





NZ Land SAR Search Dogs (Avalanche)

- 12 operational dog teams nationwide.
- Handlers are highly skilled in snow safety
10 out of the 12 are senior ski patrollers.



Land SAR Search Dogs

While search dogs have been used in New Zealand for around 20 years, national standards were only developed and implemented around 10 years ago.

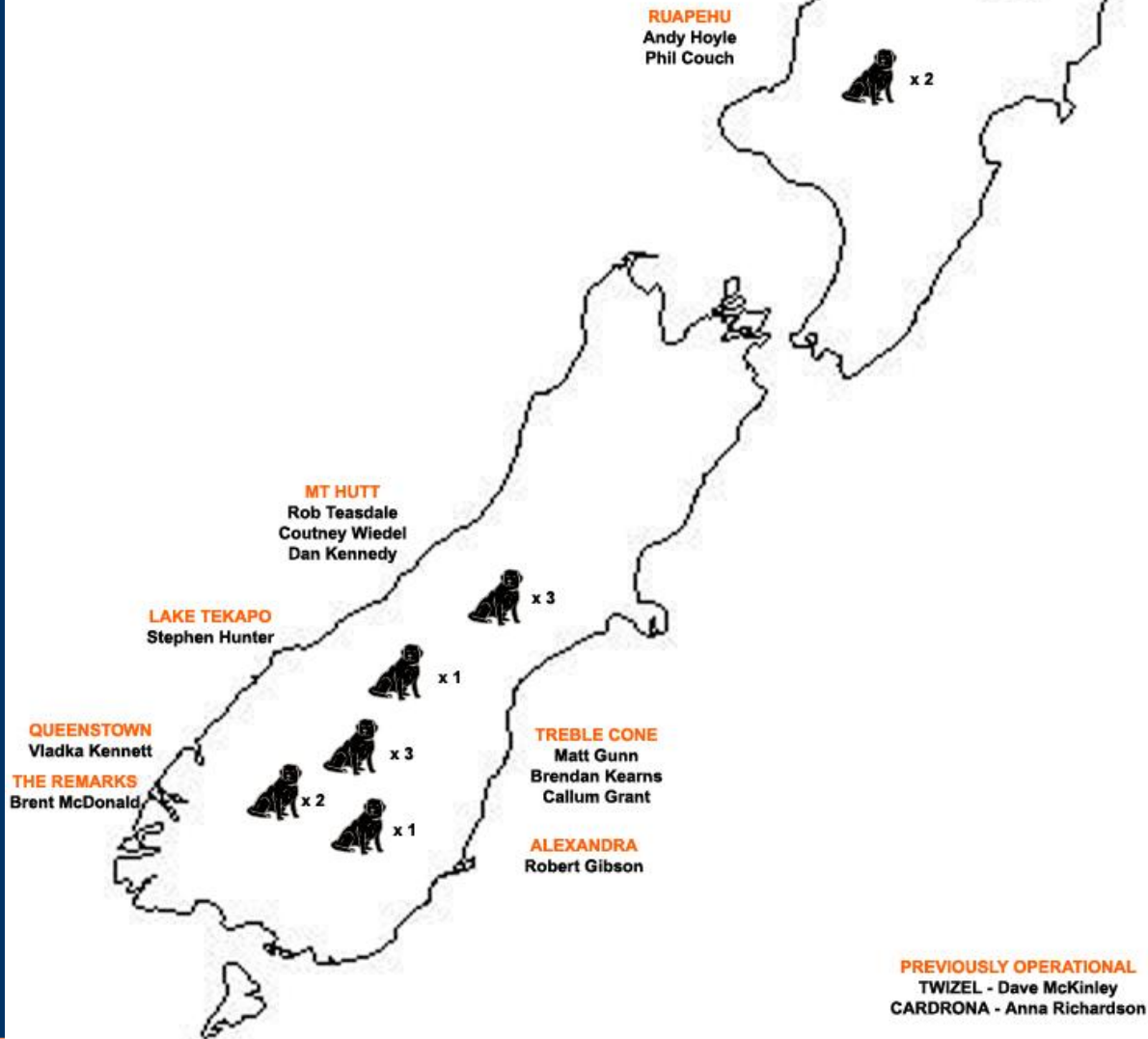


NZLandSAR Search Dogs formed in 2008.

- 80 members
- 12 operational avalanche search dogs
- 15 operational wilderness search dogs



**CURRENT OPERATIONAL DOGS
2009 - 2010**



Who assesses us



- NZ Police Dog Handlers
 - ✓ Credibility with the police
 - ✓ Unbiased & professional viewpoint
- Land SAR Search Dogs Civilian Assessors
- All dogs must be deemed to be at an operational level to be accepted on national assessment course
- All dogs are reassessed annually

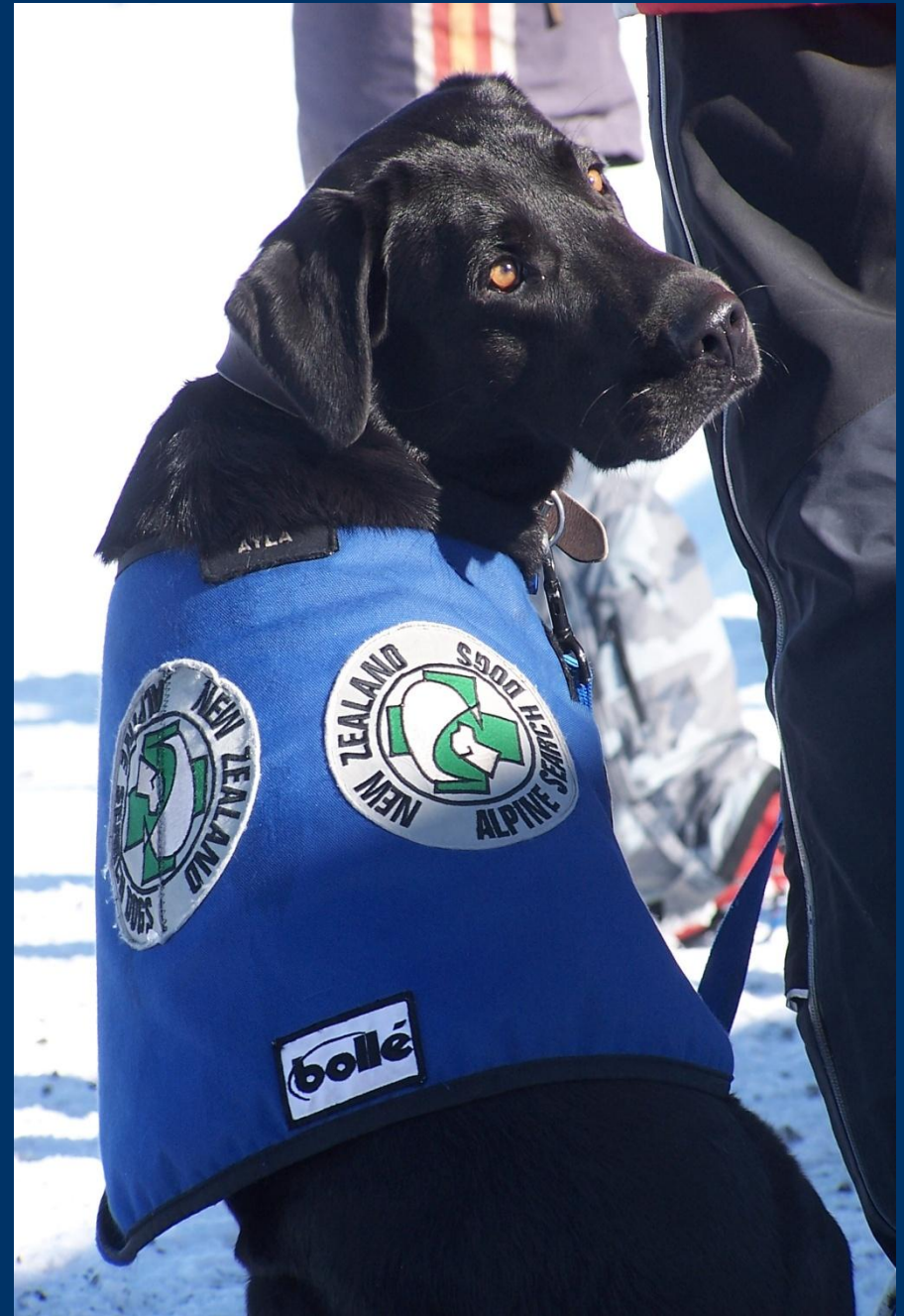
Assessment standards

- Control of dog at all times
 - Understanding of dogs - body language
 - Handler meets skill criteria
 - Handler assesses the site
 - Handler formulates search plan

 - 100m x 100m site
 - Minimum of two human finds
 - One article find
 - Maximum of 20 minutes
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Why Dogs?

- Sense of Smell
220 million scent receptors
(we have 5 million)
- Speed
Survival statistics tell us that 90% of avalanche victims are alive at the fifteen minute mark. After 35 minutes the survival rate is at 30% and quickly drops after that.



Speed



How fast?

A well-trained avalanche dog is equivalent to approximately 20-foot searchers and can search the same area in an eighth of the time.

One dog can search one hectare in approximately 30 minutes - it takes 20 foot searchers 4 hours to search the same area with probes (covering about 2.5% of the total area that the dog could cover).

During a Fine search, one dog can cover that same hectare in 1-2 hours where it would take 20 searchers 20 hours to cover the same area.

More information - current operational handler contacts:



www.searchdogs.co.nz