_\_\_\_ years.  
What Team/Where? \_\_\_\_\_

K-9 - please check boxes as appropriate:

- I am a certified SAR dog handler and have certified / fielded \_\_\_\_\_ SAR dog (s).
- I have \_\_\_\_\_ years of SAR dog handling experience.
- I was certified by/to the following standards: \_\_\_\_\_
- Please attach a photocopy of any SAR dog certification materials.
- I have \_\_\_\_\_ years of dog handling experience. Type \_\_\_\_\_
- I have \_\_\_\_\_ years dog training experience. Type \_\_\_\_\_
- I currently have a dog  
Breed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_
- Current training level (CGC, Tracking, Titles): \_\_\_\_\_



Professional Experience – please attach a copy of certification materials:

- I have Fire/Rescue/EMT experience \_\_\_\_\_ years
- I have worked SAR and/or Ski Patrol \_\_\_\_\_ years
- I am current/former military with field experience and training \_\_\_\_\_ years
- I have law enforcement experience \_\_\_\_\_ years
- I have forensic/crime scene processing experience \_\_\_\_\_ years
- I have ICS/NIMS familiarity/experience

Logistics & Support:

- I have computer mapping skills
- I have radio skills (e.g. ham) call sign \_\_\_\_\_
- Medical – please attach a copy of your medical certification(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(M.D., Nurse, Paramedic, EMT or OEC, First Responder, CPR only, Basic First Aid)

Search:

- I can hike mountain trails with a 30+ pound pack.
- I am skilled in land navigation using, GPS/map & compass
- I have Man-tracking training and/or experience \_\_\_\_\_ years
- I have 4-season all-weather wilderness survival skills
- I have backpack and camping gear to survive 48 hours in field.

Winter:

- I have winter survival skills
- I have made and stayed overnight in a snow cave
- I have experience using probe poles, shovel, and/or a beacon.
- I have taken Avalanche awareness courses
- I have experience assessing Avalanche conditions
- I have \_\_\_\_ year’s backcountry winter travel experience.

Other Skills (Boating, Swift Water, Back Country/Survival, Technical Climbing/Ice Climbing, Mountaineering, Litter Handling, Helitac) :

---

---

---

---

Deliver all completed application forms along with \$100 application processing fee to:

Great Basin K-9 Search and Rescue  
C/O Sonja Nordstrom  
P.O. Box 763  
Kamas, UT 84036  
greatbasink9sar@gmail.com

By signing below, I verify that the information in this application is true and correct and that I meet the "Minimum Requirements for Application." Furthermore, I acknowledge and accept the following: the mission of GBK9SAR is to provide competent Search K9 and Handler teams to locate missing people in potentially rugged and dangerous terrain; SAR training and the SAR mission requires a large commitment of time, effort, and cost; despite how much time and money I invest in training to become a member, GBK9SAR does not and cannot guarantee that my dog and I will be successful in achieving certified/mission ready status; and GBK9SAR bears no financial responsibility for costs incurred by me during the training process. Furthermore, I will not represent myself as a GBK9SAR K9 handler unless and until such time as I am qualified and have achieved certified/mission ready status.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

This RELEASE and HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT (this “agreement”) is made effective on \_\_\_\_\_ by and between the Great Basin K-9 Search and Rescue, Inc. (hereinafter “GBK9SAR”), a 501c(3) Volunteer Organization, of Ogden, Utah, and \_\_\_\_\_ (hereinafter “\_\_\_\_\_” <last name>), of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ <address>. Great Basin K-9 Search and Rescue and \_\_\_\_\_ are sometimes individually referred to as “Party” and collectively referred to as the “Parties”.

WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_ desires to hold harmless GBK9SAR from any claims and/or litigation arising out of \_\_\_\_\_’s actions in connection with being a candidate, trainee, or operational member of GBK9SAR and will hold GBK9SAR harmless for any and all injuries, maiming, and/or deaths to yourself or your canine.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions contained herein, GBK9SAR and \_\_\_\_\_ hereby agree as follows:

### TERMS

- 1. Hold Harmless.** \_\_\_\_\_ shall fully defend, indemnify, and hold harmless GBK9SAR from any and all claims, lawsuits, demands, causes of actions, liability, loss, damage and/or injury, of any kind whatsoever (including without limitation all claims for monetary loss, property damage, equitable relief, personal injury and/or wrongful death), whether brought by an individual or other entity, or imposed by a court of law or by administrative action of any federal, state or local governmental body or agency, arising out of, in any way whatsoever, any acts, omissions, negligence, or willful misconduct on the part of \_\_\_\_\_, its officers, owners, personnel, employees, agents, contractors, invitees, or volunteers. This indemnification applies to and includes, without limitations, the payment of all penalties, fines, judgments, awards, decrees, attorney’s fees, and related costs or expenses, and any reimbursements to GBK9SAR for all legal fees, expenses, and costs incurred by it.
- 2. Authority to Enter Agreement.** Each party warrants that the individuals who have signed this Agreement have the actual legal power, right and authority to make this Agreement and bind each respective party.
- 3. Amendment: Modification.** No supplement, modification, or amendment of this Agreement shall be binding unless executed in writing and signed by both Parties.

4. **Waiver.** No waiver of any default shall constitute a waiver of any other default or breach, whether of the same or other covenant or condition. No waiver, benefit, privilege, or service voluntarily given or performance by a Party shall give the other Party any contractual right by custom, estoppel, or otherwise.
5. **Attorney's Fees and Costs.** If any legal action or other proceeding is brought in connection with this agreement, the successful or prevailing Party, if any, shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees and other related costs, in addition to any other relief to which that Party is entitled. In the event that it is the subject of a dispute, the court or trier of fact who presides over such legal action or proceeding is empowered to determine which Party, if any, is the prevailing party in accordance with this provision.
6. **Entire Agreement.** This agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties related to the matters specified herein, and supersedes any prior oral or written statements or agreements between the Parties related to such matters.
7. **Enforceability, Severability, and Reformation.** If any provision of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the remaining provisions shall continue to be valid and enforceable, but that by limiting such provision it would become valid and enforceable, then such provision shall be deemed to be written, construed and enforced as so limited. The intent of the Parties is to provide as broad an indemnification as possible under Utah law. In the event that any aspect of this Agreement is deemed unenforceable, the court is empowered to modify this Agreement to give the broadest possible interpretation under Utah law.
8. **Applicable Law.** This Agreement shall be governed exclusively by the laws of Utah, without regard to conflict of law provisions.
9. **Exclusive Venue and Jurisdiction.** Any lawsuit or legal proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement in any way whatsoever shall be exclusively brought and litigated in the federal and state courts of Utah. Each Party expressly consents and submits to this exclusively jurisdiction and exclusive venue. Each Party expressly waives the right to challenge this jurisdiction and/or venue as improper or inconvenient. Each Party consents to the dismissal of any lawsuit that they bring in any other jurisdiction or venue.
10. **Signatures.** This Agreement shall be signed on behalf of Great Basin K-9 Search and Rescue by the current President and on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ and effective as of the date first written above.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I am aware and accept that while participating in activities under the auspices of Great Basin K-9 Search and Rescue, Inc. (hereinafter "GBK9SAR") certain exposures to risk may be incurred. These exposures include, but are not limited to: accident and/or sickness without readily available medical facilities, the forces of nature, travel on the ground and in the air, travel in high alpine terrain involving risks of falls, avalanche, exposure to the elements, strenuous physical work covering periods as long as several days, and the physical and other risks involved in high stress levels and high-altitude work. In consideration of the right to participate in the training, searches, and other programs offered by or through GBK9SAR within or outside the United States, I hereby assume all of the risks involved and agree to indemnify and hold GBK9SAR, its members, officers, agents and employees harmless from any and all liability that may arise in connection with my participation in the activities of GBK9SAR. I agree that this waiver and this RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS agreement shall be binding upon my heirs, and that it shall inure to the benefit of the successors, heirs, and assigns of the released parties. This Agreement shall remain valid and binding for as long as I am associated with and participate in any activities, training, and/or searches with GBK9SAR.

**Great Basin K-9 Search and Rescue**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: President

" \_\_\_\_\_ "

By: \_\_\_\_\_

" \_\_\_\_\_ "

Title: \_\_\_\_\_



## CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Each Great Basin K-9 Search and Rescue (hereinafter “GBK9SAR”) Candidate, Trainee, Operational Support Member, and Operational K9 Member, (hereinafter referred to as “member”) is responsible for maintaining GBK9SAR’s reputation and positive group image.
2. All GBK9SAR members are equally responsible for maintaining the group’s integrity and working in a mutually supportive and respectful manner.
3. Each member is to act in the best interests of GBK9SAR, maintain the highest standards of ethics and conduct, maintain a professional appearance and avoid situations that might involve a conflict or an appearance of conflict between personal interests and the best interests of GBK9SAR.
4. Specific examples of prohibited conduct that may warrant disciplinary action include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Violations of local, state and federal laws.
  - b. Actions or behavior in violation of GBK9SAR By-laws, code of conduct or management team directives.
  - c. Unprofessional and derogatory comments which can reflect negatively on GBK9SAR whether personal, written, or distributed via social media.
  - d. Representing oneself as an operational canine handler member of GBK9SAR before fulfilling all handler and canine preliminary requirements and mission ready canine testing as referenced in the By-laws.
  - e. Failure to self-report any dog on dog or dog on human injuries and any incidents involving law enforcement and/or animal control.
  - f. Illegal or unauthorized use of GBK9SAR money, equipment or identification.
  - g. The willful and/or repeated failure to comply with GBK9SAR rules, regulations, policies and procedures.
  - h. Refusal to follow or ignoring specific directions, or reasonable assignments by the Management Team.
  - i. Failure to properly train and manage your dog especially if such failure results in dangerous, inappropriate, or unprofessional behavior.

5. Search dogs are not “service animals” within the meaning of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and businesses are not required by law to provide accommodation for search dogs. No member shall represent their dog as a service animal for the purpose of obtaining special accommodation or treatment. Members may request special accommodation for their dog, such as seating at an outdoor area of a restaurant or waiver of a pet fee at a hotel, only if they clearly identify their dog as a search dog and not a service animal. If a member and dog are travelling by air to an official training event or operational mission, the member should contact the management team for a letter requesting that the dog be accommodated in the airplane cabin. This is the only time that a member should request such accommodation.
6. Any GBK9SAR member observing an infraction of any GBK9SAR By-laws, code of conduct or management team directives is obligated to attempt to correct the problem at that time, if possible, practical, and safe to do so. Any member witnessing such an infraction also shall report the infraction to a member of the Management Team.
7. Upon receiving a complaint or notice of infraction the Management Team, at its discretion, will investigate and review the facts surrounding the matter.
8. Any such investigation shall be convened with 10 calendar days of receiving the complaint that an infraction or violation of GBK9SAR By-laws, code of conduct or management team directives has occurred.
9. If an infraction involves a dog aggression incident, the involved dog or dogs will be prohibited from attending all GBK9SAR events, trainings, missions, etc. until such time as the disciplinary matter has been resolved.
10. The Management Team has the authority to resolve disciplinary matters in the best interest of GBK9SAR, including implementing suspensions or revoking membership.
11. Lack of candor by a member during the course of disciplinary proceedings is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.
12. Upon revocation of membership, an individual is required to return all GBK9SAR property to a member of the Management Team.

I have received a copy of GBK9SAR’s code of conduct and understand and voluntarily agree to abide by said code.

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CANDIDATE/MEMBER GBK9SAR President



## GREAT BASIN K-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE HANDLER REQUIREMENTS

To be completed prior to testing and/or deploying on a search in K9 Team or Support Capacity  
To be completed within 12 months of attaining Trainee Status in accordance with GBK9SAR By-laws

1. The handler must produce proof of certification in basic First Aid or “higher” medical training.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_
2. The handler must produce proof of certification in CPR.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_
3. The handler must produce written documentation of the following courses successfully completed:
  - a. Mantrailing and Sign Awareness (minimum 2 hour course)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Land navigation/orienteering training (with map/compass and GPS)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. OSHA Compliant Blood borne Pathogens Course (available online at [www.bloodbornepathogenstrainingonline.com/index.html](http://www.bloodbornepathogenstrainingonline.com/index.html))  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. NIMS and ICS Training Courses (all available online at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/ICSResource/TrainingMaterials.htm>):
    - i. IS-700.A “National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction,”
    - ii. IS-100b “Introduction to Incident Command System,”
    - iii. IS-200b,
    - iv. IS-800.b
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ The handler must maintain and present for inspection a 24-hour Field Pack. (\*GBK9SAR modifications of NASAR SarTech II and K9 pack list – <http://www.nasar.org/page/61/Pack-List-and-FAQ>)
5. The handler must demonstrate adequate physical fitness to be effective in the field. Within 3 months prior to testing or fielding, the handler must complete a 3-mile hike on dirt trail (not pavement) with 20 lb. pack in 1 hour.
6. The handler must demonstrate, show certificate of course completion and/or be able to articulate their understanding of the following skills:
  - a. Radio operation and/or HAM License
  - b. Land Navigation
  - c. Demonstration of knots (a. Figure 8 on a bite, b. Figure 8 bend (follow through) around an object joining two ropes together, c. Water knot (overhand bend))
  - d. Understanding of scent theory, weather behavior, odor behavior
  - e. Principles of Scent Detection
  - f. K9 related Legal topics
  - g. Crime Scene awareness
  - h. Training records/log book maintenance
  - i. Search Strategy
  - j. K9 care, nutrition, and first aid
  - k. Handler ethics and responsibilities
  - l. Proper collection and storage of scent articles
  - m. Proper maintenance and placement of training aids
  - n. Knowledge of Lost Person Behavior(Instruction re many of the above topics can be satisfied via online SAR K9 course at <http://www.maine-learning.com/course-catalog/general-online-training-courses/product/21-use-and-training-of-search-and-rescue-dogs-basic.html>)





## GREAT BASIN K-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE K9 REQUIREMENTS

1. K9 REQUIREMENTS must be completed prior to testing and signed off not more than one year prior to testing by a GBK9SAR Mission Ready K9 Handler or Tri-State-K9 Evaluator.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_TEMPERAMENT: the dog must be able to operate effectively and non-aggressively (both toward humans and dogs) in all working situations. This will be evaluated over time during the 6- month training period preceding testing and will be signed off by a GBK9SAR Officer or Trainer within one month prior to testing.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_ADJACENT AREA SEARCHING: The dog must be able to work effectively alongside other dog teams without undue distraction.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_NIGHT WORK: The dog team must show the ability to complete a 20-minute nighttime search problem and will successfully locate and give a trained alert behavior (Find/Refind, Bark) which is recognizable at night.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_AGILITY: The handler must demonstrate the ability to safely and confidently control the dog off-leash through the following skills (Trailing dogs may be on leash.)
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_Jump at least three feet into a specified area.
    - ii. \_\_\_\_\_Crawl under an obstacle 3/4 of the dog's height.
    - iii. \_\_\_\_\_Climb onto and walk a log or obstacle 3-4 feet off the ground and 10 feet long.
    - iv. \_\_\_\_\_Not jump off area/object until commanded to do so.
    - v. \_\_\_\_\_Walk through a culvert or small tunnel.
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_OBEDIENCE: Generally, the handler must have off-lead control of the dog at all times when training and/or searching. Dogs will not be allowed to approach/interfere with other dogs while training and/or searching. Dogs must be responsive to handler commands. This will be evaluated over time during the 6-month training period preceding testing and will be signed off by a GBK9SAR Officer or Trainer within one month prior to testing.
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_COME: Dog must come directly without hesitation.
    - ii. \_\_\_\_\_SIT/DOWN: Dog must demonstrate change of positions to sit and down when commanded by their handler.
    - iii. \_\_\_\_\_STOP ON RECALL (dog will go towards handler and when given a command, stop, down or sit within a very short distance for safety reasons).
    - iv. \_\_\_\_\_STAY: 3 Minutes with handler out of sight.
    - v. \_\_\_\_\_HEEL or CLOSE OFF LEASH: Dog must remain within 2 feet of the handler while walking OFF LEASH through milling group of people (may be performed on leash for trailing dog handlers.)
    - vi. \_\_\_\_\_HEEL or CLOSE ON LEASH: (Loose leash/on dead ring or flat collar) while weaving through a line of dog/handler teams that are on a down stay and under direct control of their handlers.
    - vii. \_\_\_\_\_GREETING: Two dog/handler teams will walk toward each other with their dogs on leash. The dogs must remain under control and neutral while the handlers shake hands and speak briefly with each other.
    - viii. \_\_\_\_\_ACCEPT a MUZZLE: The dog remain calm in a muzzle while heeling for a period of 2 minutes (necessary for helicopter loads/travel.)
    - ix. \_\_\_\_\_When possible (prior to testing/deploying,) K9 team will successfully participate in a Helitac lecture and Hot Load with their K9
2. ADDITIONAL K9 REQUIREMENTS to be verified immediately prior to testing:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_AGE: The dog must be at least 12 months of age to test.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_VACCINATIONS: All dogs must have proof of vaccinations (Rabies/ DHLPP.)
3. TRAINING LOG REVIEW:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_TRAINING LOGS: The handler must produce at least 6 months of written training records reflecting a minimum of 16 hours/month in the discipline that they are testing.



## GREAT BASIN K-9 SAR TRAINING LOG

Handler: \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer present: \_\_\_\_\_

K9: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ End Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Mileage RT: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Training Group	Training Type	Set up	Obedience	Agility
All Team	Live/Wilderness	Surface	Heel on leash	Hop up onto/into
Solo	Live/Urban	Elevated	Heel off leash	Crawl under
Certification	Live/Building	Buried	Long Stay	Crawl through
Deployment	HR/Wilderness	(In)accessible	Emerg. Stop	Walk plank
Lecture	HR/Urban	Known	Send out	Jump over
Handler	HR/Building	Blind	Dog/Dog obed.	
Demo	Indication drills	Double Blind	Greeting	
Medical	Open Water	Proofing	Recall	
Presentation	Shoreline	Animals distr.	Muzzle	
Other:	Avalanche	Other:	Sit/Down	

Training Terrain/Area Description/Area Size:

Training Objective/# of Victim/# Aids HR Setup/Set Time:

Training Aids used/set times/sniff times:

Results (TFR, Miss, False+ etc) to include deficiencies and corrective measures implemented.



## READING LIST

There are many books and online resources which cover all aspects of SAR and K9 SAR. Here is a list to get you started:

[Cadaver Dog Handbook](#), Andy Rebmann

[Search Dog Training](#), Sandy Bryson, The Boxwood Press, 183 Ocean View Blvd.  
Search & Rescue Technical Notes, Hatch Graham, P.O. Box 39, Somerset, Ca 95684

[Scent and the Scenting Dog](#), Wm Syrotuck, Arner Publications NY  
Technical information on how the dog's sense of smell actually works and the physiology of the K-9 nose. This is a foundation read!

[Analysis of Lost Person Behavior](#), Wm Syrotuck, Arner Publications, NY  
A scientific study of the behavior of lost persons - includes children, hunters, retarded people.

[Scent, Training to Track and Search & Rescue](#), Milo Pearsall & Huga Verbruggen, MD, Alpine Publications

[Practical Scent Dog Training](#), Lue Button, Alpine Publication  
Step-by-step training guide for air scent, evidence search, disaster search and AKC tracking test.

[Search and Rescue Dogs, Training Methods](#), The American Rescue Dog Assoc. Howell Book House, ISBN: 0876057334  
An excellent basic guide to SAR and a must for anyone interested in joining or forming a SAR unit. Covers training needed, equipment, and what you may have to do on a mission.

[Ready! The Training of the Search and Rescue Dog](#), Susan Bulanda, Doral Publishing, ISBN: 0944875416  
All America is thrilled by Search and Rescue missions especially when the well-trained dogs are brought in to save victims of earthquakes hurricanes and man-made disasters.

[Help! This Animal Is Driving Me Crazy](#), Dr. Daniel Tortora, Playboy Press (paperback)  
Behavior, Development, and Training the Dog, Fredric Sautter & John Glover, ARCO Publishing Co

[Don't Shoot The Dog](#), Karen Pryor, Bantam Books (paperback)  
Explains how to use operant conditioning to shape behavior in all creatures--humans, dogs, cats other creatures.

[Mothers Knows Best](#), Carol Lea Benjamin, Howell Book House

Dog Behavior, Why Dogs Do What They Do, Ian Dunbar, T.F.H. Publication, Inc., Neptune, NY

Puppy development, body language, canine communication, social behavior, sexual behavior and domestication of the dog. Excellent reference book from popular vet/behaviorist/trainer/ lecturer Dr. Ian Dunbar!

[The Dog's Mind](#), Bruce Fogle, Pelham Books, (Penquin Books USA, Inc., 375 Hudson St N.Y., N.Y. 10014, paperback)

Observing dog behavior is a fascinating pastime! This book explains canine behavior from its origin in the wild to its expression in the domesticated animal. Leaves you with a deeper respect for your furry friends and insights into how to train effectively.

[The Culture Clash](#), Jean Donaldson, James & Kenneth Publishers

Subtitle: A revolutionary new way of understanding the relationship between humans and domestic dogs. The author's work with her own dogs and those of her clients, combined behaviorists has led her to the realization that dogs probably learn exclusively through conditioning of various types. Understand the role of conditioning of a dog's intelligence & morality; predatory & social behavior; socialization, conflict resolution, fear & aggression; behavior problems & solutions.

[Smart Trainers, Brilliant Dogs](#), Janet R. Lewis, Canine Sports Productions, Lutherville, MD 21093

Whatever your interest: obedience, agility, tracking, herding, conformation or just having a well-trained companion, gain a new understanding of how dogs perceive our commands and respond to them. Explains all the new training lingo like "positive reinforcement," "negative punishment," and "forced" vs. "induced."

[Be an Expert with Map and Compass](#), Bjourn Kjellstrom, Charles Scribner's Sons, NY, ISBN: 0020292651

This updated edition includes everything the beginner needs to know about orienteering: understanding map symbols; traveling by map alone, by compass alone, or by map and compass together; finding bearings; sketching maps; traveling in the wilderness; and more. The ultimate reference for anyone who wants to feel more at home in the outdoors.

[Map, Compass and Campfire](#), Donald Ratliff, Binforde and Mort. Publishers, ISBN: 0832301299

[Tracking: A Blueprint for Learning How](#), Jack Kearney, Pathway Press El Cajon, CA 92020

[Man Tracking, Introduction to the Step by Step Methods](#), Roland Robbins, Search & Rescue Magazine, P.O. Box 153, Montrose, Ca 91020 (NASAR Book)

[The ABC's of Avalanche Safety](#), Edward R. LaChapelle, Colorado Outdoor Sports Co, Denver, CO (available through REI)

Avalanche Dogs, Willy Grundherr, 1203, Granite Creek Rd, Santa Cruz, CA 95065

The Avalanche Handbook, U.S. Dept. Of Agriculture, Forest Service, Miscellaneous Publication

[International Mountain Rescue Handbook](#), Hamish MacInnes, Charles Scribner's Sons NY

[Tracking Dog: Theory and Methods](#), Glen Johnson, Arkner Publications

Tracking: From the Beginning, Gary Patterson, Sirius Publishing

Detailed and well illustrated book for teaching your dog to track. Excellent section on conditioning and reinforcement. Probably directed more towards law enforcement.

[Scent: Training to Track, Search & Rescue](#), Milo Pearsal & Dr. Hugo Verbruggen, Alpine Publication, CO

A thorough review of tracking theory and method. Excellent section on the scientific qualities of scent - how dogs smell and the environmental factors that affect scent. One of the classic tracking books!

[Canine First Aid for Search Dogs](#), Adela Morris

[Wilderness Search & Rescue](#), Tim Setnika, 1980 Applachian Mountain Club, Boston Mass  
Fire Weather, Agriculture Handbook 360, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service. (out of print - check library or borrow)

[International Mountain Rescue Handbook](#), Hamish MacInnes 1972, Charles Schribner & Sons, NY