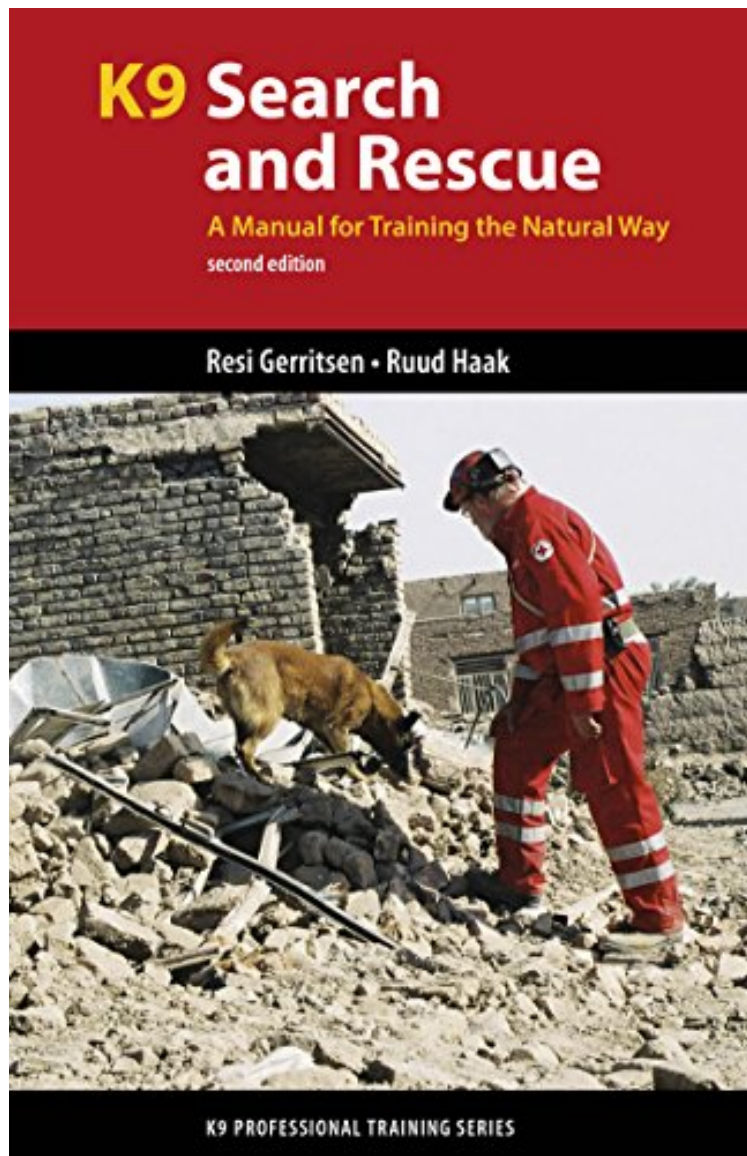


[Mobile book] K9 Search and Rescue: A Manual for Training the Natural Way (K9 Professional Training Series)

K9 Search and Rescue: A Manual for Training the Natural Way (K9 Professional Training Series)

Resi Gerritsen, Ruud Haak

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Resi Gerritsen, Ruud Haak : K9 Search and Rescue: A Manual for Training the Natural Way (K9 Professional Training Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised K9 Search and Rescue: A Manual for Training the Natural Way (K9 Professional Training Series):

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Training that works by harnessing your dogs instincts. Learn how to: Stimulate your dogs natural hunting drive for effective SAR training. Start your dogs training program with an easy, three-step process. Develop skills in a variety of search operations, including wilderness, avalanche and disaster scenarios. Dr. Resi Gerritsen and Ruud Haak have trained search and rescue dogs for more than 30 years and have taken part in rescue operations around the world. They serve as training directors and international judges for the International Red Cross Federation, the United Nations, the International Rescue Dog Organization and the Fdration Cynologique Internationale (FCI). Based on their decades of study and experience, their innovative SAR training method is rooted in a firm, scientific understanding of K9 instincts. Step-by-step instructions, dozens of illustrations and photographs from the field establish a professional K9 SAR program to benefit both beginners and experts.

With this new book, Ruud and Resi once again make an important contribution to the development of training search and rescue dogs. (Frans Jansen, President, FCI Rescue Dogs Commission)Finally, a SAR book that actually presents proven and scientific training methods, not just a collection of war stories. A trainer or handler who follows the advice in this book should find success. (Bill Dotson, President, Search Dog Organization of North America; President, Applied K9 Technologies)Every once in a while a truly stellar book comes along and this is one of them.... [T]his is a book that SAR personnel will want to refer to over and over. (Susan Bulanda, National Search Dog Alliance)There are few instructional manuals that go into as much detail as this one for a step-by-step learning process in certain behaviors. (Tricia Heldmann, Canine Search and Recovery)About the AuthorDr. Resi Gerritsen and Ruud Haak are world-renowned specialists in the field of dog work and the authors of more than 30 titles on dog training. They serve as training directors and international judges for the International Red Cross Federation, the United Nations, the International Rescue Dog Organization and the Fdration Cynologique Internationale (FCI).Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.Introduction The idea of dogs rescuing people from danger speaks to the imagination. The stories of rescues by Saint Bernards high in the Alps at the borders of Switzerland and Italy are classics. And the famous painting Saved shows a Newfoundland dog on a wharf wall with a girl rescued from the sea lying at its feet. Such stories and paintings are surrounded with the romance of the past. Modern pictures in the news of actual explosions or earthquakes leave less room for romancethey reproduce the chilling reality of completely destroyed buildings and of people, often injured, who have lost all their property. Buried Deep Under Debris In these news photos there is another group of people we do not see. They are the victims who are sometimes buried deep under the debris. Many of them died at the moment of violence, but others are still alive. They may be trapped under the rubble, hardly able to move, or they may be locked in a cellar with tons of debris blocking the door. These victims can do only one thing in their perilous position, and that is to waitand to hope that rescuers are coming. If they can make noise, they hope they can be heard above ground. In truth, however, their knocking and yelling hardly ever penetrate to the outside world. They will not likely be heard by anybody, and before long their hands hurt from knocking and their voices are hoarse. With some rainwater and anything they can find to eat, they try to keep themselves alive as long as possible. After the first reports of such disasters, money, blankets, food, medicines, and tents are sent in from many foreign countries. These supplies help with the primary needs of the survivors who have lost everything, but victims who are lying under the rubble waiting for their rescue do not need money or blankets. For them it is vital that rescue workers come as soon as possible to dig them out. But first, rescuers have to find the trapped victims. For all our ingenuity, humans cant find a buried person in an emergency. Only well-trained search and rescue dogs are able to locate people under the rubble. The dog teams must be brought to the disaster area first. Deployment Our searches for missing people in hard-to-reach areas, as well as for victims under rubble and avalanches, are our most important tasks. Were happy to say were successful in a lot of cases. Many people owe their lives to the well-trained search and rescue dogs of our group. However, success with these dogs was not achieved in one day. Intensive work with a goal-setting training method is the key to the success of our dogs. Regular training in constantly changing circumstances keeps our dogs at that high level of performance. After an avalanche or earthquake disaster, time is the enemy in trying to save people who are still alive. The better our dogs are trained and the longer they can work, the greater the chance of finding people alive. That means operational search and rescue dogs always have to be in perfect search condition, mental and physical. All over the world it is said that search dogs can last no longer than fifteen to twenty minutes in an intensive, continuous search. But we have proven repeatedly that the search and rescue dogs of our group can search and locate for hours. For that we thank our directed training method and the fact that our dogs work without pressure. A dog tires more quickly because of the pressure or compulsion a handler puts on it. The mental stress created when the dog has to work because the handler wants it to, or when it has to be corrected or encouraged constantly, is very wearing on the dog. Of course, search work is mentally and physically hard. But when a dog works

because it likes the task, it can work for hours. Our method is oriented toward letting the dog feel happy and encouraging enjoyment in the search. During consecutive training sessions, the dog encounters gradually more difficult exercises to solve. This way, it learns to develop itself further. Because the dog likes its work, it is able to extend its boundaries of knowledge and stamina. Team Building Keep in mind that we have to discover the dogs potential and take this potential into account in our training method. We have one training method for search and rescue dogs, but every breed, or even every dog, requires an individual approach to train it to the highest possible level. Our training method is directly connected to abilities and drives of dogs that are rooted in their biology. We do not see the dog as a mechanical behavior machine, but rather as a creature with special skills for search and rescue work already present in its genes. Handlers are expected to have a special understanding of their dog. They have to accept their dog as their partner: the dog searches; the handler supports it and tries to recognize and read the dogs body language and expressions. Handlers dont teach the dog to search on command; instead, handlers stimulate the dogs internal drive to search. The dog always has to be givenboth figuratively and literallythe room to conduct its search. The handler and dog have to be a team. This book is about search and rescue dog teams and a unique new method for training them in a natural way. Here we focus on the realities of search and rescue dog work, which is the most beautiful application of the dogs phenomenal ability to detect scent. Throughout this book we present several case studies to demonstrate the kinds of difficulties and problems that need to be solved during the deployment of search and rescue dogs. The first case study, which follows, is based on excerpts from our team diary after the earth vibrated for about one minute in southern Italy in November 1980. Case Study: Avellino Earthquake, Italy, November 1980 Sunday, November 23, 1980. An earthquake hits the Avellino region in southern Italy at 6:43 p.m. It has a magnitude of 6.8 to 7.0 on the Richter scale and a focal depth of almost twelve and a half miles (20 km). There is death, injury, homelessness, and desperation everywhere. Blankets and medicines have been sent already. Our unit with search and rescue dogs follows on its own initiative. Wednesday. Finally, we solve all travel problems and arrive in the region. We work in the town of Calabritto in the middle of the earthquake area. Our dogs are searching and locating: first a woman under a staircase and then a five-year-old girl. Both alive! A big digging machine, however, had already been at work where our dogs indicate a victim. Desperately, a father watches the salvage of his lifeless child. Friday. Inhabitants indicate that they hear knocking in a house. Our dogs search what they can, but do not find anything. In the afternoon, our food tastes like the disinfectant on our hands. The search will continue after a short break. But where do we start? The village is full of dead bodies, often buried yards deep under the rubble. The volunteer fire department leaves the village, saying, Molto pericolosa (too dangerous). Saturday. We are crawling through a collapsed porch and see one of our dogs standing near a naked foot. We are lucky. The victim is lying in the upper part of the rubble and a young officer brings rescue workers right away. A bit farther on we find the body of a woman under a door. The usual follows: salvage and disinfect. Again our dogs indicate a place. But the rescue workers cant get in to move anything more. From our position under the porch we hear them repeat, Domani, domani (tomorrow). We dig by ourselves with a piece of wood and our hands. We rescue three men from the rubble. We are happy that night. Monday. A search and rescue dog goes into a house and doesnt come back. He doesnt respond to commands. Damn! Everything is unstable and coming down. Carefully we slide in. We find the dog lying in one of the rooms. He is on what looks like the remains of a metal bed. Is the dog tired? Then we see him push his nose on the ground. During the salvage of the victim, I find a picture of a boy of about sixteen in the rubble. Tuesday. Under the rubble at the big church, our dogs indicate very clearly places where victims can be found. No more Domani Today they will dig. Under a collapsed wall we discover another victim. And then more all day. It is taking too long and the rescue workers are becoming tired and discouraged. The big machines for clearing out rubble begin to dig again. Then suddenly there is panic. Two hands are visible in the rubble. I shout and yell, but the disinfectant substance is already spread. When will they learn to see if the victims are still alive first? Rubble is taken away and then we see that there are two bodies. A child lies under the upper one. The mothers hands lie over the young girls head. I count the days we tried in vain to get people to dig where our dogs indicated a victim. Many valuable hours were lost. Now everything is over. Wednesday. After a two-week mission in this earthquake area, we travel back home. We are glad to have saved nine human lives and, where live rescues were not possible, to have returned bodies to their relatives. We see beside the roads all manner of items to be burned, as well as the blankets that had been sent. Victims under the rubble do not need blankets. They are waiting for rescue. The villages where we worked have died. The machines will leave a big debris pilea large cemetery without a cross.