

## SAR Levels

This badge is intended to simulate the "agility" training a dog might go through to prepare for the navigation of rubble and/or collapsed buildings to search for trapped victims. Because every search site is different, this badge incorporates some "core" behaviors that are likely to be needed at most urban sites or that are important for the dog to know. These behaviors will be demonstrated using obstacles that are built for the badge or can be created from what the handler or instructor has available as long as the guidelines are met.

This badge is not intended for all dogs and **the safety of the dogs attempting the training for this badge is a top priority**. Any dog with a physical ailment or weakness that affects the dog's ability to navigate and balance safely should not try for this badge. And any dog under 18 mo. old (growth plates not closed) may not earn the badge and should not be working on the equipment at full height or doing obstacles that put stress on the dog's joints. For the safety of the dog, no surface the dog will traverse may be higher than 60" and care should be exercised when teaching a dog to navigate any raised obstacle. During training and testing, the dogs should be off leash for safety purposes.

If an instructor tells you to stop your dog or that this might not be the best badge for your dog, please respect that. The instructor knows your dog's safety and confidence is paramount. The dog must demonstrate confidence with the required behaviors in order to earn the badge. No **dog showing fear or apprehension should be pushed to do anything beyond his comfort level**, but may be encouraged with rewards to move ahead in the training at a pace that doesn't overly stress the dog.

Skills needed to earn this advanced level badge (items in bold defined below):

Dog's height standing: \_\_\_\_\_"

\_\_\_\_\_ Prior to starting this training, the handler will get DSA approval of equipment that will be used to show that it is safe and within DSA guidelines. Photos can be submitted prior to video evaluations.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler understands and can articulate safety concerns and potential risks

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler demonstrates during training that he/she can read the dog's confidence levels and will demonstrate at least some of their training steps to the evaluator.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler can demonstrate or explain how to help the dog gain confidence to try new skills using positive reinforcement

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler can describe injuries and other issues they want to watch for in their dog while doing this sort of training or SAR work.

\_\_\_\_\_ Handler agrees to accept and assume the risk involved in training for and performing this activity

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dog has earned the Dog Scout Agility I or II badge**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dog demonstrates confidence in performing all of the required behaviors**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dog can perform 3 or more proprioception exercises demonstrating both balance and foot placement BEFORE attempting any of the SAR Agility obstacles at full height**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dog will jump onto a sturdy elevated surface that is 1.5 to 2 times his height**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dog will jump over an opening (between sturdy raised surfaces) that is 1.5 (+/- 4") times as wide as the dog's height and not raised more than twice the dog's height off the ground (12" dog will jump over an 18" to 22" opening that is no more than 24" off the ground)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dog will jump from one height surface to another height surface that is higher or lower than the first surface by at least the dog's height and that is not the ground.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dog will walk across a elevated pipe or simulated pipe such as a culvert or tube with dimensions of at least 12 to 15 inches in diameter**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dog will navigate a raised series of planks with level, height and surface changes**

Note: the above obstacles can be performed individually (does not need to be completed as a mini course)