

Canine Finds



A publication of the SAR Dog Section, National Association for Search and Rescue

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FUTURE NASAR BOD MEETINGS

September 16-17 – Charlotte

November 15 – teleconference

Stay informed. Watch the NASAR website for minutes of the July 19 teleconference meeting and of future meetings.



2nd Annual Hernandez SAR Dog Scholarship Available

DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING

Closing date for receipt of application is

August 31, 2006.

NASAR has received a second sponsorship from Keith and Kai Hernandez in honor of her deceased husband, Glen Thompson, who was a victim of the attack on the World Trade on September 11, 2001.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone who wants to get into SAR K-9 work as the backing will

assist with the costs of obtaining and training a SAR Dog. This sponsorship consists of the following:

- The purchase price, up to \$1,000, of a puppy from the breeder of your choice;
- The first year's medical expenses;
- The cost of NASAR SARTECH II Certification (if needed)
- The cost of NASAR Canine Certification,
- \$100.00 assistance with training costs for the first year and
- \$200 towards the second year's training.

Requirements for acceptance of application:

Applicant must:

1. Be either an Individual member or Organizational member of NASAR. (The dog will be signed over to an individual.)
2. Agree to train the dog for Area Search/Air Scent, Disaster or both.
3. Agree to seek NASAR Canine Certification within two (2) years of receiving the dog.
4. Agree that, if the recipient stops participating in Canine SAR within four (4) years of receiving the dog, or fails to continue to meet the sponsorship requirements, they will notify the NASAR SAR Dog Committee. The breeder and/or sponsor will have the right to request the dog be returned.
5. Agree to be bound by the breeder's contract.

The application is on the NASAR website. Interested applicants should send their application to: NASAR SAR Dog Section, Attention Sponsorship Program at sardogs@nasar.org

NEW POLICY

Effective 19 July 2006, the following is adopted as NASAR policy:

No dog shall be tested for NASAR certification until it has reached at least twelve (12) months of age. The handler shall present proof that their canine is at least twelve (12) months of age prior to testing.

It is understood that many people may not have purchase or registration documentation that shows a dog's actual date of birth. It will be the policy of the SAR Dog Section to be reasonably liberal in accepting proof of a dog's age. SAR Dog Section Coordinators are instructed as to the following examples of acceptable documentation:

- Shot records covering a period of time that will make a dog at least one year old.
- Paperwork from the dog adoption center or agency where the dog was obtained (if applicable) which would indicate that the dog would be at least one year old at the time of testing.
- American Kennel Club (AKC), United Kennel Club (UKC) or equivalent registration paperwork.
- A letter from a licensed DVM attesting that, their professional opinion, the dog is at least one year old.

The foregoing are examples of, but not the only, acceptable proof.

If a candidate is in doubt, they should contact the testing Coordinator in advance. If the Coordinator is in doubt as to acceptability, they should contact the Field Projects Coordinator for their region.

The SARDOG Section is considering making the Canine written examination and the Canine Disaster Responder written examinations available on line. This would enable a candidate to take the written portion on line and pay the testing fees at that point. They could then complete the field portions of the certifications at a later date.

Prior to the start of development for this project, the Section needs to determine the interest level. If you would like, and would actually utilize this method of delivery, send your responses via e-mail to srt1530@starband.net by August 15, 2006.



COOL SCARF

Cool scarves are available in many hiking stores, retail locations and catalogs. They can be bought for human and/or canine usage. However, they can also be made easily and inexpensively.

- Materials needed:
- Perlite (found in garden centers)
- 1-½ yards x 4" wide light weight cotton material (or whatever length is needed for canine's neck)
- Matching thread or glue

Fold the material in half. If so desired, trim the ends of the scarf to a point or rounded. Measure 13 inches in from each end and mark. Sew from the folded edge to the raw edge. In the center section, add Perlite to loosely fill the area. Pin closed. With a serger, sew the open side shut from one end of the material to the other. If you don't have a serger, turn the raw edges under about ½ inch and then stitch. OR this can all be glued either using fabric glue, a hot glue gun or white craft glue.

For use, dip in cold water, squeeze out the excess and tie around the dog's or your neck. As the scarf gets warm, re-dip in cold water. Scarf can also be dampened and put in the refrigerator or freezer before use.

After repeated use, some of the Perlite will evaporate. In this case, open the center portion of the scarf. Refill with Perlite and re-sew.



HEAT EXHAUSTION/HEATSTROKE

submitted by Suzie Ferguson

Hot summer temperatures with high humidity can overheat dogs more quickly than humans which can lead to heat exhaustion, followed by heatstroke (if not treated) and even death. Dogs, who are cooled by evaporation just as humans, are affected more quickly because they only have sweat glands on the pads of their feet and their noses so their ability to cool themselves is greatly decreased. Panting also helps them to cool but is not very efficient.

Heat exhaustion has several different stages. The earlier the signs are recognized and treated the better. Symptoms are:

- Heavy panting
- Followed by huffing & puffing
- Weaving when walks due to dizziness
- Lying down, refusing to move, or collapsing

Treatment:

- Move dog out of sun and into shade or air conditioning
- Give the dog small amounts of water or ice
- Rinse the dog with a hose or in a bathtub & place in front of a fan while still damp

- Place ice bags around the head and neck of the dog
- Go to the vet after the dog has cooled down
- Do NOT put the dog in a hot car! Take time to cool the vehicle first.

Heatstroke will follow heat exhaustion if it is left untreated. Symptoms are:

- Severe panting
- Very rapid pulse
- Weakness
- Staring expression
- Rectal temperature of over 106°F.

Treatment is similar to that of heat exhaustion but time is essential. The rectal temperature must drop to at least 103°F within ten (10) minutes to prevent brain damage or death.

Treatment:

- Cold water bath or shower immediately
- Apply ice around the head, neck and between the thighs along with being in air conditioning
- If the rectal temperature has not dropped to at least 103°F within the first ten (10) minutes, a cold-water enema should be given. (After this, a rectal temperature obviously can no longer be taken as it will be inaccurate.)
- If the dog stops panting, seems more relaxed and responds to the handler's voice, the dog can be given a small amount of water or ice.
- Once the dog seems stable, it should be taken to the veterinarian as soon as possible as fluids will have to be replaced.
- Do NOT put the dog in a hot car! Take time to cool the vehicle first.

In both cases, either of heat exhaustion or heatstroke, the veterinarian will probably examine the dog for possible brain or organ damage. The veterinarian may also want to replace the lost fluids with intravenous fluids and steroids and may also want to keep the dog for 24 hours for observation.



The Media

Nobody likes talking to the media but it can be an important part of search and rescue. Getting the message and description out to the public is a big asset in locating someone who is missing. The media is one of the best resources for disseminating important, time-sensitive information to the public quickly and efficiently.

Develop a relationship with local media before a crisis occurs. It is better to get to know reporters before an incident rather than in the middle of one. Invite the media out to a training session so they can find out what you do, what capabilities your team has and what assets your team can be to the community, especially in a time of crisis. Also keep your list of media contacts current.

Most interviews will occur on-scene rather than at a press conference. Remember that the reporter assigned to this story is simply working on an assignment and do not take anything personally. Speak authoritatively as you are the expert to this reporter. Provide backup information i.e. we train for this every week. Even if it does not make it on the air or into the paper, you have added to the knowledge base of that reporter. This could be a future benefit for you, your team or search and rescue in general.

Here are some basic rules to follow when dealing with the media whether you are only a searcher or are the Media Liaison:

- "No comment" should never be used. At briefings, find out if there is a Public Information Officer (PIO) that you can refer the press to and do that when questioned by the media.
- Never lie
- Never hypothesize – tell only what you know.
- If you don't know an answer to a question, say so and offer to find out the answer.
- Never make promises
- Never comment on topics or issues beyond your area of control, expertise and/or influence.



If you decide to issue a press release, it is important to ask yourself if it is newsworthy. It is also important to keep the release to one page; check the spelling and grammar; know the local media's deadlines and allow time for them to contact you for further information; and include your name and phone number.

Local newsrooms receive over 50 press releases a day. Due to space and/or time considerations, only a very few will be selected. If your release is professionally presented, the subject matter is interesting and you have a good relationship with local reporters, there is a good chance that your release will be considered.