

Canine SAR Teams

Table 4-4-3: Canine SAR Team Tactics and Considerations	
Tactics	Considerations
Coordinated Dog/ Tracker	<p>Combine advantages of air-scent dog and man trackers into one task.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to deploy man tracker and air-scent dog simultaneously into high probability area; • Tracker able to pick up tracks at decision points and track traps; and • Need to train on tactic prior to incident.
Expanding Circle	<p>Thorough check around IPP/PLS/LKP to locate clues or the subject.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common at the IPP and around clues; and • Useful in searching for persons with dementia, despondent, abductions, and children.
Trail	<p>Cover high probability areas, quickly using minimal resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as ground team with extra capability of canine.
Segment	<p>Thorough technique (wind permitting) to cover large area with minimal resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canine segments the same as ground team segments; • Establish boundaries for segment; consult handlers for optimal size; and • Handler will determine method to work segment depending upon wind conditions.
Corridor	<p>Quickly cover the highest probability area with minimal resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team will work trail/road and a specified distance from the feature; • Best for subjects often located short distances from linear features; and • Need to specify distance from feature for desired coverage.
IPP/PLS/LKP	<p>Validate LKP/PLS/IPP, determine direction of travel, find subject's trail, locate subject.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to know if others have been present at IPP and previous search efforts; • If a trail is located, best to validate with multiple dogs; • Allow dog to go where it wants to go. Handler should be coupled with a team member with navigation skills; and • Special needs in urban setting.
Specific Location	<p>Verify clues and sightings, locate alternative LKPs, determine direction of travel, locate subject:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start dog from the site of a clue or sighting; and • If scent-discriminating adds validity to clue when dog follows trail.
Containment	<p>Determine if the subject crossed a feature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective if performed with a trailing dog; • Not all trailing dogs are able to perform; • Limited to a small area; and • Trailing dogs are not able to maintain focus when not following a scent.