



**SUCHEN - HELFEN - RETTEN**

# USCA'S RH PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- How did this program begin?
  - Who started the program and why?
  - How was this program implemented?
  - Why did the German Shepherd Club in Germany accept / promote this program?
  - How and why did USCA become involved?
  - RH Basics – what is involved?
  - What does this program mean for you?
  - How has this program evolved?
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# HOW DID THIS PROGRAM BEGIN?

1988

- The Armenian Earthquake struck.
  - SAR Teams were sent from all around the world. Due to different training styles/certifications, rescue efforts were slowed.
  - This caused delays in deploying teams.
  - Effectiveness of searches compromised.
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# WHO STARTED THE PROGRAM AND WHY?

1993

- A group of highly trained search & rescue professionals met in Sweden.
  - The IRO – International Rescue Organization was formed.
  - Dr. Wolfgang Zoerner and his team decided it was time to set standards and certifications.
  - Deployment of dogs would be effective – everyone trained the same way.
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# WHY DID GERMAN SHEPHERD CLUB ACCEPT THIS PROGRAM?

2002

- The Executive Board saw an opportunity to promote and advance the breed.
  - Other breeds had become more popular.
  - Open another portal for the members.
  - Gain membership from other organizations.
  - Gain more exposure for the breed on a larger scale.
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# HOW AND WHY DID USCA BECOME INVOLVED?

2002-2004

- USCA was asked to translate the manuscript for the DVD productions for training concepts.
- In tandem with Reichel Studios in Germany, DVDs were produced in English and available to the entire world.
- On April 24, 2002 USCA had its first titled team.
- USCA was invited to attend the annual delegate meeting.
- The AWDF - American Working Dog Federation – also has become involved - represents all working breeds.
- Gave us an opportunity to offer another working dog program.

# RH BASICS

- Who can title a dog? Practically anyone
  - All dogs must complete the Obedience/Dexterity portion
  - Then, teams may compete/title in any/all of the following:
    - 1) Tracking
    - 2) Area Search
    - 3) Rubble – known as “disaster”
    - 4) Avalanche
    - 5) Water
  - Most breeds, even smaller dogs, accepted.
  - Handler needs basic handling skills.
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# OBEDIENCE / DEXTERITY - RH 1

- Obedience is important to establish control for any situation the team might encounter.
- Both verbal and hand signals are permitted for the exercises as in some cases a verbal command may not be heard in certain situations.
- The obedience routine is similar in nature to the IPO work.
- Some differences and an outline of exercises for RH 1 are:
  - (a) no dumbbell is used but rather a utility item.
  - (b) the group includes two neutral dogs and the group moves clockwise while the handler and his dog move counter clockwise.
    1. Heeling
    2. Walking through a group of people
    3. Off-leash heeling
    4. Tunnel
    5. Traversing of unpleasant surfaces
    6. Carrying and handing over
    7. Laying down while distracted
    8. Traversing an elevated rigid wooden bridge
    9. Traversing 3 different obstacles



# OBEDIENCE / DEXTERITY- RH2

- This title has two levels – A and B – degree of difficulty increases
- 1. Off leash heeling
- 2. Distance control
- 3. Retrieval on flat ground
- 4. Unstable plank
- 5. Ladder
- 6. Tunnel
- 7. Directability at a distance
- 8. Carrying & handing over the dog
- 9. Laying down of the dog

# OBEDIENCE / DEXTERITY



# TRACKING

- Tracking is very similar to IPO work and includes article indication and working out the scent trail.
  - It's primary objective, however, is to locate a missing victim and for which the most points are awarded.
  - Failure to locate the victim(s) or, if the alert is triggered by either the missing person or handler, a dog cannot pass.
  - Different levels are in place so that a team can go on to either competitions. or certify through a SAR agency – RH1 Level A – B. The degree of difficulty increases with each level.
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# TRACKING



# AREA SEARCH

- This phase is done by means of a systematic search pattern in open fields or forested areas to locate missing persons.
- There are three distinct types of alerts to choose from:
  - (a) barking
  - (b) bringsel - a short stick or other device that is suspended from the collar of a trained dog and that the dog takes in his mouth as a signal to the handler that he has located an objective.
  - (c) free indication or recall
- The dog is judged on:
  - (a) Search behavior
  - (b) Temperament
  - (c) Enthusiasm
  - (d) Work drive
  - (e) Fitness
- The handler is judged on a number of things, but most importantly his tactical skills.

# AREA SEARCH



# RUBBLE WORK

- It is the most difficult level for dogs to work in due to the dangers involved.
  - Above all is safety for the handler, who needs to have the necessary equipment, such as wear gloves, a helmet, sturdy shoes.
  - The dog generally never wears a collar or vest also for safety reasons.
  - Searches may be conducted in collapsed buildings and/or inside buildings.
  - The intensity, independence, search willingness, endurance, and dexterity are all important criteria for a dog to be able to carry out an effective search.
  - The handler has to monitor the safety at all times and use effective tactics to deploy his dog.
  - Types of alerts allowed are barking, bringsel and free indication (recall).
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# RUBBLE WORK





# AVALANCHE & WATER

There are two other notable areas that are incorporated in the rules:

- (a) Avalanche work - alert may be barking or scratching
- (b) Water Search

As most people trialing their dogs do not readily have these types of areas to search in, you can check the rules to review the rules governing the trial phases.

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# WHAT DOES THIS PROGRAM MEAN FOR YOU?

- Affords you the opportunity to be part of a new concept in dog training.
  - It broadens your platform to see an entirely different side of your dog.
  - Couples the connection between IPO training and RH.
  - Gives an insight into how important search & rescue is and how our dogs can execute this important function.
  - Will broaden our scope of breeding so that well-balanced dogs are bred to match these skills.
  - Offers an opportunity to compete at yet another level in the sport.
  - Opens perhaps a door to certifying for real deployment.
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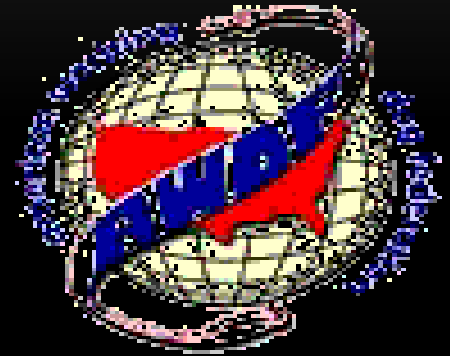
# HOW HAS THE PROGRAM EVOLVED?

- In 1993 just a core group of European Countries founded the organization.
  - In 2006 there were 31 member countries.
  - Workshops are being conducted annually in the US.
  - We now have 36 RH dogs in the country.
  - In 2011 a RH Committee was formed to better promote the program.
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AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE . . .



# WE ALL NEED TO WORK TOGETHER!



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For Dogs Worldwide



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