

DESA Announcement

DSTL CANINE DISCRIMINATION TEST

We have been asking for a set of uniform standards and guidance from Government and cohesion from the main stakeholders for many years.

We have required something in the UK K9 search sector like the IMAS (De-mining) standards for decades !!!

We have lobbied Politicians and even attempted to get groups of Dog Handlers to agree! (no starter there on the Dog Handlers and no surprise). **But thank you to DSTL....AT LAST.**

It's a well-conceived and practical step in the right direction. We have been regularly proofing our own DESA front line dogs (and with their handlers for operational testing rather than just assessment purposes) since the early 90's. The Odour Discrimination Test released by DSTL and endorsed by HM Government, is exactly that. A formula and process for confirming (Proofing) the dogs Odour Discrimination is accurate.

ie: Put in its simplest form , the dogs nose and his indication of the target substance are accurate, even with elements to counter any handler input or influence or, distracted or wrongly indicating on interferent odours.

Steps include, checking of the samples purity/contamination and outlines set procedures for the testing officers/assessors and optimum conditions for that testing/assessing.

We have already been doing a lot of these as have some of our better fellow trainers and K-9 search companies ...But this at a stroke, gives the whole industry a bench mark we can all now operate from. Thank you Mummy and Daddy and DSTL. **Well done!**

DESA's own recent re-launch involves opening our recognised **regional testing stations** and we are now adopting the DSTL Discrimination Test as our baseline for proofing all DESA search dogs....It is now being written into our own International Accredited Awards as the definitive test for "proofing" all our own and our own clients specialist search dogs.

However please note there is a HUGE amount outside of this that we DESA also insist on before giving an operational certificate to DESA Explosives Detection Teams (Gold Standard) Also we are already using and committed to, IMAS methods for All De-mining activities as approved and adopted Industry wide by the United Nations (UNMAS).

DESA Assess and train their **Handlers and Dogs as a team in operation tactics and Actions-on...**the DSTL test is designed for the Dogs nose accuracy...We test the team for yes accuracy, but what to do before/during and after **every** search especially the actions-on a find and actions-on an explosion. This covers all aspects from Interoperability (with Emergency/ first responders) Forensics and through to even Giving evidence in Law Courts .

Again well done DSTL... Jim Vernon (Snr)

Projects Manager.

