



Membership Considerations

SARDAA was founded in 1989 and the membership is very proud of the fact that we were the first officially documented SAR dog group in Alberta, that we were instrumental in developing the SAR dog standards for the province along with others, and that we have been successfully training and deploying dog/ handler teams throughout our 35+ year history.

We are registered with the Alberta Companies Branch (1989) and we are a registered charity with Revenue Canada (1991). We engage in various forms of fund raising to support our training and for expenses relating to our participating in searches.

We typically work for Edmonton Police Service and also for the RCMP and municipal fire departments. During our history we have participated in hundreds of official searches. Our teams are trained to locate missing persons and/ or evidence, and we have added capability in human remains detection, both on land and in water. We are also active in training dogs for disaster work.

Search and Rescue is more than just an activity for you and your pet. This training is serious; peoples' lives and well-being are involved. The training requires different approaches and attitudes. We use positive training methods but at some point in the process, some level of compulsion is usually needed.

SAR Dog training is extremely time consuming. We do not hesitate to tell people that it is a major commitment and that it will require a tremendous amount of time with your dog and away from your family. Once on the Active Team, you may need to leave work on short notice and you may need to miss family occasions due to searches. SAR Dog work is not for everyone.

Our teams progress in training under our Training Director's instruction. We provide all the instruction needed regarding search work; obedience and agility training are done on your own and we do provide guidance. We train each Sunday morning, all year and in various locations, usually in the Edmonton area. We do occasionally meet outside the city.

We evaluate all dogs that are new to our program. We are looking for basic aptitude; this is nothing you can train the dog for. For instance, your dog must possess a very high 'toy drive' which means he/she is totally crazy about their toy.

All new potential dogs are to undergo this evaluation. We request a \$100 donation for the evaluation and will provide a tax receipt. If your dog passes our evaluation and you wish to join our organization, \$50 will go toward your first year's membership fee.

Once a member, you will have a limited time to progress which we consider to be more than adequate to complete your training. We have evaluation levels a team must successfully move through in order to gain Active team membership.



There are also many mandatory courses the handler must complete in the areas of - first aid, SAR Basics, navigation, scent/search theory, etc. Some of these courses are held in house by our own instructors.

All new members must also be trained as a Field Tech. Field Techs are support personnel who back up our Dog Teams in the field. Upon recommendation by the Training Director, some Field Techs may also become our boat operators for our water search dogs. The Field Tech training and certification are mandatory for all field response members.

Once certified and on our Active Team, the expectation is that you will attend all searches that you possibly can, and that you will maintain your training, qualifications and membership responsibilities. You will be encouraged to participate in various activities and roles within the organization.

**SAR Dog work is not just something “you can do with your dog”.
It requires considerable training and time commitment,
and includes requirements and responsibilities.**

**SARDAA team members work for the potential survivor;
ego and personal objectives have no place in search and rescue generally,
nor in our organization specifically.**