



2022 Meeting record of Search Dog handlers Sub-Commision

Montreux Switzerland

Chaired by Marcel Meier(Alpine Rettung Schweiz)



Thursday 13th October

Marcel welcomed all to the meeting

Minutes were read from the meeting in Poland in 2019 and were approved

Knut Skar reported that the Erasmus Project was finished

There were no other matters arising

Thanks were expressed to Christyne Judge for writing up the protocol

Dog handlers introduced themselves , 34 handlers attending from 14 countries

Board Activities; Marcel Meier

There have been 4 meetings in Jan initiated the process for Dog handlers becoming full members. In August meeting bylaws were written. In October 21 the Dog sig was fully integrated as full members by 112 votes.

Congress in 2021 was a virtual meeting were Montreux was planned with a practical day

Sept 2021 a workshop was organised in Passo Rolle thanks to Marco

Dog handler sub-commission is youngest and smallest but it is hoped to develop the group, Benny (UK) will grow interest in UK

Marcel asked the meeting to explore possibilities for future sponsors and he will make an ICAR recommendation to set guidelines for Dog Handling Instructors

Norwegian S+R Dog New Certification programme;Tor Monson

All Dogs and handlers go through

- Module 1 Basic Education
- Module 2 Practical Education and Skills Test

Terrain Searching

- Module 3 Further Education.1 year covering 7-8 learning criteria with mid term exam
- Module 4 1 week exam

Avalanche searching

- Same 4 modules with different subjects including Tranciever education and examination usespecialised instructors

Urban SAR

- Similar 4 modules

Discusion

- Use of Tracking and Airscenting in the rescue dog- both find object with air scent then use scent off object track from there
- Programme starts at a year old a lasts 3 years
- Exams are as practical as possible
- Senior dog handlers who have had 2 dogs go straight to module 4
- 1600 members with 350 approved dogs

EU program for USAR team in Croatia; Knut Skar

2018 Established aUSAR team

2019 Dogs died

2021 Shared funding 150,000 Euros from EU grants. SOP's for USAR groups

Croatin rescue operations were analysed using framework from cave rescue. Equipment was procured.Training commenced

1. Ropework etc for K9 teams
2. Other search methods ; Drone , IT and digital planning
3. International workshop at passo Rolle, K9 training IKAR exercise with scenarios, Dog handlers in teams
4. Heavy lifting traing from buildings and earthquakes including ropework. Tested out rescue manoevers and equipment
5. Analysis of earthquake rescues in Iran and Nepal
6. Training on wooden house collapse in Norway

Two additional meeting in Norway to finalise paperwork

Team definitions decided

- Light – <2 days
- Medium- <week
- Heavy - <12 weeks

SOP's were written for disaster mangement

Goal was to share knowledge

Barking back alert; Philipp Imboden Switzerland KWRO

Philipp is an instructor in Avalanche, Area search and Mantrailing

Barking Indications problems;

- Pushy Dogs
- Offensive to victim
- Long Distance to Handler

Training Bark chain on Table

1. Bark on command 1 min
2. Dog on table , step away , Bark , move back to table
3. Longer distance same sequence goal 100m
4. Send dog to table then repeat 3
5. Goal send dog 80m and bark till you get there
6. Put blanket from table next to body. Send dog to body and bark. No interaction from body to stop interference , if dog moves step back
7. Final goal remove blanket be 100m away out of sight
8. Train in noisy environments, and eventually shuttling and endurance barking. Train after exercising dog so can bark when tired

Benny liked dog to bark at handler not body

What reward was used food or toy

Don't use Bark indication in rubble but yes along with digging in snow

Use rucksack like a table when cant get a body

Austrian Rockfall Incident 9/6/22; Martin Gurdet

Member of Austrian Alpine Police in the Tyroll, we were shown a film from 1948 in Oberurgle of the start of Alpine rescue.

1 experienced climber was caught in a rockfall while abseiling. Mountain rescue response was as follows

Day 1

- 22 people
- 2 SAR dogs
- Fire service
- Alpine police
- SAR Helicopter
- Police helicopter
- Geoligist to assess safety of further rockfall

Day 2 smaller team

Rock fall 18mx11mx1.5m

Alert was approx. 3hours 12.17 to 15.30

Dogs found at 16.45 victim died instantly

Challenges

- Weather/fog
- Another rockfall(Geoligist helped in assessing this danger)

Dogs; 1st dog indicated then waited 15 min and put 2nd dog in who indicated at same place

Fire fighters excavated body in one piece

Dog training in rubble shared with Austrian Army

? what were two dogs trained in Avalanche and terrain with the new add on for rock/rubble these dogs had had two training sessions on rock/rubble.

? Do you work with USAR teams. We only work in Alpine regions in cities only USAR dogs deployed

Indication same for rock and avalanche

Trends in changes in callout; Rob Grange LDMRSD

Past present +future of callouts in LDMRSDA

For the future are we going in the right direction

Data is helpful but where none we must think what is missing

Re Avalanches: Temp changes increase instability of snow pack and snow is less predictable

Terrestrial callouts -small fall in numbers , In USA 5 change in callouts but not volume, Callout numbers rising, In Scotland callouts fluctuating but dog finds up

Technology making big difference and types of missing person changing , unhurt walkers down with similar numbers of injured and fatalities

In urban areas rise in both dementia and suicide callouts

Discussion points: Do we need to be proactive

? have we the right dogs for tomorrows searches

? what will be happening in 10 years

? How do we stay current

? have we the right diciplines/Multi discipline/ New discipline

?Lead times

In Ireland man trailing dogs being educated in Nursing Homes. Walk through Stock test. Low land areas still need MR dogs. Engaging the police to help.

SARDA (Scotland) Need to look at number of dogs needed in present climate,:Data needs to be collected from all over . Post covid effect more less experienced people in the mountains

USA what is cell coverage like: difficult in Lake District contact must go through Police

Lake District ; Re man Trailing and scent discrimination we must get together to discuss

Norway ;Increase in callouts and dog handlers,in lowlands most callouts in cities. Recognise different classes of dog. MR are stopping ill equiped people going in the mountains

LDMRSD Instagram based influencers all over the world

Accidents and incidents to Dogs in SR work or training; Thora (Iceland)

Criteria looked at

- Team(Handler and Dog)
- Volunteers or Pro
- Missing person
- Disaster: manmade or natural
- Crime scenes
- Accidents

Challenges

- Vehicle Travel
- Terrain
- Weather
- Environment

Rational Community asking how and what we can use dogs for. Need to have support for welfare and wellbeing for the dogs

Most data from USA with rubble dogs none on lifespan of SR dogs

Survey of 9/11 Dogs

96 dogs

17 events

7x worse at World Trade Centre than Pentagon

Abrasions

Dehydration

Living till 12.8 years respiratory disease infrequent

Some pulmonary particles found in lungs

Look again after 15 years pathology

Haiti and Washington

Common abrasions to paws, booties good on hot surfaces.

Dehydration-plenty of water

Hyperthermia- work short periods with rest

Do we need training in Dog First Aid

Survey (You can still participate)

215 responses (mostly Norwegian)

Average age 45.4

559 dogs average 2 per handler

725 Dogs insured

Need to register accidents to Dogs and Handlers

48% accidents at training

13% on callout

Callout accidents more serious 60-70% need veterinary attention

Paws most injuries, Joints and bones next with lacerations highest

Incidents of labradors inhaling food on searches

Most dogs returned to work in less than 2 weeks Average 5-6 weeks

Canada did similar survey for Avalanche dogs- most injuries cuts from skis

Terrestrial incidents more because of time spent in the field.

Water Search with a Cadaver Dog Jorgen Modin (Swedish police)

10 year old Cadaver dog trained to detect Blood Semen Bodies and parts

Tracks bloodtrails at crime scenes and detects bodies on land and in water

Water Search training

1. Start on a calm day with no disturbance in a boat – looking for dog to be calm
2. On land training on Air scent
3. Train in boat in rough noisy conditions again looking for calm dog
4. Windmarking indicates airborne scent , dog on leash in clear scent of human decomposition, Don't approach but reward on scent
5. Put boat and land work together to produce Water Search dog
6. When dog indicates scent on boat its checked using underwater drones
7. Train indication using clicker and barking

Gas Explosion Presov Slovakia 2019

Gas accumulated on top floor of building causing an explosion + fire. Stairs and lift destroyed and the building was evacuated with 7 victims

Dog search teams called at 14.00 arrived 15.30

7 dog teams 4 pro and 3 volunteer

Search was started in neighbouring building as main building too dangerous and too warm dogs up

Searched 4-7th floor accessed by tele-handler with 2 rescuers and 1 dog.

Conditions cold, icy, dark, with fire and water damage

No living persons confirmed

Next day cadaver for one missing person with 2 dog teams – No find

Learning from Mistakes David Benson

Benny recounted his experience learning from mistakes!

In Training had sub standard performances on 2 blind trails began to question whether I should be on call-out list. Was it poor scent item or insect repellent? When told callout coordinator he said to ask trainer.

Following week 2 blind trails - good performance – no question staying on callout list

Callout; small village 43yr old female intent on self harm missing in agricultural land from home. Went missing at 15.00 called out at 22.00. pick up article from home and dog indicates. A lot of mind clutter, not trusting dog and back tracked in different direction. Didn't have courage to tell the team to go and look where I had been going and the missing person was found beyond where I had stopped and back tracked !

5 days later same scenario but on a mission with +ve feeling following dog up hill and found missing person in ruined building

Learning points **Be aware of own vulnerability and question the ego in the head**

?Do you have people with you, yes always a navigator

Friday 14th October 2022

Modern dog training in Search and rescue GOPR; Patryk Czemak

In past years under old regime there had been low pass level so introduced new training programme using ex military dog trainers.

Aim to train a multi disciplinary dog teams with strong motivation, passion, enjoyment and soul.

Training starts with the breeder with ENS (early neurological stimuli) for 3-5 sec from day 2 to day 16. Important to give the puppies a good start to build a strong and healthy dog.

Keys points;

- Genes
- Food motivated
- Clicker trained
- Scent imprinting
- Socialization

Puppies tested for suitability at 4-12 months

Do the whole procedure with as many skills as possible eg Avalanche Rubble etc

Start with an active dog responding to food and clicker

Motivational box with food, dog eats and stays in box can vacate on clicker, introduce noise and distraction in same exercise.

Good behaviour rewarded with toys, Active ball, passive Ball, wet food (search only) and dry food. Some gentle negative reinforcement used

Exam regime

- Entry test 4-12 months
- Qualification 12-24 month obedience
- Qualification 24-36 month development
- Class A search dog 36 month
- Class B in 2 years

Pass rate gone from 20% to 90%

? Do you have problems with same indications for both live and cadaver. Rubble dogs operated by Fire dept and only indicate on live bodies

Earthquake in Croatia 2020; Josip Cranic

MR service volunteer non profit run by Republic. 2 Earthquakes happened in Covid lockdown in the town of Petringa built by Austrian hungarian empire so no earthquake protection so over 100 building collapsed. A lot of people had moved out to stable areas after the first quake.

A whats App alert came 18 min after quake when we were in a K9 training exercise so drove straight to quake area and started searching.

All teams mobilised within 15mins, travel hampered by a bridge collapse.

Mobilised for 46 days, lots of missions within the whole disaster

11 buried, K9teams = 1dog and 3 MR. drones used platforms to give access.

Had to provide humanitarian aid, remove unstable structures, provide medical facilities including pharmacies and vaccination. In 48 hours had good system of communication (ICS) with QR codes for briefing etc.

? Did you have interaction with Inserac yes afterwards

? plan for contingency

?Did you have a plan -We used ICS from search then improvised

Le Devants de Naye Avalanche ;Claude Gauvillet ARS

“A Story of Challenges”

Called out at 15.53 On 17/01/2021

Victims had no beacons

Avalanche Danger level was at considerable 3 with 3 days before at Level 4 High

Access road closed access by train 30 mins longer

Not a lot of evidence

Helicopter arrived in 1 Hour

Evac of person 4 Walking 10 min, CPR 5min Died in Hosp

Too dangerous on the day so minimal response of Mountain guide and Dog specialist, picture of partial buried patient could see t'shirt.

Biggest problem communications

?Is it standard protocol to call dogs immediately

9 yr old labrador first on scene out of helicopter indicated immediately but handler didn't trust the dog

WASATCH Backcountry Rescue Utah 21-22; Marguerite Van Kommen

2021 35 callouts, 4 multi agency burials rest injured or medical problems

Most rescues on foot

Placed more sleds at key points after use flown back by helicopter

2022 1 burial, user extractions, Extractions as opposed to dog callouts . Storms causing wetter denser snow over Christmas so Red don't go warnings. No snow till March.

Avalanche prevention;Howitzer Wyseen towres, Gasex and racks

Our dogs provide a quick response and live finds (1-22min)

?911 calls do they have location- 911 contact USA rescue who contact WSBR- we don't rely on person's knowledge, Sheriff's dept can locate by GPS

? How do you access- Helicopter if available sheriff makes decision if not on skins

? do you have doctors available – yes in Ski patrol but not in WSBR

International Drone Working Group (IDWG)

Drone = Unmanned aerial system UAS Unmanned aerial vehicle UAV = drone

USA military have had since 70's, flying must follow U space procedures, Modern drones have Air sense system that show other air traffic. Civil aviation rules for flying. Train first then research best drone for your circumstances.

Large scale use when weather prevents helicopter flying , drones can map and assess risk situation.

In Avalanche good for prevention, rescue coarse search and medical equipment

Medical use for MI and cardiac arrest, projects on AED =drones quicker than ambulance , 2 cases of survival reported. No mountain data, Austrians researching MI only. Survived if immediate CPR +defib. No data on drone delivered AED.

In Africa drugs delivered to remote villages.

? Who will fund provision of drone delivered AED's

Cell Phone Tracking

13 centres with equipped helicopter, SAR helicopters in middle and high mountains. Need to investigate and coop with medical helicopters.

Use Flight Nésie (IMSI) network elimination sim and integration software. Catch signal every 15 sec cant find all devices. Obstructions affect finds and on board plots triangulation search pattern

New system for training Avalanche Dogs; Marcel Meier

Young dog learns to detach from handler, work independently, use his nose, recognise individual scents, ignore empty holes and stay with casualty in the hole

Handler learns to trust dog, lead with patience, let the dog do his work, recognise independence of dog and that casualty is most important person

Basic Course 1

Phase 1 4 open holes increasing distance @35m working into wind

1. Handler sends in dog with body visible in hole
2. Handler sends in dog with body hidden in hole
3. Handler sends in dog who stays with body

This sequence is repeated on every hole

Phase 2 4 closed holes at 35m same exercise with handler always at starting point. A rescuer with shovel covers up body and returns to handler before dog is sent in. As in Phase 1 the dog sees the body and shoveler on first exercise, on second the dog sees the shoveler but not body and finally no sighting and is encouraged to dig

Phase 3 Same as phase 2 but handler accompanies dog

Basic Course 2 3 steps Teach, Consolidate and Apply. The dog is taught to search all holes but ignore the empty holes using the same 4 holes at 35m down wind varying which hole is occupied

1. **Teach** Dog searching for hidden body in hole 1 then body hides in visibly in hole 2 with handler and dog moving away. Handler then starts search for hole 2
2. **Apply** Exercise repeated but second body in hole 4

Basic course 3+4

Apply; Same 4 closed holes as before

1. Phase 2 (handler in closed hole) at hole 2
2. Phase 2 (handler in closed hole) at hole 4
3. Phase 4 (handler with dog body in hole) at hole 1
4. Phase 4 (handler with dog body in hole) at hole 3

Working together with others; KWRO Philipp Imboden

Missing person 62yr old female with dementia reported missing for 48 hours, call came in from police.

3 dogs trained in airscent and mantrailing deployed

1. Using compressed wound pads under MP's bed sheet using gloves got 5 samples of scent
2. Information from husband she was going to a chapel in the woods
3. 2 mantrailing dogs indicated at house and railway station there was no scent by barking. Railway staff were asked if they had seen MP and CCTV was checked at the station. She was seen at the next station.
4. Dog taken to station exit and tailed to a hotel. (Never search with a mantrailing dog inside a building. Asked hotel staff who said she had left hotel 1 hour ago. Dogs then found her sitting on a bench confused but unhurt.

3 dogs working over 2 days. Worked with Police, Railway staff, relatives, and hotel manager. Lesson learnt TRUST YOUR DOG (empty your head) Also have traffic watches. Important to clone scent on gauzes so lots of fresh scent.

A weekend of Cardiac events; Andrezej Gorka

Timings important; 12th November a holiday weekend with good weather in the Tatras

14.40 Cardiac Arrest of 50yr old male at 2096m, bystander commenced chest compressions

14.41 Helicopter deployed

14.52 Rescuers on site and treating, VF confirmed, defibrillation

14.55 Return of spontaneous circulation, ECG alerted cath lab and intraosseous access was established

15.15 Casualty regained consciousness

15.30 Winched by helicopter (autopulse in place)

15.42 Hospital handover

14.56 Another alert 64 yr old man with chest pain. 2 team on scene

15.22 ECG shows ST segment, info sent to cath lab. Stabilised at scene and evacuated to hospital

14th Nov

11.08 50yr old male 150m from cardiac arrest on 12th. Helicopter ready

11.21 Casualty in VF, defibrillated and intubated

11.33 Spontaneous circulation

12.10 Helicoptered to ambulance

12.55 Hospital and cath lab

All casualties made a good recovery, all personnel paramedics. Helicopter was just for rescue. Good communication with hospital ED and cath lab.

Paramedics qualified Mountain rescuers and get training in local hospital

Non-traumatic health related incidents on the rise

Basic BLS training essential for the population

Good first aid skills for all MR not just medics

Using Ultrasound on helicopter and reinforced intubation tubes

Three hikers Stuck in Avalanche Terrain; Andre Gorka and Martin Jozefowic TOPR

Jan 22 in western Tatras, difficult weather, walkers no navigational skills and poorly equipped

Position was transmitted by Ratunet App

Stuck on easy section of trail but with significant avalanche risk to them and rescuers, avalanche risk 3 Considerable

2 teams of 7 rescuers in the dark

Drone team alerted with hypothermia kit and 2 groups, set out on skis. As altitude gained snow and wind increased, risk difficult to evaluate, wind 100 mph and temp >7C with 3 young hikers at risk

22.20 Rescuers above treeline witness a small avalanche and retreat

01.24 Drone takes off with heat packs and blankets, no visual requirement for drone and can carry up to 2kg. 1st flight gets near but pushed off by wind. Decide to wait a bit

05.39 Drone locates them and delivers blankets and heat packs

06.55 Drone tries to deliver food, drink and communication device but it malfunctions retreats and performs emergency landing possibly icing of rotor blades

06.08 Rescuers start out again in reduced wind speed. Safer and easier, belayed up wind on ridge >100mph worried about health of hikers

11.23 Hikers found in bivouac, exhausted and mildly hypothermic. Thermal packs and mental support enabled them to survive. Walked down with help

36 rescuers

Back up included a dog

Drone did 14 flights

15.30 Hikers in hospital

16.00 Finished. Drone was recovered and repaired

Conclusions

- Safety of rescuers ?limit
- Too blurred a line , too easy to enter danger zone
- In a team of equals who makes decision to abort or not
- Debrief and discussion very important even after happy end

Structure with using a Bringsel; Michael Partholi (Bergwacht Bayern)



Bavaria has 400-500 incidents a year

Worked for 45yrs in MR with Police and Rescue dogs

Worked with a Bringsel since 1998; because of using with police dogs it is good for non aggression and not centring on the body. 1st developed by Oskar Prungst for use between the lines (no mans land) in the 1st WW.

Dogs tended to bite trousers or leg so developed the Bringsel

Used in all search scenarios except Avalanche

Advantages

Good in noisy environment

Motivational

Good in dark

Not frightening for casualties

Disadvantages

Over motivational

In rubble difficult to hang on to

The dog has to be motivated, obedient, have a play drive and be direct in search

Handler has to be fit, safe on all ground and enjoy it

Method

1. Must retrieve
2. Change toy to Bringsel
3. Put Bringsel on top of a rucksack, send dog to search, retrieve Bringsel back to handler, both then return to rucksack
4. Body that dog knows with Bringsel. No reward when dog returns just command "show me" on leash. Reward given when back at body
5. Small simple steps increasing distance
6. Replace lead with harness
7. Introduce unknown body

Why choose me!; Marco Terrani (Instructor and handler) since 2004

Selecting a puppy at 3 months

Selection parameters

- Food interest
- Motivation for searching
- Sociable
- Good reaction and temperament
- Not stressed by bad situations
- Curious

Important the puppy chosen has right characteristics because with climate change catastrophic events like the serac fall on the Marmolada this summer are going to become more usual and dogs are an invaluable tool in the rescue team

Marmolada stats

11 dead 11 search days

Serac fall 200m x 60m x 30m Travelled 2 km

66 MR personnel 8 Dog teams on shift

Search operation with dog; Mani Unterweger (Bergrettungsdienst im AVS Sud Tirol)

Callout 2021 in middle of Pandemic

Missing person 73 yr old man

Resources; Fire department, Mountain rescue with 3 dogs, White Cross Pelican helicopter and Police

Missing person evaded Police in a car which was found in a river. He crossed the river barefoot. The dog barked and indicated which led to finding him in the river with core temperature of 72 F MR immobilised, insulated and he was evacuated by helicopter to Ambulance and on to hospital

Marcel Meier then told the commission about a workshop to be held in Passo Rolle Italy sometime in May/June 23 looking at the topic - Wilderness search with Dogs. Details will be sent.



Next congress 17th Oct-22nd Oct 2023 in Toblach Sud Tirol

