

Interested in SAR dog work?

If you are interested in becoming involved with SAR dog work, the most important requirement is that you are prepared to train yourself as a qualified voluntary worker.

Search and rescue tasks require endurance; good physical condition and mental stamina. A search dog has to be healthy, social and cooperative. It has to be able to move easily in various terrains. The breed of the dog is not an issue; also crossbreds work as search dogs.



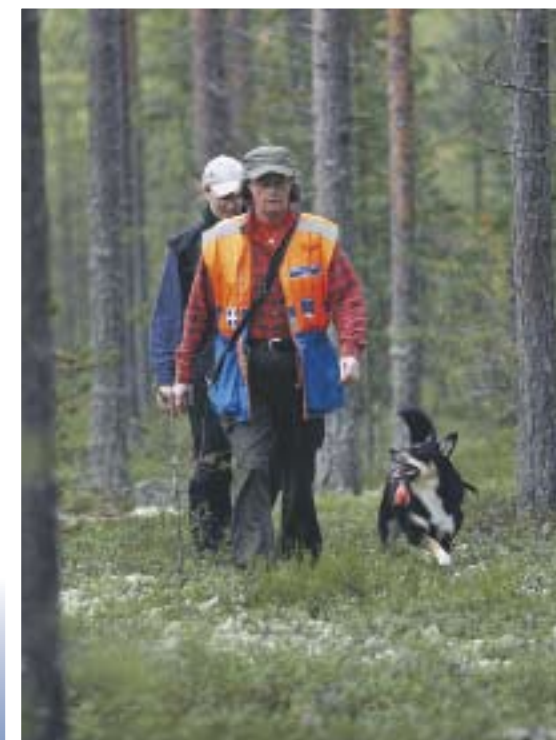
Co-operation



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HAUKKU PELASTAA



The Finnish Search and
Rescue Dog Association
(SARDA)

Voluntary Work

The Finnish Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) is a national voluntary organization concentrating on developing SAR dog training in Finland, together with other national organizations and authorities. SARDA Finland is an umbrella organization for local Search and Rescue Dog Associations.

SARDA Finland is an active member of Voluntary Rescue Service (Vapepa) and the Finnish National Rescue Association (SPEK).

International cooperation is an important part in the work of SARDA Finland. We maintain active links to SAR dog organizations in other countries. Moreover, SAR dogs and handlers trained by SARDA Finland participate in the Finn Rescue training (FRF team) which aims to assist in international operations.

SAR dogs can save lives

SAR dogs and their handlers are trained for searching missing persons in varied and challenging conditions and environments.

Local SAR dog teams train dogs and handlers to operate in Voluntary Rescue Service call-out groups which help the Police and other rescue officials in searching for missing people. A qualified dog unit can cover large areas reliably and efficiently.

Search dogs are trained in both air-scenting and tracking. For crises situations, dogs are also trained to work on debris. Crisis training is organized together with rescue officials, and SAR dogs and handlers are placed in municipal civil protection units.

Searching is team work. A dog unit consists of a search dog, its handler and a navigator; sometimes also first-aid personnel, although both the handler and navigator are qualified in first-aid.

On debris search dogs and handlers are part of a larger rescue unit.

