

# Human Remains Detection

## Why Placement Matters

### K9 Training

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# Presentation Outline

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- Training Goals
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- Properly Store the Source
- Do Not Contaminate the Source
- Variables in the Environment
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# Terminology

- Cadaver: Refers to an entire human body.
- Human Remains: Any portion of the human body including fluids.
- Source: Any of the following
  - Human blood (fresh/old)
  - Human decomposition material (tissue, adipocere, wet/dry bone, decompositional fluid)
  - Burned human tissue & bone

# Training Goals

- Odor recognition by the canine.
- Trained response given from the canine **WITHOUT** prompt from the handler.
- Ability of the Handler to recognize the canine's behaviors.
- Ability of the Handler to articulate by watching the canine's alert where the source material is located.

# How to Label a Source

- Name: Received from
- Date: Date received
- Description: Entire cadaver, portion, fluids, bones, organs, etc.
- Age: How long deceased

# Do NOT Contaminate the Source

- **Always use gloves!** Anyone that handles HRD containers without gloves leaves a live scent picture. Also a Biohazard
- **Avoid mixing or comingling of source types** (bone, blood, organs, burned) – handlers train the types separately and several standardized tests require types be tested separately.
- **Don't let dogs make contact with the HRD containers.**  
Their scent becomes a distraction or cue for dogs. Help by changing Lids out on your Jars – DT: remove green tabs /use different lids with holes – AT: replace tab / remove the lids with holes and replace with solid lids when in storage
- **Do NOT allow dogs to Urinate on the source.**

# Properly Store the Source

- Use glass jars – containers made of other materials absorb or introduce odors.
- Use a pelican case with a seal around it. The tackle boxes do not have a seal.
- Use a dog proof container.
- Discard the source after it becomes moldy or it has become compromised (see source contamination).
- Store in cool temp (like a garage).
- If you need to slow decomposition – store in freezer.
- Place used gloves in sealed bag and dispose of in normal trash.

# Define the Training Area

- To define training area, use natural boundaries (if possible) and mark boundaries with flagging tape.
- Do NOT place/hide the HRD source within the boundaries of a LIVE find training area i.e. near a training scenario for trailing or within an area scenario for airscent unless you are instructed to specifically place source in that area.
- Consider team safety when placing the source!  
Is the source placed close to a cliff, river, or near traffic?
- Follow the instructions of the handler in training.



# Consider Environmental Variables

- What will the environment be like when the source is found?  
Source is placed and left for a period of time before training.
- Parameters of the environment:
  - *Type of area*: Business, industrial, residential, wilderness, farms
  - *Surface*: Grass, dirt, gravel, underbrush, swamp, rocky, asphalt, concrete
  - *Contamination*: pedestrian, animal, vehicle
  - *Weather*: Wind (direction/speed), temp, humidity, cloud cover, precipitation
  - *Terrain*: Hills, barriers, water features
  - *Time of Day*

# HRD in Buildings

- **Drafts:** Doors, Windows, ventilation system outlets
- **Appropriateness of training location:**
  - Do not put source in the bathroom or kitchen . There could be blood in these locations which would cause alerts by the dogs that could appear to be false.
  - Do not put source in the ventilation system.

# Working the Problem



# Smoke Illustrates Location of Scent Relative to Source





# Change of Behavior – Dog in Scent



# Summary

- Rule 1: Always wear gloves.
- Rule 2: Do not contaminate the source.
- Rule 3: Properly store the source.
- Rule 4: Define the training area.
- Rule 5: Consider the environmental parameters when placing the source.