



# **K9 ALERT SEARCH & RESCUE**

## **Organizational Overview**

On the www at:

<http://www.k9alert.org/>

# Who Are We?

- A volunteer group of Dog Handlers as well as experienced wilderness and search personnel typically called out by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) and or local fire & police to assist in locating the missing\*

\* We can be called out by someone other than fire or police, according to our MOU with the state.



# Example of SAR & SAR Dogs Use

- Children lost in the wilderness, parks or around the house
- Elderly persons and/or Alzheimer's patients
- Hikers and hunters lost in the woods
- Victims of natural disasters
- Crime scene evidence, victim recovery



# Becoming a SAR Dog Handler

- Starts with the dog
  - A healthy, athletic, & agile dog
  - Highly obedient
  - Non aggressive
  - Loves the task of using it's senses to search, i.e., a great nose



# Becoming a SAR Dog Handler

- Then the Dog Handler
  - A physically fit individual
  - Strong map reading & navigation skills
  - Radio communication skills
  - wilderness survival
  - first aid
  - Commitment to frequent travel (24/7)
  - Desire to carry gear, water, and manage a dog in a variety of conditions for the purpose of searching for missing people



# Becoming an Operational SAR Dog Handler...*the minimum*

- “Typically” takes 2 years of weekly training
- Each Dog Handler must complete a series practical exams in Search & Rescue [20, 40, & 160 acre] mock searches
- Written examination
- HAM radio license



# Additional Requirements

- Attend VDEM courses in SAR
- Stay abreast of SAR technology such as professional workshops & seminars
- Constantly train your dog in agility, non-aggression, and obedience



# Virginia SAR Dog Units :

- Are:
  - All Volunteer
  - Requested by VDEM and or local fire/police\*
  - Assist law authorities
  - Assist emergency services
- Are not:
  - paid or reimbursed
  - requested by private individuals
  - law enforcement centered

\* We can be called out by someone other than fire or police, according to our MOU with the state.





# How do K9 Alert SAR dogs work ?

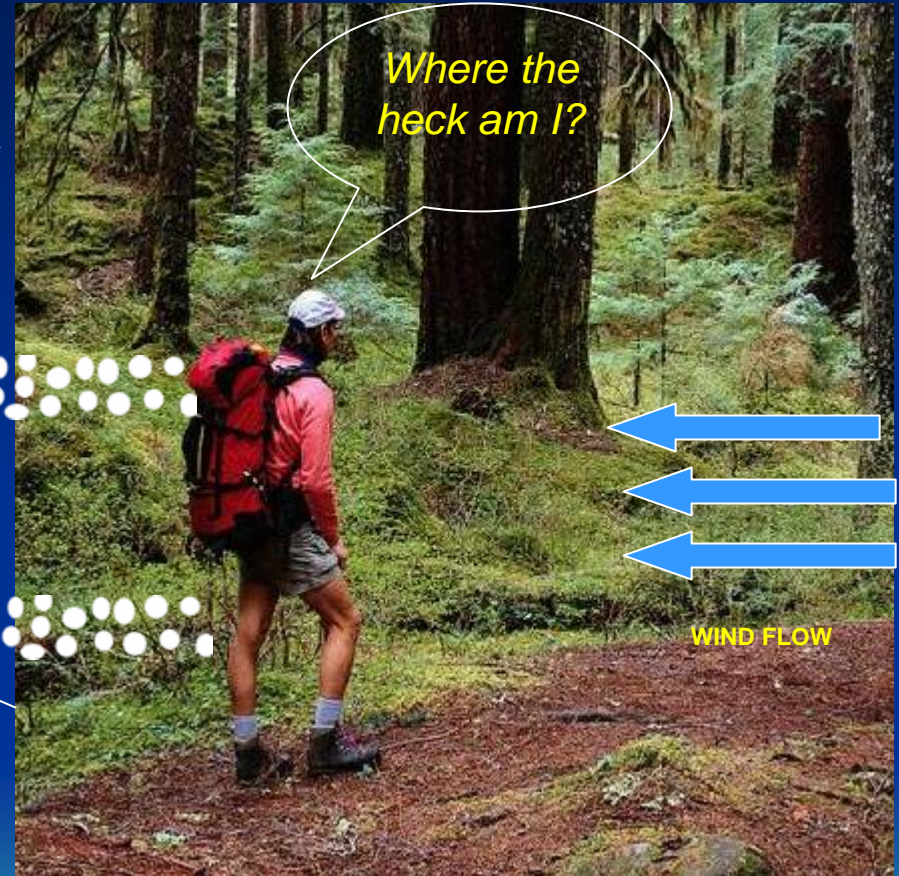


# Air-scent dogs

- Millions of our skin cells slough off and fall to the ground (**approx 40,000 p/min**)
- Wind can pick up scent and carry it for several hundred yards
- Dogs are trained to use this scent and follow it to a person
- Coning effect



# Air-scent dogs



# Air-scent dogs

- They will find other people in the area
- Dogs can work at night
- Rain and water will not hinder dogs ability to locate people
- Hot weather will make searching harder on the dogs (**Chimney Effect**)
- Can find people hidden in heavy / dense brush



# K9 Alert in Training

- Wilderness Rescue
- Water Recovery
- Cadaver
- Disaster/First Responder



## Wilderness Dog



## Water Recovery



# DISASTER & COLLAPSE SEARCH



## Cadaver Recovery



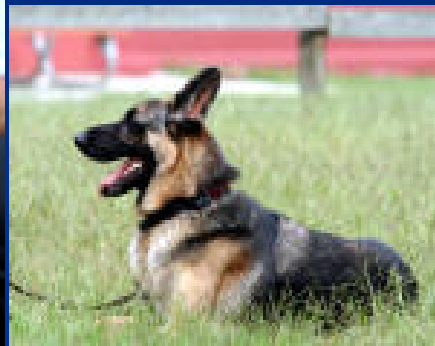
# Supporting K9 Alert

- We are a volunteer group and while we are greatly appreciative of the support of our sponsors and of those individuals that make donations at our fund raisers, we are always hopeful for more help.
- Sponsorship can come from anyone in any way, in any amount, through product donations, [cash donations](#), anything that allows us to concentrate our resources on training and on getting to the next search.
- K-9 Alert is a non-profit tax exempt organization





# Some of Our Dogs



Thank You!!

