

PRESERVATION OF THE SCENT ARTICLE

A properly preserved, uncontaminated scent article can be utilized over a period of time. The best way to protect the item is to seal it in a sterile glass container, if that is not available a clear plastic bag will work. Experiments have been conducted using items kept for months with success. Putting the scent article in the freezer will also aid in keeping the scent frozen. When thawed out, the scent can be revitalized for future use. In criminal investigations, it is important that the handler note exactly what is used as a scent article, where it was obtained, who handled the article, how it was packaged and where the item was stored prior to court exhibit. Another idea for preserving scent with multiple children in one household is to have each child rub a sterile gauze pad on them and store it as previously explained, this will give the handler an uncontaminated scent article due to the common problem of, "institutional scent".

SCENE PRESERVATION

In order to give the canine team the best advantage to develop the missing person's trail, the following guidelines are suggested:

1. The bloodhound needs to start at the actual crime scene and pick up the scent of the suspect. If officers have been at the crime scene, they need to stand by, so the bloodhound can eliminate their scent, this is to include any officers who entered a vehicle.
2. Protect the place last seen from unnecessary contamination. Keep nonessential officers and spectators away from this point until arrival of the canine team.
3. Do not park running vehicles where the exhaust fumes will saturate the starting point. Exhaust fumes can destroy scent and affect the canine's sense of smell.
4. Provide the best scent article as possible under the circumstances. If obtained and handled according to the aforementioned guidelines, it will improve the canine's team chances.
5. In cases where a scent article is not available, a canine team can still provide valuable assistance to a search by using the scent left at the scene. (This is due to the suspect scent being so much stronger due to the chemical change of the scent).

K-9 UNIT CODINGTON COUNTY SEARCH RESCUE

**PO Box 12
Watertown, SD 57201
(605) 882-6272 or
(605) 882-6210
Fax (605) 882-6277**



We would like to extend a special thank you to Watertown Ford Chrysler.

**FOR CANINE TEAM CONTACT:
CODINGTON COUNTY
SEARCH AND DIVE RESCUE
(605) 882-6272**

**FOR AN EMERGENCY:
9-1-1 OR (605) 882-6210**



CANINE CALL-OUT PROCEDURE



The purpose of this brochure is to provide guidelines and the call-out procedures to use for the canine unit and identify those situations where a canine unit can assist law enforcement.

PROCEDURE

The decision to call out the canine team rests with the Search and Rescue Commander. The call out of the canine team should be done immediately or as soon as practically possible after an investigation is initiated. This is necessary to avoid contamination of scent articles and increase the potential for success.

CALL-OUT SITUATIONS

A bloodhound team may be called out under any of the following conditions:

1. Missing person cases where, because of the age or infirmity of the individual, the situation requires immediate tracking.
2. Major violent crime scenes that are fresh, where evidence is available to assist the bloodhound and/or air scent canine(s) in tracking the suspect(s).
3. Kidnapping cases
4. Vehicle abandoned after having been used in a major crime.
5. Any major incident where, at the discretion of the department, it is necessary for the subject to be tracked immediately.
6. In the case of a drowning or area where it is suspected a body might be submerged in the water.
7. An incident where the investigating officer suspects human remains might be buried, burned, scattered or hanging, even a trace amount.

CANINE DISCIPLINES

The Codington Search and Rescue has a variety of canines to fit the needs of the search, which include man trailing bloodhounds, air scent canines and Human remains detection canines. Each has a specific discipline to fit the type of search requested.

USE OF AIR SCENT CANINES

Air scent K9's can be used in the event that a scent article is not present and/or a large area may need to be searched. The Air scent K9's work off lead, and can clear several acres rapidly in an area with minimal human contamination.

USE OF HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION CANINES

Human remains detection K9's have the ability to detect and pinpoint minimal amounts of human remains that may be buried, hanging, or burned. Human remains K9's can work over the water to pinpoint an area where a body may be submerged in water several feet deep.

USE OF BLOODHOUNDS

The bloodhound can be used whenever a person's scent is left at a scene. The bloodhound can trail through grass, dirt, sand, cement, carpet as well as water. The bloodhound is capable of trailing in urban and wooded areas. Examples of the versatility of bloodhounds are as follows:

1. Trailing multiple scents from a location.
2. Lineups- If proper scent articles are used; a hound can conduct lineups or pick a subject out of a crowd.
3. Trailing to bodies located in the water or buried underground.
4. Locating weapons or items discarded by subjects.
5. Locating the unknown scent by process of elimination and tracking the subject who is not at the crime scene.

CRIME SCENE PROTECTION

When the canine team is called out, the following procedures shall be utilized to maximize the opportunity for success:

1. The primary officer or supervisor in charge shall take immediate steps to limit the number of personnel in or about the crime scene.
2. It is imperative that all personnel arriving at the scene remain at the scene until the arrival of the bloodhound for scent identification.
3. The primary officer shall protect the crime scene from contamination and preserve the possible scent articles.
4. Any article that has been touched by a subject is a potential scent article and must not be touched by anyone or anything prior to the arrival of the canine handler.
5. The primary officer must ensure that all automobile engines at the crime scene or any other place the canines will be used, are shut off in order to avoid contaminating the scent.
6. The scent article must be left where they are found until the arrival of the canine handler. If the scent article must be picked up, a stick or wire can be used to place the article in a clear plastic bag (do not use trash bags).
7. Footprints in the dust or mud can also be used as scent articles and must be protected from contamination.
8. The officer at the crime scene should avoid the use of flares to prevent contamination at the scene.

WHAT IS A SCENT ARTICLE

A scent article can be any item, which has been worn, handled or been in contact with a subject. This would include clothing, personal items (e.g. wallet, keys, toothbrush, hair curlers, tools, car seat, footprints, victim's clothing where the suspect had touched, etc). There are cases where a doorknob, rocks, windowsill, matchbook and other unusual items have been used successfully. Certain items are more desirable than others as scent articles. These include upper body clothing, shirts, underclothing, nightgowns and jackets. Clothing from the family hamper is undesirable since this will definitely be contaminated.

