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Standard Guide for Demonstrating Obedience and Agility in Search and Rescue Dogs¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes the minimum obedience and agility expected of canines that are part of a search dog team or crew.

1.2 Further training is required for a canine before it may perform as a member of a search dog team or crew.

1.3 This guide applies to canine members of all search resources classified in ASTM F1848 Standard Classification System for Canine Search Resources.

1.3.1 The advanced obedience and agility skills required for canine members of Kind D (Disaster/Collapsed Structure Search) dog teams or crews are not defined in this guide.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[F1633 Guide for Techniques in Land Search](#)
[F1848 Classification System for Canine Search Resources](#)
[F2209 Guide for Training of Land Search Team Member](#)

2.2 *Other Document:*³

[SWGDOG SC1 Terminology](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F32 on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F32.02 on Management and Operations.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal detector Guidelines, FIU - MMC, Miami, FL 33199, http://casgroup.fiu.edu/pages/docs/1062/1335294274_SC1_Terminology_%28abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz%29.pdf

3.1.1 *about turn, n*—an abrupt 180° reversal of direction performed by a dog upon the command of the handler.

3.1.2 *aggressive behavior, n*—attempted or actual unprovoked attack on another canine or person. A canine may also be evaluated as aggressive if it exhibits significant warning signs of imminent unprovoked attack (continuous growling, snarling, fear-barking, etc.)

3.1.3 *agility, n*—an aspect of a dog's physical condition that characterizes the dog's dexterity and ease of movement.

3.1.4 *obedience, n*—an aspect of a dog's behavior that characterizes the dog's ability to follow instructions.

3.1.5 *off-lead, n*—a working mode for a dog where the dog and handler are not connected physically, and control of the dog is established through audible commands or visual signals.

3.1.6 *on-lead, n*—a working mode for a dog and handler physically attached by a leash.

3.2 Definitions of terms not defined in this standard can be found in Guide F1633, Guide F2209, Classification F1848, and SWGDOG SC1.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide establishes the minimum level of obedience and agility required for canines to perform safely and effectively on a search dog team or crew.

4.2 Obedience skills ensure that a dog is under the control of the handler, that it will not interfere with other resources such as search team members, rescue personnel, other search dogs, and members of the public, it can be left without the handler's supervision, and it can be evacuated by someone other than the handler.

4.2.1 All search dogs shall demonstrate the on-lead obedience skills defined in this guide.

4.2.2 All search dogs that work off-lead shall also demonstrate the off-lead obedience skills defined in this guide.

4.2.3 Off-lead obedience skills shall be demonstrated in the vicinity of a group of people and other dogs, with the accompanying noise and confusion common to search and rescue operations.

4.3 Agility skills demonstrate the dog's ability to negotiate terrain and obstacles that may be present in a search area. They