



Virginia Task Force 2

Urban Search and Rescue

Administrative Manual

1.15a Canine Search Handler
Performance Agreement

March 2019

Canine Search Handler Performance Agreement for Virginia Task Force 2- Owned Canines

Date: _____

Parties: Virginia Task Force-2, a FEMA National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Task Force, (hereafter referred to as "VA-TF2").

_____, a Canine Search Specialist assigned to VA-TF2, (hereafter referred to as the "CSS").

This is a letter of understanding and agreement between both parties whereby the CSS agrees to the following conditions in exchange for the receipt of a canine for purposes of serving in VA-TF2 as part of the FEMA National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Disaster Canine Readiness program:

1. VATF-2 hereby assigns a canine, _____, AKC# _____, of the breed _____ and gender _____ (hereafter referred to as the "canine") to be the canine search partner of the above-named CSS. As such, the canine will live with _____, be trained by and be handled by the above-named CSS.
2. The CSS agrees to perform the following:
 - a. The CSS will travel, at the expense of VA-TF2, to the breeder or other designated location to receive the canine and will spend up to four (4) days receiving orientation on how to convert the canine into an operational disaster search canine as specified in accordance with the FEMA National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Disaster Canine Readiness Evaluation program.
 - b. The CSS will train the canine to FEMA search canine standards, and the CSS and canine as a team will pass the FEMA Basic level certification

within one (1) year of the date that the canine becomes eligible to test for the FEMA Basic level certification.

c. The CSS will comply with the training requirements and attendance policy of VA-TF2, and will remain a member in good standing of VA-TF2 for a minimum of six (6) years following certification by the FEMA National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Disaster Search Canine Readiness Evaluation program.

d. If the CSS is unable to care for the canine, or is temporarily incapacitated, the VA-TF2 Search Component Leader (hereafter referred to as the "Search Component Leader") may reassign the canine to another VA-TF2 CSS for the duration of the CSS's period of incapacitation.

e. At the end of the canine's useful service life as a canine search animal, as determined at the sole discretion of the Search Component Leader in consultation with a VA-TF2-selected vet, the canine shall be disposition by VA-TF2. Once the canine is disposition by VA-TF2, the CSS to whom the canine was last assigned shall have first option to claim the canine as the sole property of the CSS. If the canine is not claimed by the CSS, any other member of VA-TF2 may opt to take possession and ownership of the canine.

3. Failure of the CSS to meet these conditions may result in removal of the canine from the CSS, and transfer of the canine to the Search Component Leader. The Search Component Leader shall take responsibility for the control and boarding of the canine until the canine is reassigned to another CSS with VA-TF2.

4. The Care and Maintenance Policy for Virginia Task Force 2-Owned Canines and any other FEMA Urban Search and Rescue VA-TF2 K-9 Search Policies and Procedures are hereby incorporated into this Agreement, and the CSS agrees to abide by and fulfill the requirements and expectations set forth in these policies.

5. This Agreement shall be governed by, construed and applied in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and any conflict with the laws of another jurisdiction shall be resolved in favor of the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

6. The appropriate venue in which to bring a cause of action arising out of this Agreement shall be in the courts of the City of Virginia Beach, or the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

7. This Agreement may be terminated at any time at the sole discretion of VA-TF2.

Signatures:

_____ Date: _____
Program Manager, VA-TF2

_____ Date: _____
Search Subgroup Leader, VA-TF2

_____ Date: _____
Canine Search Specialist, VA-TF2