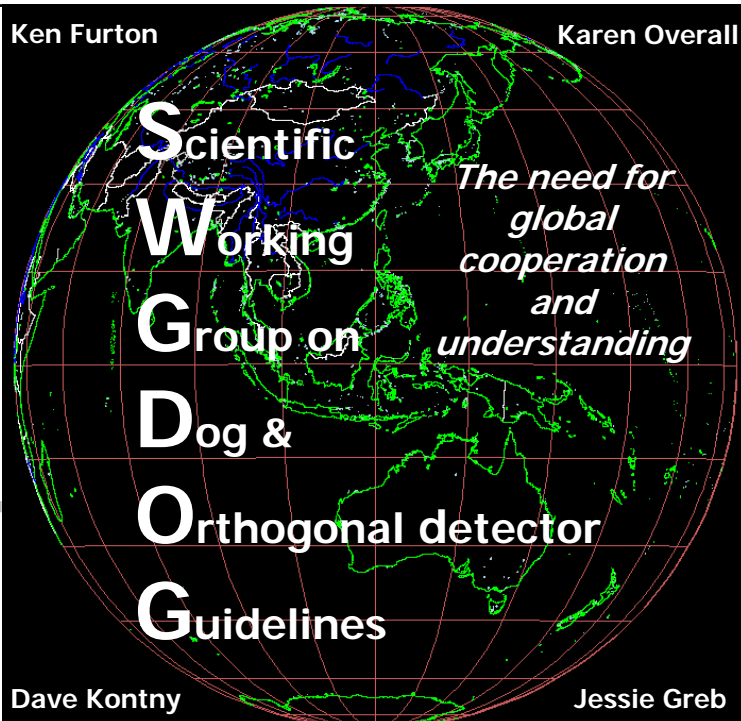


SWGDOG Update April 2006

Ken Furton

Karen Overall



Dave Kontny

Jessie Greb

What are Scientific Working Groups? What's SWGDOG?

Since the early 1990s, there have been various Scientific Working Groups (SWGs) initially sponsored by the FBI. SWGs are ongoing meetings of practitioners established to improve forensic science discipline practices and build consensus with international, federal, state, and local partners.

Current SWGs include SWGDAM (DNA Analysis); SWGDE (Digital Evidence); SWGDOC (Questioned Documents); SWGDRUG (Analysis of Seized Drugs); SWGFAST (Latent Fingerprints); SWGGUN (Firearms and Toolmarks); SWGIBRA (Illicit Business Records); SWGIT (Imaging Technologies); SWGMAT (Materials); SWGSTAIN (Bloodstain Pattern Analysis); and **SWGDOG (Dog and Orthogonal detector Guidelines).**



Scientific Working Group on Dog
2 **SWGDOG**
& Orthogonal detector Guidelines

Why SWGDOG, Why Now?

Local, state, federal and international law enforcement agencies stand to benefit from improvements in the performance and overall reliability of detector dogs and their optimized combination with electronic detection devices.

SWGDOG will benefit:

- national security,
- border protection,
- drug and contraband interdiction,
- law enforcement and criminal investigations,
- disaster response

Establishing best practices for detection teams will improve interdiction efforts as well as courtroom acceptance of dog alert evidence by improving the consistency and performance of deployed detector dogs.

Examples of the reliability of detector dogs under attack in the U.S. due to limited peer reviewed research on error rates and lack of best practices for the certification and maintenance of teams

- 2nd District Court of Appeal, Matheson v. Florida, August 1, 2003.
"Razor's reliability for detecting the presence of contraband in the field was unguaged... In light of these facts, Razor's alert could not have given the deputies probable cause to search under any test. "
- "Dog Trainer Given Maximum Sentence for Fraud: ... Convicted of Providing Bomb-Sniffing Dogs that Couldn't Smell Out Explosives" Washington Post, September 8, 2003
- "Bones of Contention: Cadaver-sniffing canine's finds are under suspicion" Detroit Free Press, July 14, 2003.
- "Scott Peterson's defense takes bite out of canine's tracking skills", CourtTV.com, Sept. 1, 2004. Where the defense attorney pointed out that a supervisor of the Contra Costa County search and rescue team said in a preliminary hearing that dog tracking was "not a science. It's an art."



What constitutes acceptable performance and how is it measured?... Well, it depends on who you ask... Here is an example from different drug detection certifications in the U.S.:

Agency	CNCA	IFRI/NFSTC	NAPWDA	NNDA	PNWDDA	USPCA
Target Odors	Ma, Co, Me, He, Op	Ma, Co, Me, He, Ha, X, Op	Ma, Co, Me, He, Op	Ma, Co, Me, He, Op	Ma/Ha, Co/Cr, Me, He	Ma/Ha, Co, Me, He
Mass range	5g - 2kg	1g - 1kg	Not specified	7g - 28g	3.5g - 900g	≥ 5g
# of search areas	Not specified	≥ 2 types of areas	≥ 3	≤ 2 sections of a building. One for each type of drug.	3	3 rooms and 5 vehicles
Total # hides	Not specified	10	12	≥4	10	4
Passing Guidelines	≥ 50%: At least 1 of 2 finds / area. Ma, Co, Me, He must be found. Team must locate at least 1 find in 100% of the areas.	≥ 90% of at least 10 finds.	≥ 91.6%: 11 out of 12 finds. No more than 1 FN acceptable. Certification is specified per drug. (One can be certified in any of up to 4 drugs).	≥75%: 3 out of 4 finds (if only Ma and Co). No more than 1 FN acceptable. Ma and Co must be found. Other drugs are optional.	≥ 90%: 9 out of 10 finds. 2 FP's or 1 FP and 1 FN = fail. Ma, Co, Me, He must be found.	≥70%: 140 out of 200 pts grading various aspects of dog and handler. 2 hides are Ma/Ha. 2 hides are chosen from: Co, Me, He.

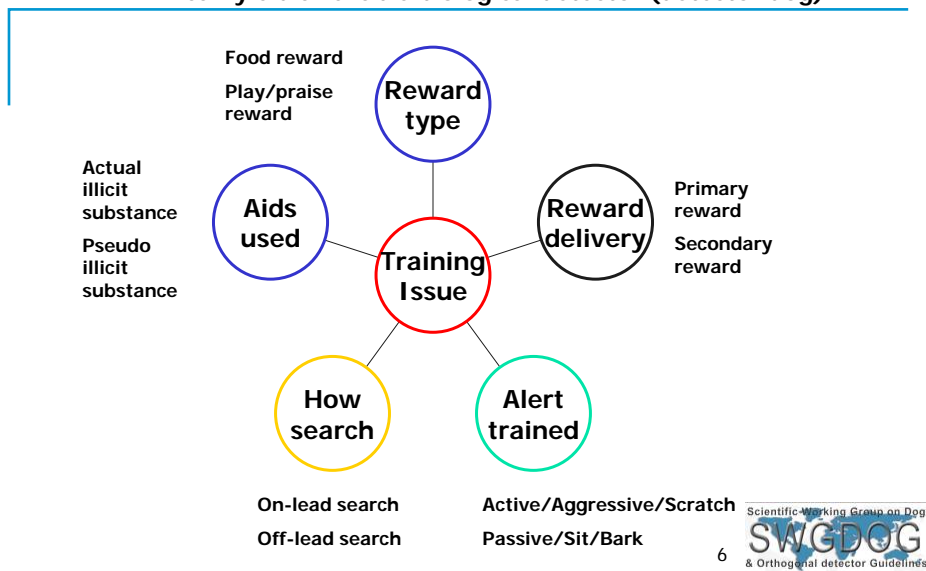
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5

SWGDOG
& Orthogonal detector Guidelines

Just as there are a multitude of components that can be fashioned into a reliable electronic detection instrument,

there are a multitude of dog breeds and training techniques that can yield a reliable biological detector (detector dog)...



6

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SWGDOG
& Orthogonal detector Guidelines

Again, it should only be performance that matters in the end...

- The bottom line is that you will find outstanding detector dogs of every possible combination of sex, breed, color, size, temperament, training length, reward type, reward system, alert used, search method and aids employed.
- The focus, in the end, should be how a particular team performs after initial training, during documented maintenance training and upon annual re-certifications following consensus best practices to allow comparison with other teams.

Standardization events leading up to establishing SWGDOG

- FIU/IFRI houses research programs in instrumental and K9 detection since 1994 and, working with the NFSTC, piloted a canine trainer and detection team certification program in 1998 with independent scientific validation.
- From 1999-2003 the Interpol European Working Group on the Use of Police Dogs in Crime Investigation (IEWGPR), Chaired by Jan C. Zoodsma, completed recommendations aimed at improving the efficiency of the use of police dogs.
- At the 2nd, 3rd and 4th National Detector Dog Conferences in 2001, 2003 and 2005, co-hosted by IFRI and Auburn University, general best practices for detector dog teams were drafted and refined.
- There were some standardization efforts in the U.S. by major police working dog associations and federal programs such as the TSA and ATF but no consensus best practices guidelines available.
- A SWGDOG organizational meeting was held on 1/15/04 and bylaws ratified for SWGDOG on 9/1/04 by the Executive Board, which included the chair of the IEWGPR.
- In 2005, funding was secured by the FBI, TSA/DHS and NIJ, the 55 SWGDOG members were selected and meetings begun September 2005. An essential aspect of SWGDOG is local, state, national and international representation.





International Efforts to Standardize Procedures

Interpol European Working Group on the Use of Police Dogs in Crime Investigation (IEWGPD)

Chair of IEWGPD, Jan C. Zoodsma

Commander Canine Unit, Netherlands National Police

Began meeting in 1999 and in 2003, thirteen topics were finalized.

1. Unification of terminology (United Kingdom)
2. Selection of serviceable dogs (Austria and Germany)
3. Replacement system and breeding (Germany)
4. Kennelling, keeping and health care (Denmark and Italy)
5. Selection and training of handlers and instructors (United Kingdom)
6. Training organisation (United Kingdom)
7. Training of tracking dogs (The Netherlands and Belgium)
8. Training of drug searching dogs (Hungary and United Kingdom)
9. Training of scent identification dogs (France)
10. Training of explosive searching dogs (The Netherlands)
11. Training of cadaver searching dogs (Slovak Republic, the Netherlands and Hungary)
12. Training of arson dogs (The Netherlands)
13. Procedures on presenting evidence in court, obtained through the use of police dogs (Poland)

Scientific Working Group on Dog
9 **SWGDOG**
& Orthogonal detector Guidelines

SWGDOG Vision

The vision of the Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal* detector Guidelines (SWGDOG) is to enhance the performance of detector dog teams.

*Orthogonal defined as mutually independent methods of detecting items of interest such as using different detection and identification modalities.

Scientific Working Group on Dog
10 **SWGDOG**
& Orthogonal detector Guidelines

SWGDOG Mission



Transportation
Security
Administration



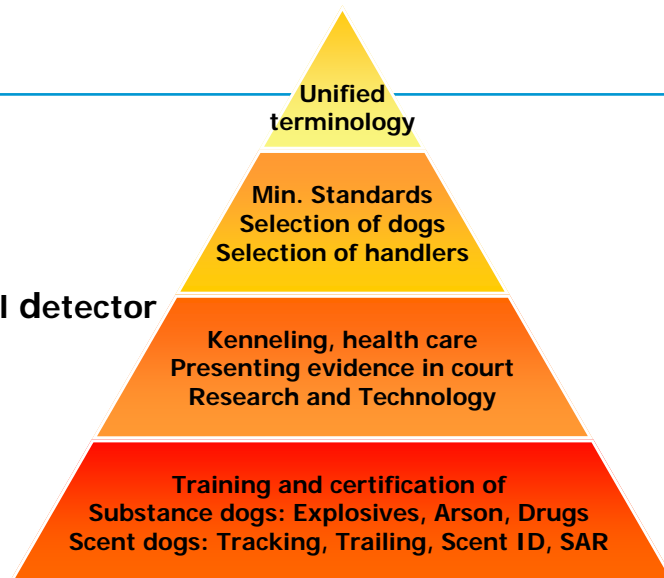
- To discuss and share ideas regarding methods, protocols, quality assurance, education and research
- To bring together organizations and/or individuals actively pursuing relevant analysis methods
- To cooperate with other national and international organizations in developing relevant standards
- To monitor and disseminate research and technology related to the discipline
- To recommend and disseminate consensus-based best practice guidelines for quality assurance and quality control
- To maintain a centralized web site for ongoing information exchange and dissemination

11

Scientific Working Group on Dog
SWGDOG
& Orthogonal detector Guidelines

Scientific
Working
Group on
Dog &
Orthogonal detector
Guidelines

Subcommittees



12

Scientific Working Group on Dog
SWGDOG
& Orthogonal detector Guidelines

SWGDOG requires cooperation between local, state, national and international partners.

Some of the organizations SWGDOG members belong to:

Federal	State/Local	Int'l/Univ.	K9 Orgs/Corp.
DoD	Las Vegas Police	RCMP (Canada)	USPCA
TSA	Dover, NH Police	Australian Customs	NASAR
FBI	KY State ME's Office	Finnish Nat'l Police	NAPWDA
ATFE	Los Angeles DA's Office	Netherlands Nat'l Police	CADA
DEA	San Diego Police Dept.	Dstl (UK)	CNCA
USCBP	Erie Co, PA Fire Dept.	U. Penn.	PNWDDA
USSS	Fayette Co Sheriff, TN	Fla. Gulf Coast Univ.	Nomadics
USAO	Larimer Co Sheriff, CO	Auburn Univ.	NFSTC
USDA	Long Beach PD, CA	Florida Int'l Univ.	UMFC
FEMA	S. Pasadena PD, CA	Leiden Univ.	NNDDA

SWGDOG Executive Board

Kenneth Furton, PhD, SWGDOG Co-Chair, Florida International University; **Chair, SC7 (Research & technology)**; Oversees general SWGDOG management, SC2 (General Guidelines), SC6 (Presenting evidence in court), and SC9 (Scent Dogs).

Karen Overall, VMD, PhD, SWGDOG Co-Chair, University of Pennsylvania; **Chair, SC1 (Terminology)**; Oversees SC3 (Selection of serviceable dogs), SC4 (Kenneling & health care), SC5 (Selection of handlers & instructors) and SC8 (Substance detector dogs).

David Kontny, SWGDOG Vice-Chair and Chair of Membership Committee; Director, National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program, TSA/DHS; **Chair, SC8 (Substance detector dogs)**; **responsible for members selection, oversight and replacement.**

Rex Stockham, Supervisory Special Agent, FBI Evidence Response Unit; **Chair, SC2 (General Guidelines)**; **FBI SWG Liaison.**

Richard Davey, Chair, United Kingdom Law Enforcement Agency Dog Systems (UKLEADS); **Chair, SC3 (Selection of serviceable dogs).**

SWGDOG Executive Board (cont.)

Robert Gillette, DVM, PhD, Director, Veterinary Sports Medicine Program, Auburn University; **Chair, SC4 (Kenneling & health care)**.

John Pearce, Deputy Director, CDTC, Auburn University; **Chair, SC5 (Selection of handlers & instructors)**.

Mark Rispoli, JD, SWGDOG Legal Counsel; **Chair, SC6 (Presenting evidence in court)**.

Jan Zoodtsma, Commander Canine Unit, Netherlands National Police, Chairman IEWGPD; **Chair, SC9 (Scent Dogs)**.

Jessie Greb, SWGDOG Executive Secretary, Florida International University.

What SWGDOG Isn't...

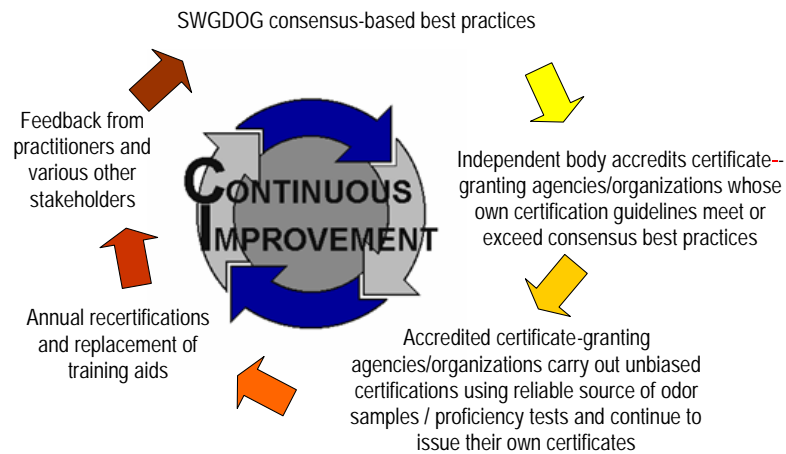
A mandate. SWGDOG will develop scientifically-supported, consensus-based, best practice guidelines to be made available as a resource for the entire detection community. It is not a direct mandate for any organization to change its policies and practices.

A new certification organization. SWGDOG is *not* in the certification business. However, certificate-granting agencies and organizations may choose to become accredited (once an independent accrediting body is established following the initial phase of SWGDOG) to indicate their certification protocols meet or exceed SWGDOG guidelines.

An elitist organization, unresponsive to the community. As a practical matter, SWGDOG has a limited membership size of about 55 to balance diversity with a manageable working size. Every effort has been made to ensure a *diverse* representation of agency affiliation, area of expertise, job function, and geographical location. Furthermore, public comment is a critical part of creating the guidelines. All draft guidelines will be available to the public via the SWGDOG website for comment for at least 60 days.

How does SWGDOG make an impact on improving canine detection in a broad sense?

Following the lead of other working groups, accreditation is key...



A similar process was implemented for forensic education in 2004

17

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SWGDOG
& Orthogonal detector Guidelines

SWGDOG Timeline

Two general membership meetings per year for the first two years of the project:

→ Fall '05, Spring '06, Fall '06, Spring '07

Publicly-vetted guidelines from subcommittees beginning Fall '06 with guidelines from all nine subcommittees available by Spring '07.

SWGDOG guidelines are *living documents*.

SWGDOG membership will convene no less than every other year in perpetuity after the initial two-year phase to update guidelines.

18

Scientific Working Group on Dog
SWGDOG
& Orthogonal detector Guidelines

SWGDOG Subcommittees and target timetable for posting of each best practice guideline

1. Unification of terminology (April 2006) Published in FSC July 2006
2. General guidelines for training, certification, and maintenance (April 2006) Published in FSC July 2006
3. Selection of serviceable dogs and replacement systems (August 2006)
4. Kenneling, keeping, and health care (September 2006)
5. Selection and training of handlers and instructors (September 2006)
6. Procedures on presenting evidence in court (September 2006)
7. Research and technology (April 2007)
8. Substance detector dogs: Agriculture; Arson; Chem./Bio.; Drugs; Explosives; Human remains; Other/Misc. (April 2007)
9. Scent dogs: Scent identification; Search and Rescue; Trailing dogs; Tracking dogs (April 2007)

21



Tools to Facilitate Workflow

- Hosting SWGDOG face to face meetings
- Toll-free teleconferencing
- Hosting of web meetings - www.gotomeeting.com
- E-mail/listserve
- Day to day coordination of communication and assistance in adherence to timetables for the subcommittee chairs and the regular members
- Website hosting
 - Secure side: e-meeting, drafts in progress, security sensitive information www.swgdog.net
 - Open side: draft documents for public comment, work product dissemination www.swgdog.org

22



Encourage colleagues to visit
WWW.SWGDOG.ORG
and participate in the process



Number of hits on www.swgdog.org

