

Instructors Bio's

Water

Sally Dickinson - Sally grew up with working dogs on a sheep farm in Northern England and was greatly influenced by her father who volunteered for many years with the Mountain Rescue team. After moving to the USA and settling in Northern Ohio in 1997 she joined the local Fire and Rescue department and trained her first search canine working with local agencies and ultimately joining Ohio Task Force 1 as a canine search specialist.

Now based out of northern Virginia, she is a career firefighter paramedic with Fairfax County FRD. As a uniformed member of Virginia Task Force 1 her primary specialty is a canine search specialist, with secondary positions as a Rescue specialist and a Technical Search Specialist. Sally is also an operational member and the training officer for Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Association, a wilderness air scent search and rescue team. When not on searches locally or deployment with VATF1 she teaches for various organizations and groups including the Commonwealth of Virginia Search and Rescue program.

The science behind animal behavior and the wellbeing of working dogs is a passion for Sally. She is a graduate of the KPA Professional Dog Trainer program, University of Tennessee Certified Canine Fitness Trainer and the University of Washington Animal Behavior program. Sally is also a lead instructor for Veterinary Tactical Group, training handlers and medics in the rapid interventions needed to save the lives of working dogs injured in the field. As a self-proclaimed 'behavior geek', Sally is currently continuing her formal education in animal behavior and psychology.

"To work a dog well you must know the science, the theory, the training methodology. But you also need to let your hair down and figure out a way to dance in time with the dog. It is a beautiful thing when a team finds their rhythm and masters the dance."

Sherry Scruggs - Obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science from the University of Florida. Worked at UF for 34.5 years. Worked 20 years at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine: 4.5 years as an Operating Room Technician, 10.5 years conducting research projects, and 5 years as the Operating Room Supervisor. Ended career working 14.5 years for the Department of Animal Care Services managing many of the research facilities that housed animals.

Sherry has been working and training canines from 1994 to present. She has certified personal K9s in **NSDA:** Land HRD, Water HRD **NNCDS:** Water HRD **NASAR:** Land HRD, Water HRD, Area Search

Sherry has been a Principle Evaluator for NSDA since 2011 in HRD (land & water), Area Search, Area search with large source HR and Gun Residue. Lead Evaluator for NASAR in HRD (Land & Water), Area search and Trailing.

Sherry has been on the Board of Directors for NSDA since 2007 to present.

Currently, she is a K9 Handler for Fanning County Fire Rescue