



Incredible abilities of the dog in the search for missing persons

- Avalanche Dog
- Tracking Dog
- Trailing Dog
- Free Ranging Air Scenting Dog



Avalanche dog



Meier Marcel Alpine **Rescue** Switzerland



What is awards avalanche dog

- When searching for avalanches, the dog follows the individual scent of the human.
- The dog's nose is practically to search on the surface of the avalanche.
- Various objects that are on the avalanche do not disturb the dog.
- The downdraft of the helicopter can compact the surface depending on the snow conditions.



What it takes to be a successful team

- Dog and handler
 - The handler and the dog are willing and have the ability to perform exceptionally.
- Stress resistant
 - The handler and dog are committed to completing the assigned task in any situation and at any time.
- Foreign influences.
 - The dog and the handler are not distracted by anything.
- Combined search technique
 - The dog handler is able to search with the avalanche transceiver and his dog at the same time.



Challenges



As with humans, no master has yet fallen from the sky with dog either

With its extraordinary ability to smell, the dog can locate buried people.

At the end of the training, the dog must have the following crucial skills: independent persistent search and safe alerts

The most important thing when searching with the dog is that the handler trusts his dog and can read the dog!



Time factor transport



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Time factor transport



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Time factor transport



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Resources



- Wind

The only tool that helps the dog to succeed quickly is the wind





Avalanche accident in Switzerland, Jaun

- person was buried 5m depth
- dog found person 38 minutes after alarm
- person could be rescued hypothermic but without injuries





Thank you!



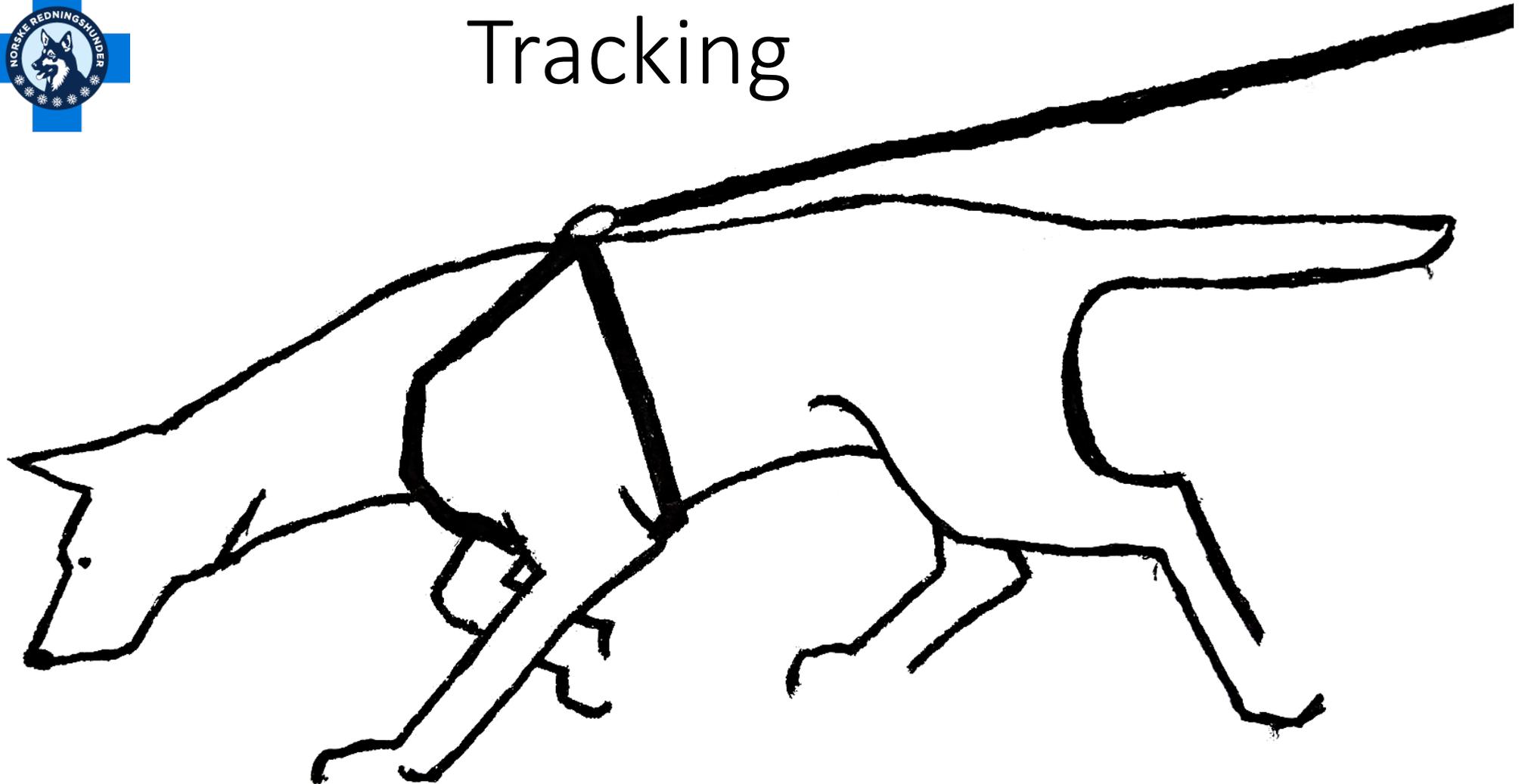
where is the victim

Avalanche

Meier Marcel Alpine **Rescue** Switzerland



Tracking





What is tracking

Tracking is when a dog follow the scent coming from the footsteps of a person.

The dog will follow the footsteps that it started on.

Crossing track from other persons is not a problem, the dog follows the individual scent.





Tuning the dog and handler

- Concentration
 - A concentrated , calm dog has a better base and prerequisites to achieve desired tracking skills.
- Routines
 - Good routines at the start of the track makes it easier for the dog to recognise the task and he can be concentrated from start.
- Reward and precision to reward at right place in right time.
 - What is a good reward for this dog.
 - The dog has a mind that works much faster then his owner.
- Ability to read the dogs behaviour.
 - Different behaviour based on breed and individual.
 - Frustration and passivity



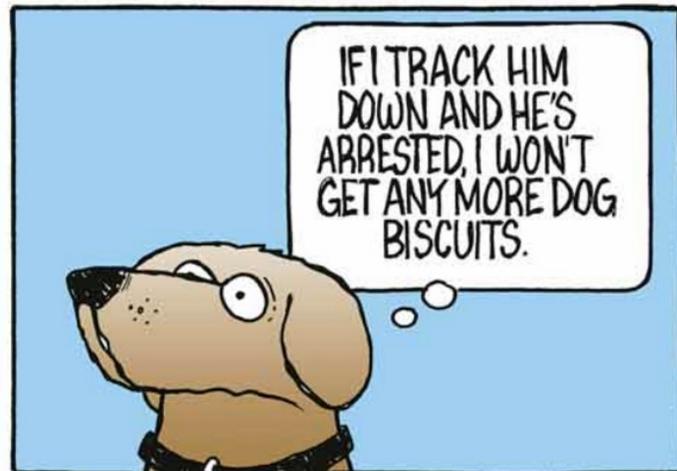
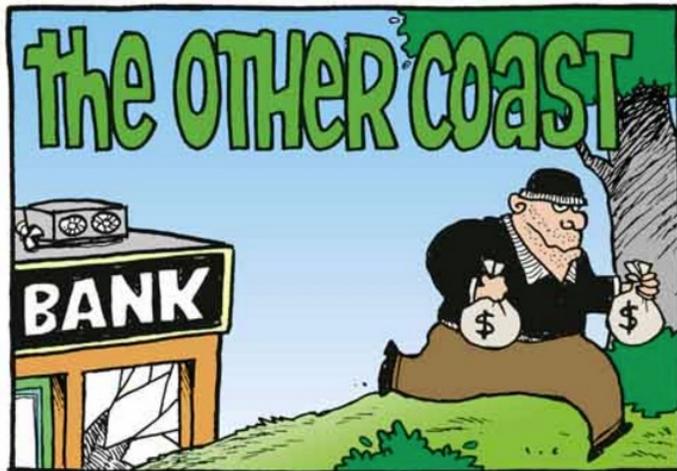
Challenges

- The dog know tracking on individual scent from birth, but don't have to use it when he get a "home"
- Different environments gives different scent and variation in difficulties.
- It's essential that the dog-handler gives the dog the right track.
 - Where is the starting point?
 - What can be used as starting point?
 - How to present the starting point to the dog?

We must first learn the dog what we expect of his tracking, before we can trust him in doing what we are expecting!



Challenges





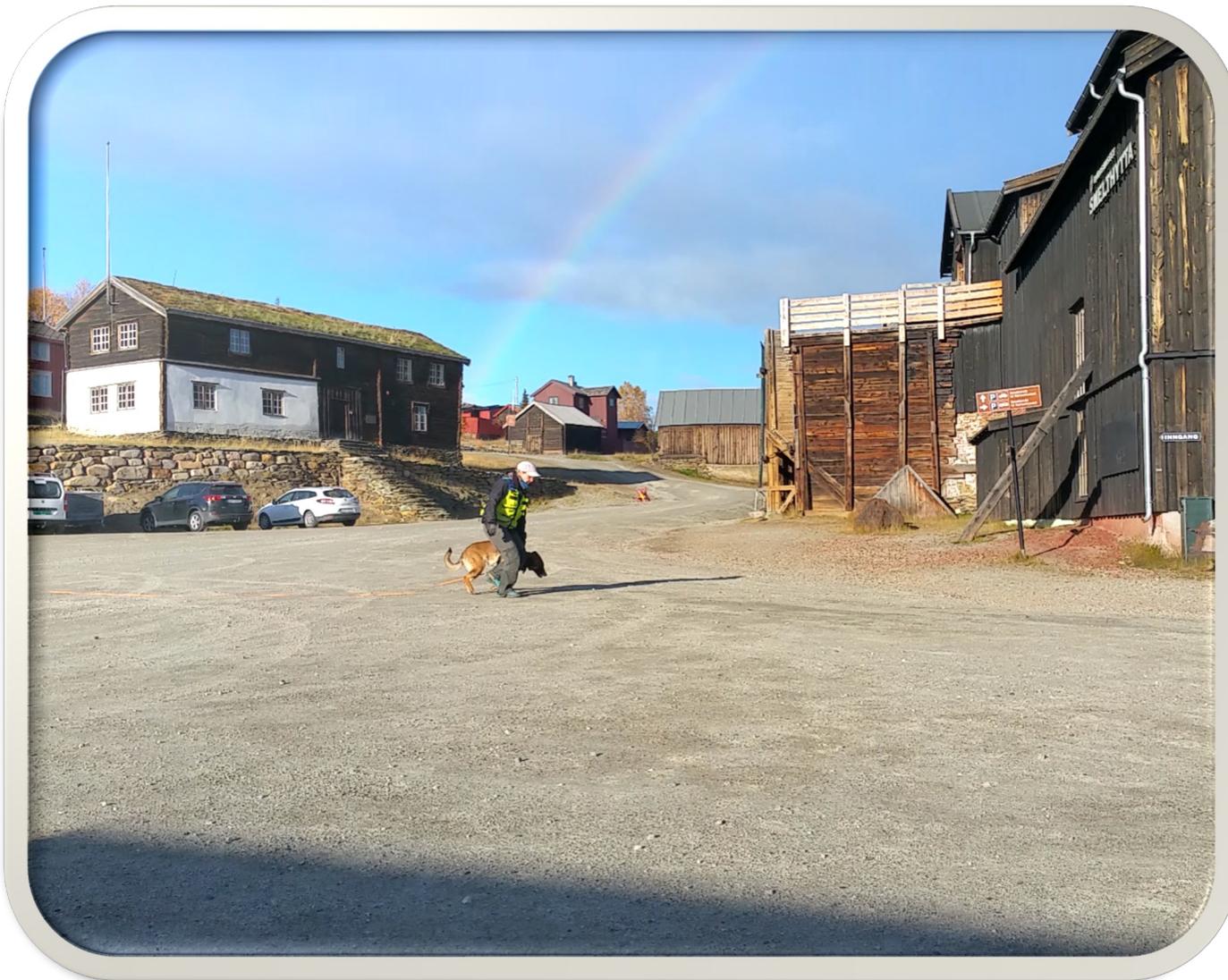
Starting point





**Lost person,
car found in a car park
in a populated
museum area in Røros.**

Anne-Kathrine & Trøst





Other starting point



Knut Skår - Norwegian Search and rescue dogs



**Lost person
Last seen leaving work
and turning left**

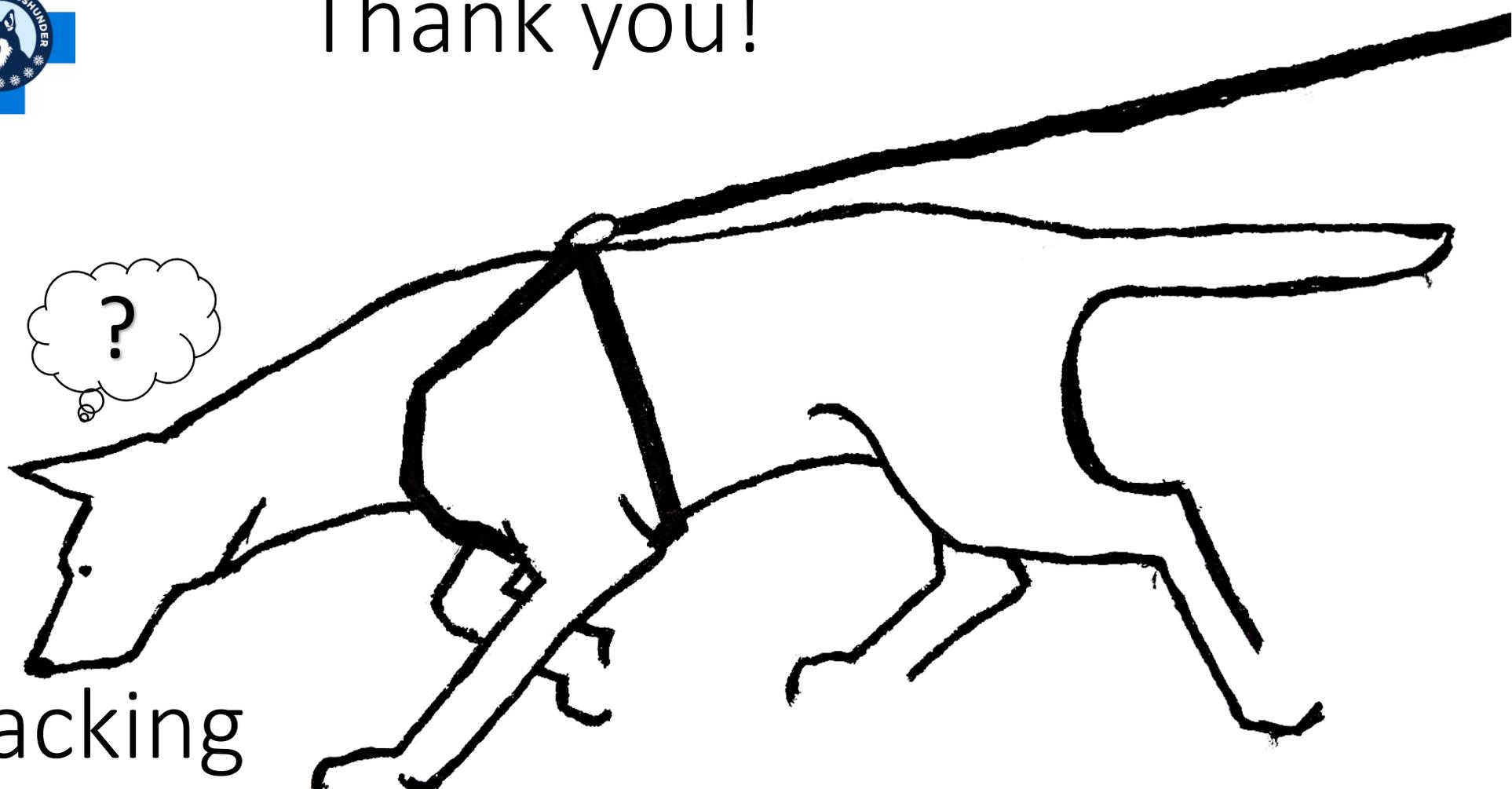
Knut & Anakin



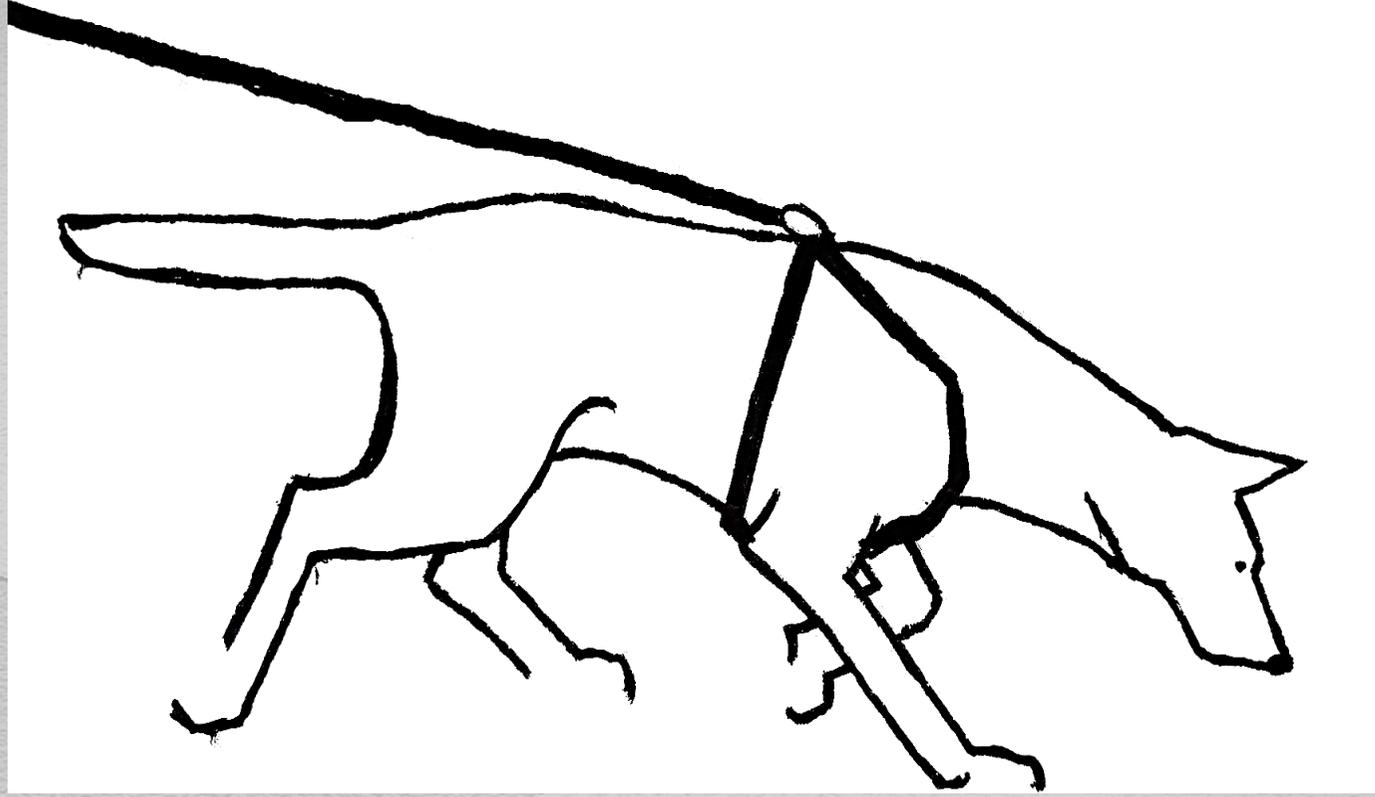


Thank you!

Tracking



Trailing



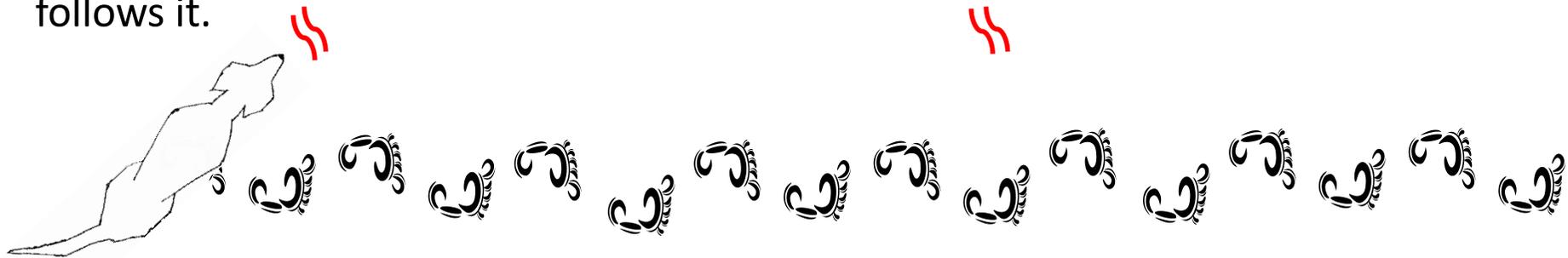
LAKE DISTRICT MOUNTAIN RESCUE +

What is Trailing

A Trailing dog follows the scent of an individual person.

Humans have a unique scent. The dog is offered an article that contains the individuals scent, usually an item of clothing.

When placed at a point last seen the dog finds this scent in the environment and then follows it.







Challenges

A reliable scent article.

Having a confirmed point last seen or last know location.

Time.

Environmental conditions.





F

E

A

PLS

B

C

D

Kirkstone Pass Car Park

Kirkstone Pass Inn

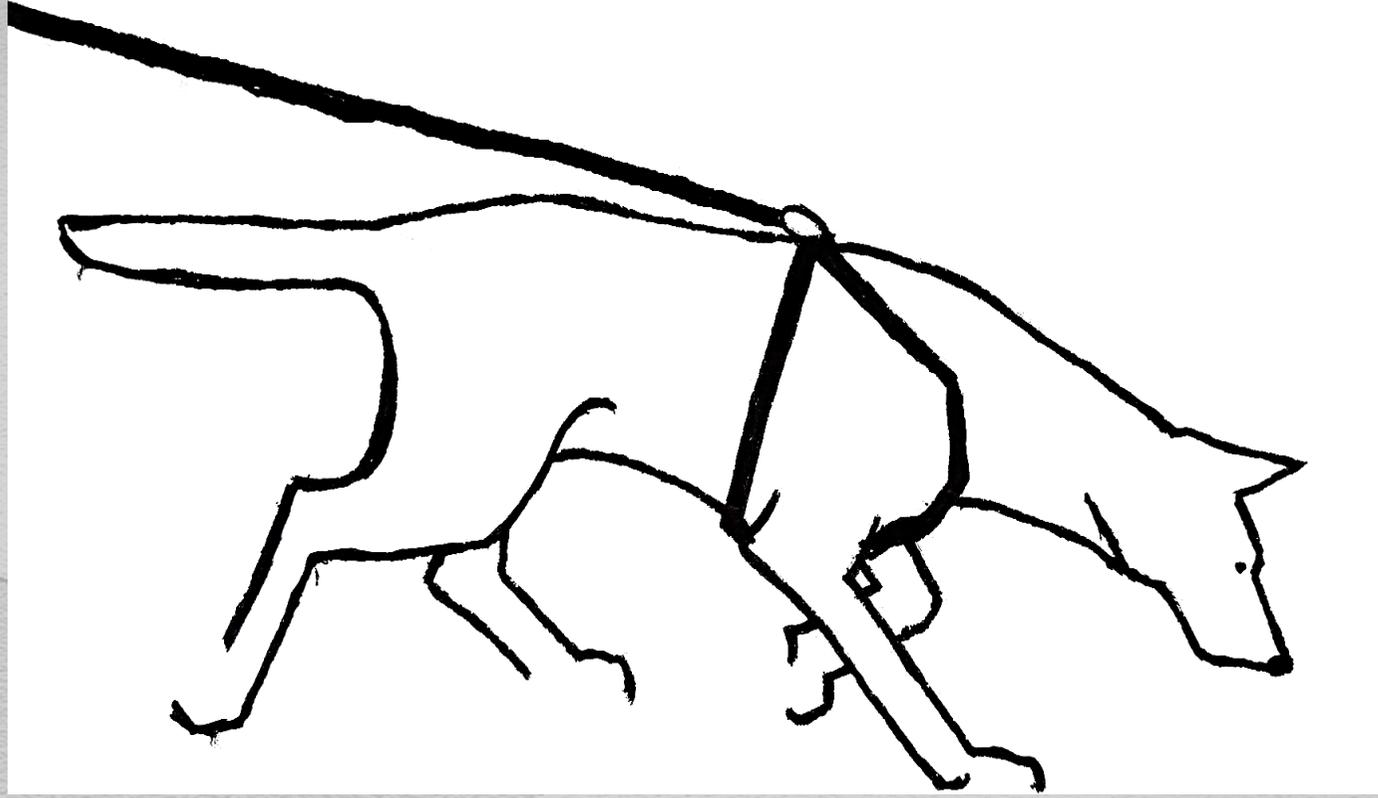
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And sometimes.....



Thank you for listening



LAKE DISTRICT MOUNTAIN RESCUE +

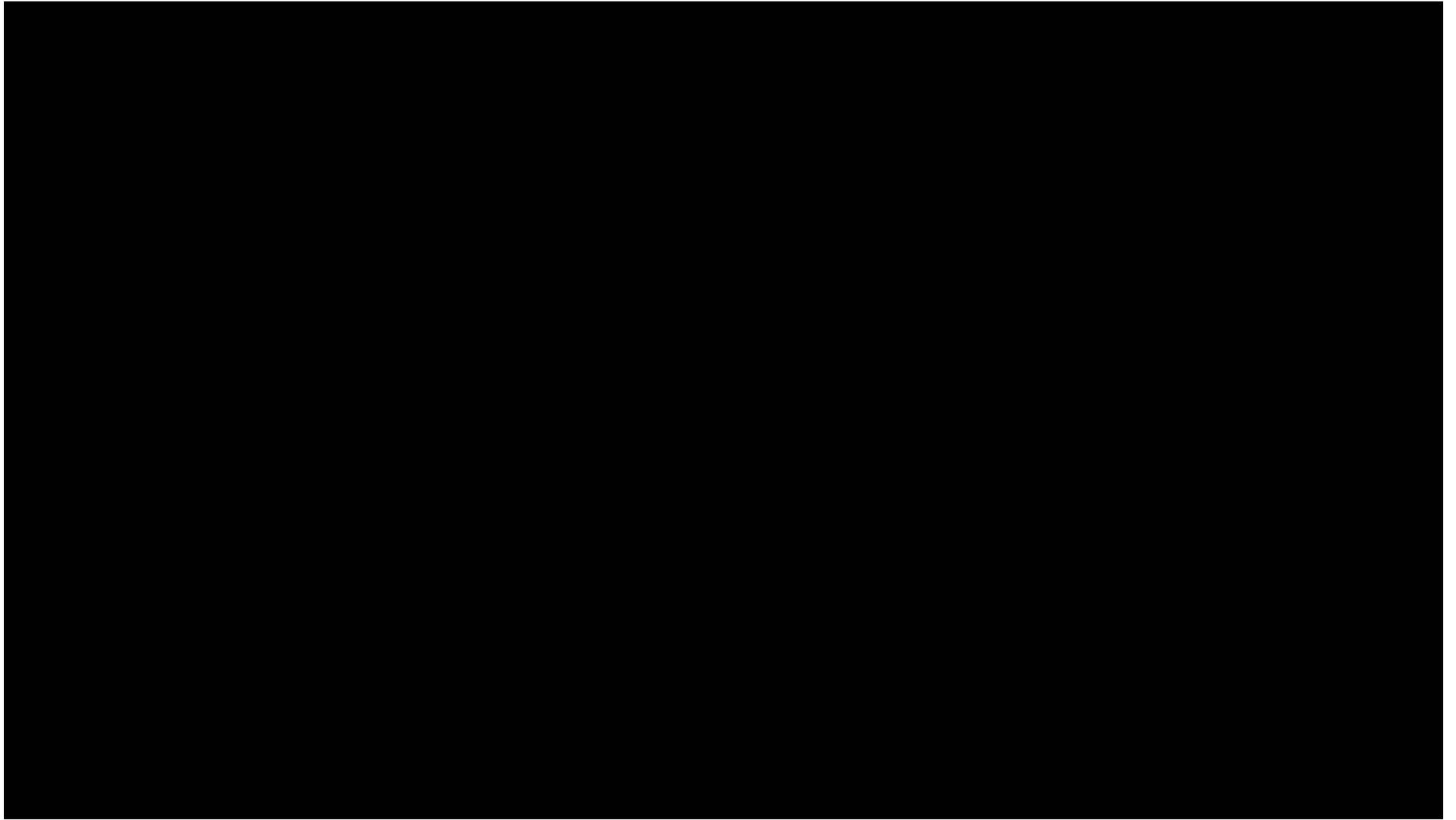
Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs



Chris Francis, Lake District Mountain Rescue Search Dogs

Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs

Dog works independently off lead often at substantial distance from handler (>100metres)



Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs

The dogs are trained to detect and follow any airborne human scent to its source, then indicate this “find” to the handler.

This will include large items such as rucksacs jackets etc.

Will also reliably find and indicate on recent fatalities before significant decomposition has started.



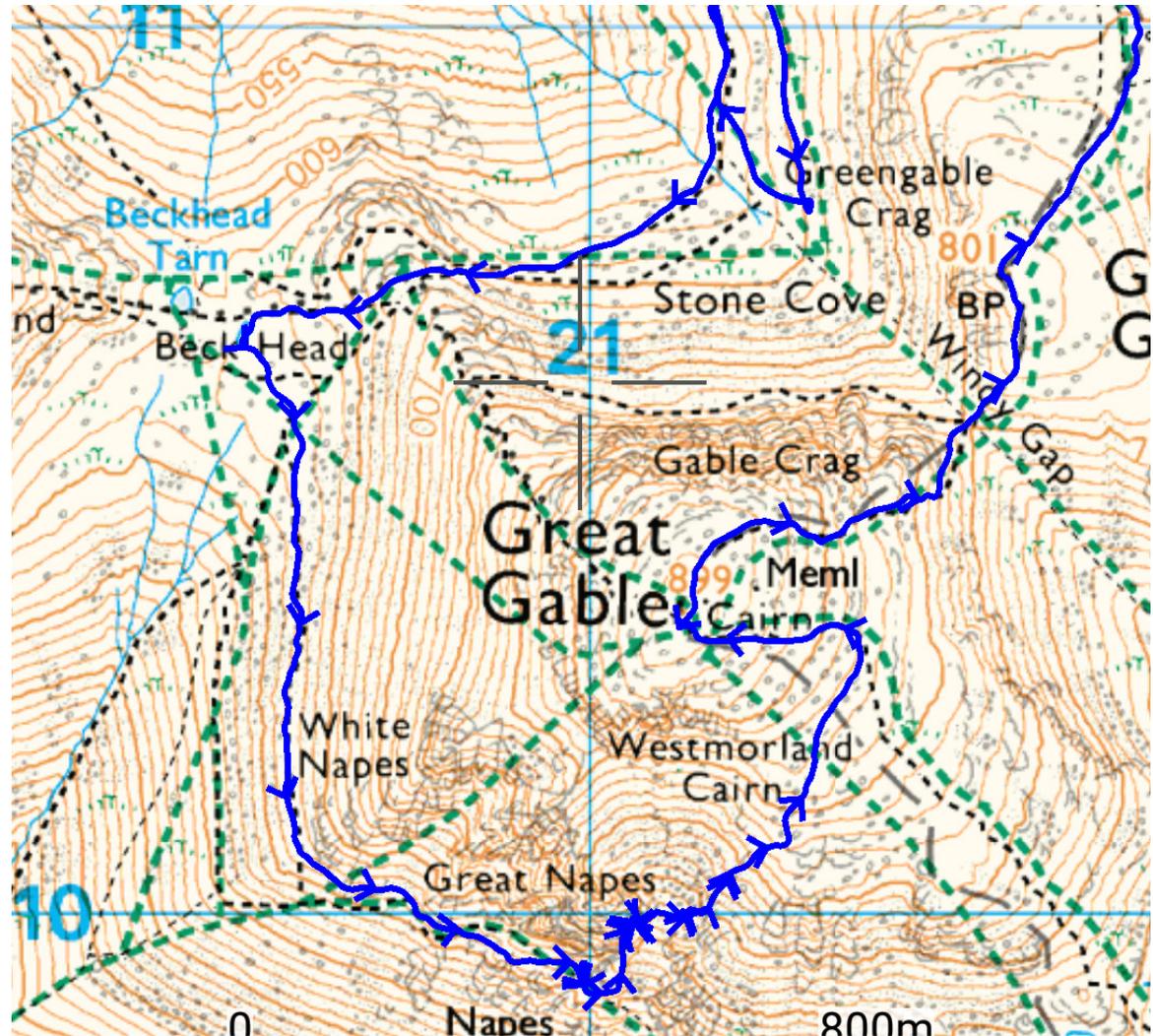
Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs

The handler will work the dog using wind, terrain etc. to search as efficiently as possible.

Usual taskings will include searching a route (path) or searching a defined area as given by search control.

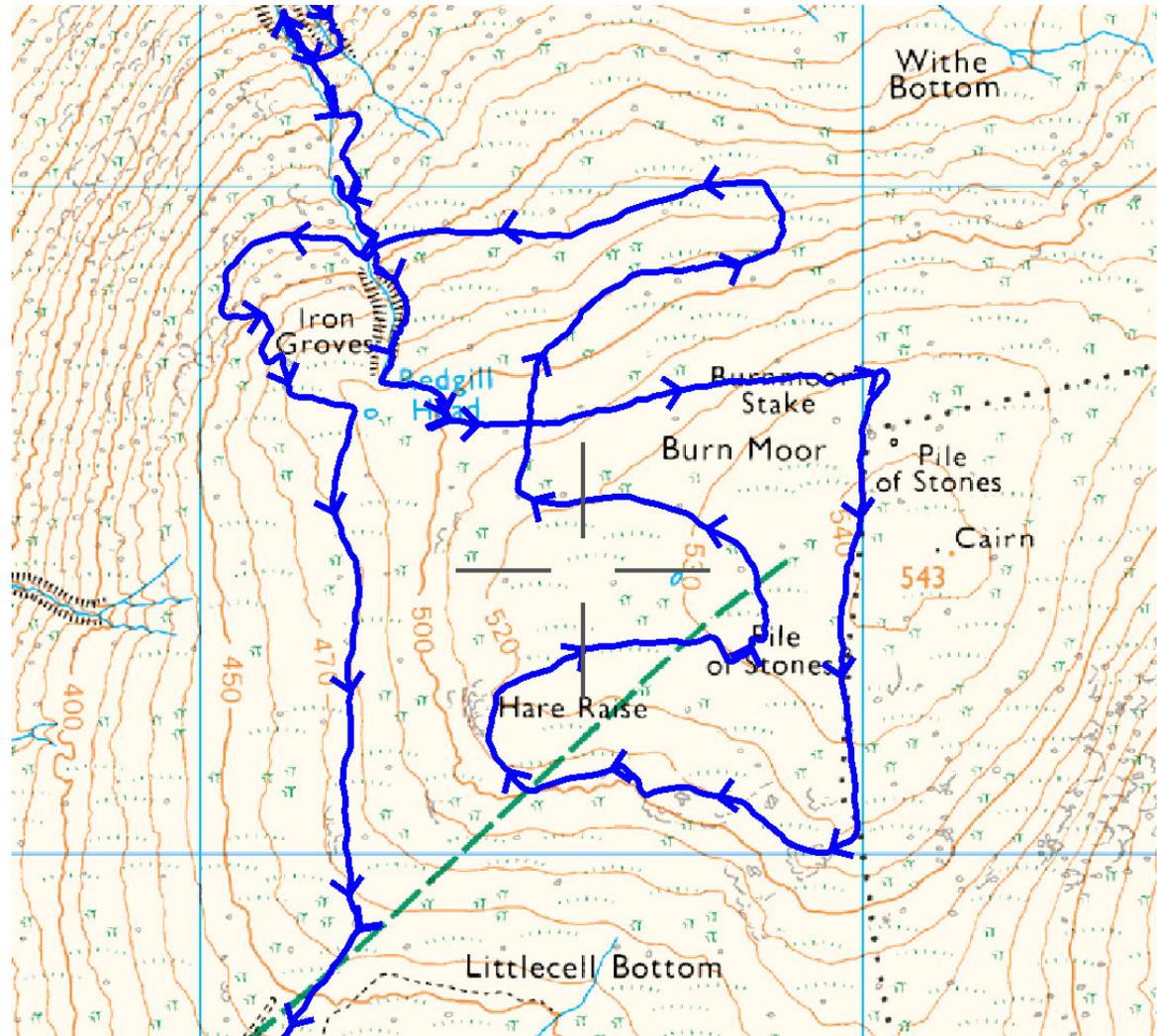
Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs

Section of a search
checking a route
(handlers GPS
track)



Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs

Searching a 1Km grid square
(handlers GPS track)



Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs

Search dogs remain effective in darkness, reduced visibility and poor weather conditions that would seriously reduce further the effectiveness of human searchers.



Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs

November 2021

A couple set off to climb Helvellyn by Striding Edge.

Weather was overcast with low cloud base.

They then split up.

By 17.30 it was completely dark and the person had not yet arrived back.

The waiting person phoned for Mountain Rescue as the missing person did not have a torch.

Patterdale Rescue Team immediately launched a search, requesting assistance from search dogs (5 Dog handlers attended) along with 2 bordering rescue teams.

A SAR helicopter was also requested with night vision and infra-red search capabilities. (use compromised by weather conditions).

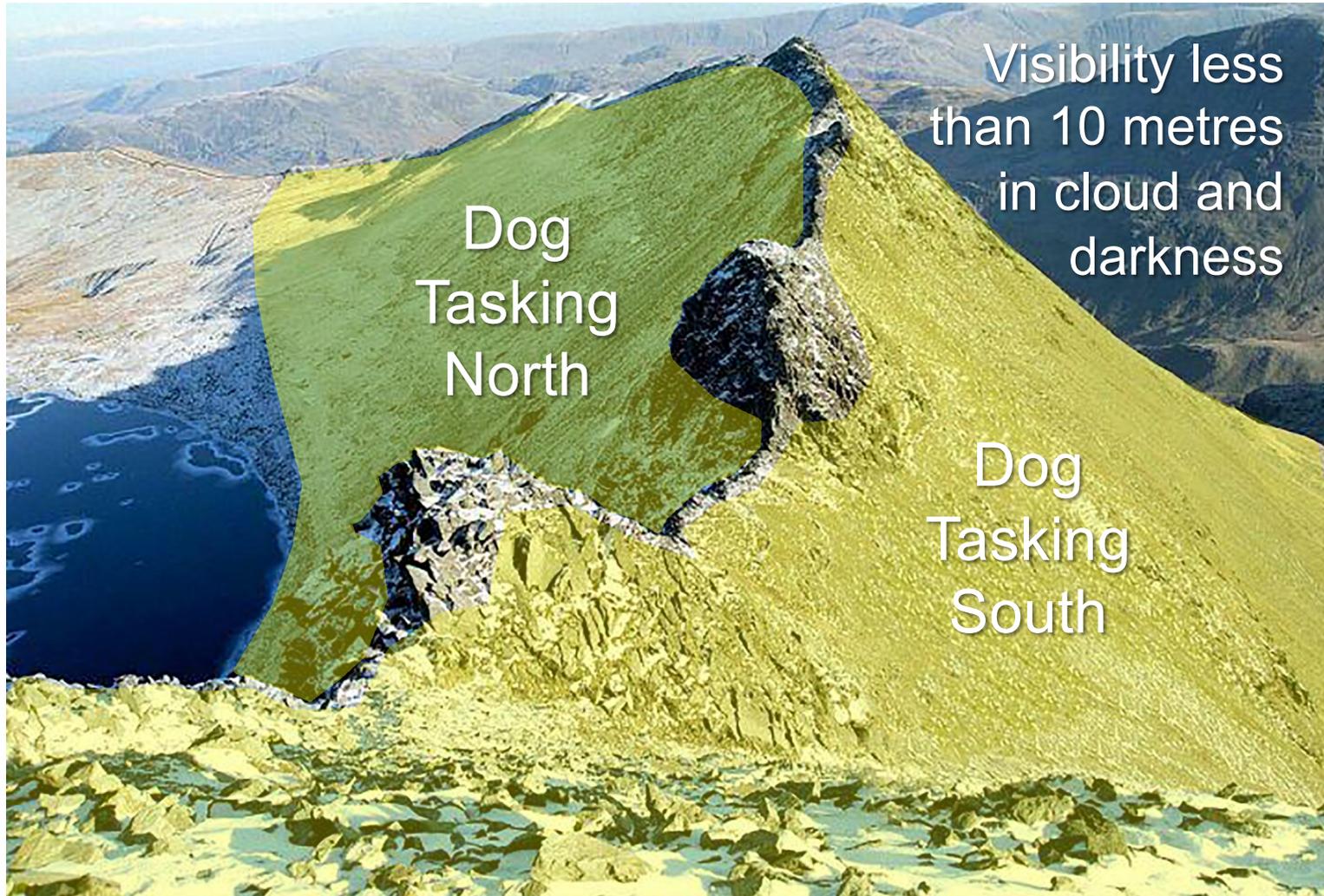
Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs



Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs



Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs



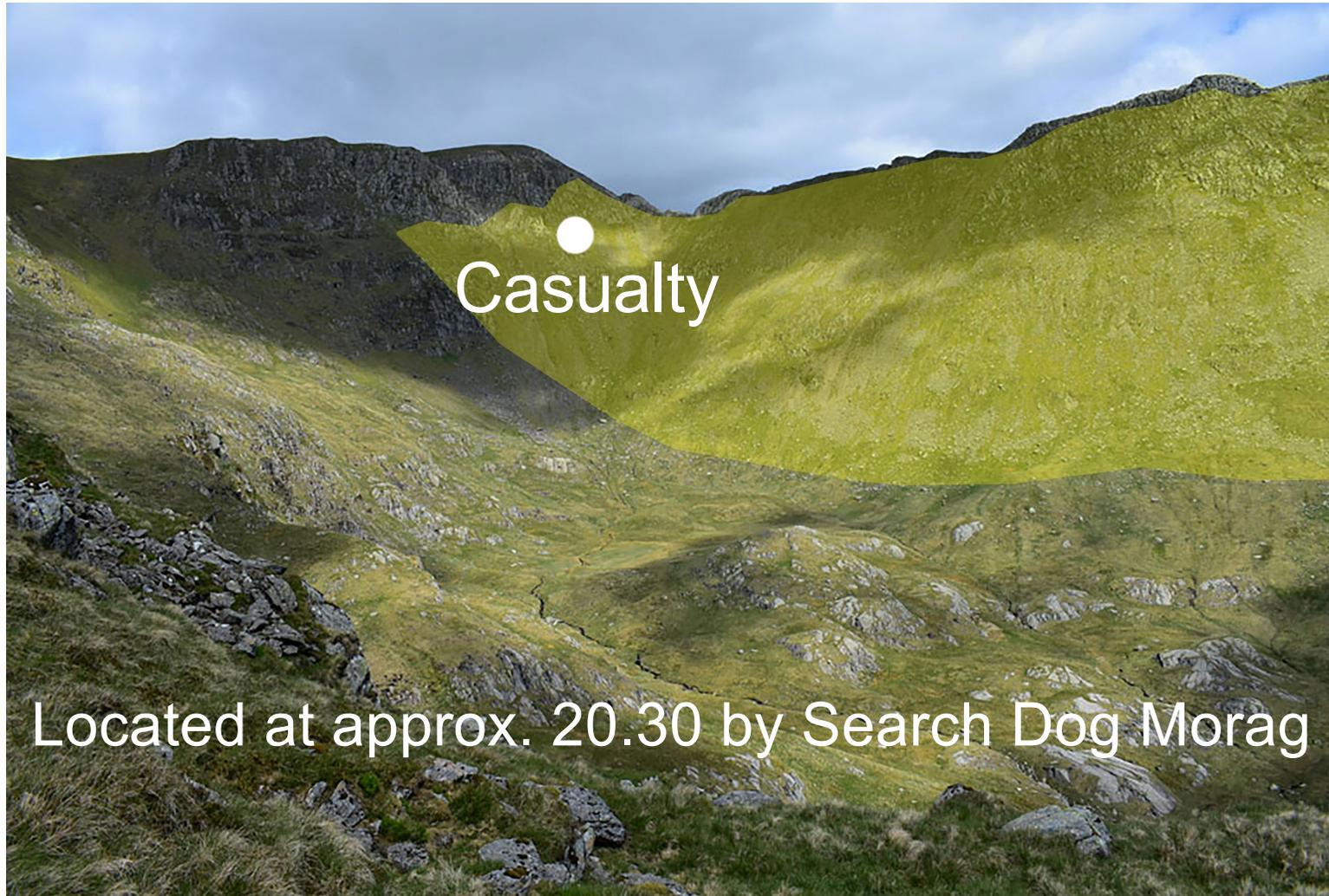
Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs



Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs



Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs



Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs



Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs

Unfortunately casualty was deceased having fallen a long way.

Deploying dogs early resulted in a quick find in poor weather conditions.

The sooner dogs can be deployed in most searches the better.

Allocate search dogs to the high priority areas especially in complex terrain, darkness and poor weather conditions.



Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs



Free Ranging Air Scenting Search Dogs

November 2021

A couple set off to climb Helvellyn by Striding Edge.

Weather was overcast with low cloud base.

They then split up as one person was keen to continue, intending to go to the summit, then return by the same route.

By 17.30 it was completely dark and the person had not yet arrived back.

The waiting person phoned for Mountain Rescue as the missing person did not have a torch.

Patterdale Rescue Team immediately launched a search, requesting assistance from search dogs. Both Penrith and Keswick MRTs were also called to assist.

A SAR helicopter was also requested with night vision and infra-red search capabilities

5 Dog handlers attended.