

SAR Dog Track 2010

**Wednesday, May 12**

**SAR DOG 1900-2200**

**Canine SAR Wellness and Essential First Aid**

*Dr. Charles Halford, DVM, Memphis, TN*

This presentation will focus on the special needs of SAR canines. These dogs need to be in optimal condition and health to sustain training requirements and maintain readiness. We will cover how to establish a comprehensive wellness program for your dog. We will cover which laboratory tests are most critical and what they mean. These will include blood tests, radiographs, urinalysis, and ultrasound. We will cover the most current information on vaccine protocols and the most recent developments in heartworm disease treatment and prevention. In addition, we will cover basic information on field first-aid. There should be ample opportunity to ask questions so we can make this opportunity as useful as possible.

**Thursday, May 13**

**1330-1500**

**Workshop K9 #1, SAR Dog**

**SAR Canine Legal Updates and Opinions**

*Terry Fleck*

This workshop is for SAR dog handlers, supervisors and administrators. It deals specifically with case law trends, industry standards, documentation, court room testimony and sample guidelines

**1530-1700**

**Workshop K9 #2, SAR Dog**

**SAR Canine Legal Updates and Opinions (Con't)**

*Terry Fleck*

**1830-2000**

**SAR DOG SIG**

**Enhancing the Performance of Canine Teams through Research and Implementation of the Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal detector Guidelines (SWGDOG)**

*Professor Kenneth G. Furton, International Forensic Research Institute, Miami, FL*

The Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal detector Guidelines (SWGDOG) are being developed by a membership of respected scientists, practitioners, and policy makers representing diverse backgrounds. SWGDOG was formed in 2004 and has been cooperatively funded by the NIJ, FBI, DHS and TSWG. This project was undertaken as a response to concerns coming from a variety of sectors including law enforcement, homeland security and disaster response regarding the need to improve the reliability of detector dog teams and their optimized combination with electronic detection devices. The approval of each subcommittee best practice document takes approximately 6 months to complete including a two month period of public comments. Establishing consensus based best practices for the use of detection teams is providing a variety of benefits including improved interdiction efforts as well as courtroom acceptance by improving the consistency and performance of deployed teams. This presentation also provides an update of ongoing studies involving the identification of detector dog odorants as well as the stability and composition of human scent and its ability to transfer and be differentiated by canine and instruments.

**Friday, May 14**

**0830-1000**

**Workshop K9 #3 SAR Dog**

**Dogs, Technology, and IC**

*Ben Alexander, Cen-Tex SAR*

*TC Crippen*

This workshop will focus on the interface between human remains detection dogs and today's expanded technology capabilities. Historical aspects of water recovery and the similarities and differences between land recovery missions and water recovery missions will be examined. The benefits of utilizing sonar, gps, gis, trackstick mapping, historical and current weather data, and real-time computer interface will be presented. The importance of sonar operator competence, boat safety, and boat driver experience will be discussed as well as design platforms for the dogs to work off of on the boats. IC resource deployment, search strategy, scent movement and underwater topography, and the effects of body condition and thermoclines will be examined.

**1100-1200**

**Workshop K9 #4 SAR Dog**

**Dogs, Technology, and IC (Con't) Case Studies**

*Ben Alexander, Cen-Tex SAR*

*TC Crippen*

This workshop will focus on case studies incorporating the use of search dogs (trailing, area, and hrd), sonar, gps/gis, weather data, communications, and real time mapping. Case studies presented will focus on utilizing resources efficiently and to obtain the best potential outcome. Lessons learned will cover confounding effects, errors, placement of rest areas and IC, proper utilization of resources, communication of case info to the boots on the ground, and the limitations and benefits of eye witness accounts. The importance of utilizing the right resources for the job will be emphasized. Properly trained and credentialed search dogs enhanced by these technological tools can greatly decrease the search time and make the job easier for law enforcement.

**1330-1500**

**Workshop K9 #5 SAR Dog**

**Building the HRD Final Response**

*Ben Alexander, Cen-Tex SAR*

*Tiffanie Turner, Cen-Tex SAR*

This workshop will focus on the elements required to build a successful and reliable final response in human remains detection dogs. Classroom discussion of these elements will focus on starting with a dog that has drive, the connection of reward to target odor and the drive to obtain it, the connection of target odor to commitment by raising the expectation of the dog that when target odor is present the reward will appear, and the connection of commitment to final response. Trained properly the final response is a conditioned response to the odor in expectation of the appearance of the reward. Ultimately, odor should equal reward in the dog's mind. The field work portion of the workshop will focus on application of these elements. This workshop is appropriate for beginner dogs as well as motivational for seasoned dogs.

**1530-1700**

**SAR Dog SIG**

**SAR Dog Community Meeting**

*Ann Christensen, NASAR SAR Dog Committee Chair*

**SAR DOG 1900-2200**

**Puppy Enrichment – Raising a SAR Dog Litter**

*Ben Alexander, Cen-Tex SAR*

*Tiffanie Turner, Cen-Tex SAR*

Puppy enrichment is not a new concept. Scott and Fuller performed research on the affects of enrichment programs in the 60's on military working dog progeny. The "superdog" program, as it was known, utilized simple stimuli applied early in development resulting in an increased tolerance to stress, enhanced cardio vascular performance and stronger heart beats, healthier adrenal glands, and more resistance to disease. Each of these factors could enhance the chance of producing puppies better suited for the stressful environment to which search dogs are often exposed too. Further support for the potential of early enrichment was found by Wells and Hepper (2006) who found evidence that supports that puppies are able to detect specific scents while still in the womb. Taking these one step farther, environmental conditioners such as surfaces, obstacles, textures, and noises can be introduced as early as day 3. Genetically predisposed working dogs can go from good SAR candidates to super SAR candidates. We will examine an example of how to implement enrichment with an entire litter, a litter of 6 border collie pups who all became successful working SAR dogs.

**Saturday, May 15**

**0830-1730**

**Workshop K9 #6-9, SAR Dog**

**Canine Behavior Modification**

*Craig Schultz, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.*

This presentation will identify and discuss the roles of several key contributing factors that effect working dog behavior. Through careful examination of how those influences interconnect to form the working dog's perceptions, experiences during training and behavioral expression we can understand how behaviors develop (desirable or undesirable). This in turn, will ultimately aid us in producing more efficient and more dependable canines with greater success in scent detection tasks. The lecture portion of this module will focus primarily on how canines learn with the various input systems that effect behavior while the hands on portion will be spent integrating the information from the lecture into problem solving applications.

**SAR DOG 1900-2000**

**Anubis, Coyote and Lassie: Canine Archetypes for Search and Rescue**

*Leslie Middleton, J.D., Ph.D, Little Rock, AR.*

This imaginative presentation explores the world of K-9 Search and Rescue through the lens of mythological canine archetypes. A unique blend of information about law, psychology, mythology, SAR and dogs is explored to better understand K-9s, their handlers and the "territory" within which they work. Anubis is the Egyptian god in charge of preservation of bodies. Using this image as a metaphor, the K-9 SAR area of human remains detection (HRD) is examined with emphasis on forensic law applicable to the preservation of evidence for legal purposes. Coyote is a familiar trickster figure in Native American mythology. Coyote is used as a metaphor for K-9 SAR area searches. The tricky area of the law of

evidence and courtroom testimony is explored in this context. Lassie and other modern images of canine heroes are examined last as a metaphor for trailing searches, a search for relating to the living and bringing them “home”. What “wells” has Timmy fallen into lately? What is the psychological profile of the hero that affects K-9 SAR work? The presenter is an attorney, a mythologist, and a K-9 handler.