

Standard for Training and Certification of Canine Detection of Humans: An Aged Trail Using Pre-scented Canines



WHAT IS AN AAFS STANDARD FACTSHEET?

The AAFS produces clear, concise, and easy-to-understand factsheets to summarize the contents of technical and professional forensic science standards on the OSAC Registry. They are not intended to provide an interpretation for any portion of a published standard.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STANDARD?

The detection of human scent in investigative processes is a valuable tool within canine detection applications.

This standard provides requirements for training, certification and documentation related to pre-scented canine-aged track/trail search. This detection discipline focuses on training the canine team to use a specific person's scent on a scent article to either search for and follow an associated scent trail to this specific person or a location connected with this person. The canine should discriminate the trail from all non-associated scent trails or correctly demonstrate the absence of an associated scent trail. This standard is specifically dedicated to specialized protocols for trailing canines to be used when trails are 24 hours or older.

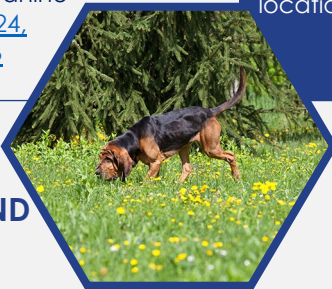
This standard is one of three in a series on Canine Detection of Humans. Also see [ANSI/ASB 024, 1st Ed., 2021](#) (location checks) and [ANSI/ASB 027, 1st Ed., 2021](#) (patrol canines).

WHY IS THIS STANDARD IMPORTANT? WHAT ARE ITS BENEFITS?

Decades of subject matter expertise and peer-reviewed scientific studies were used to develop a singular standard that can be used as the foundation for canine training and certification protocols.

Adherence to the requirements outlined in this standard promotes canine teams that consistently and reliably use pre-scented canines to detect humans on trails aged 24 hours or older.

This standard promotes consistency across organizations using pre-scented canines for location checks and relieving the judicial system of conflicting protocols.



HOW IS THIS STANDARD USED, AND WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

This standard serves as a baseline for training pre-scented canines for detection on an aged trail. Organizations deploying canine teams should adapt the required assessments to represent their traditional operational needs and relevant detection tasks.

Requirements for initial training, assessment, certification, maintenance training, scent article storage and handling, and records and document management are specified in this standard. This includes scent recognition assessments as well as operational assessments.

This standard defines the minimum search area parameters to include the number of turns on each target trail, target trail age, trail dimensions, assessment time requirements, human distractor requirements, and handling and storage of scented articles.

The canine team's documentation is the main source of data to determine the team's reliability in the judicial system. The minimum required documentation for the canine team's training, assessment, certification, and deployments are outlined within the standard.

The annexes within the standard provide related references on human scent related principles and theory to provide a foundational understanding of canine detection of humans.