

**Read the text below. For question (22-26) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Write your answer on the separate answer sheet.**

### **RESCUE DOGS' WORK A SERIOUS "GAME"**

Search and rescue is a difficult job. It demands skilled, highly dedicated individuals who are ready to spring into action at the first word of an avalanche, missing hiker, or earthquake. Many of these heroes are volunteers, who receive no compensation for their efforts. Others work for food. They are search-and-rescue dogs. Their missions are as diverse as the animals themselves.

Training dogs for such missions is a lengthy, difficult, and costly process. It generally takes one and a half to two years for a dog and its handler to become "mission ready". The result is worth it: these dogs help save lives.

Rescue dogs are trained in a variety of behaviours. Trailing dogs, like traditional "tracking" dogs, follow the path a missing person has taken. Other dogs seek out human scent in a specific area. The dogs are trained to view the search as a game, complete with suitable rewards. The game is a challenging one. "In human detection," said trainer and handler Bev Peabody, "we sometimes train them on as little as one tooth."

Peabody is a founding member of the California Rescue Dog Association, Inc. The all-volunteer organization is the nation's largest search-dog group. Positive reinforcement (stimulus), Peabody said, is key to keeping the dogs enthusiastic about searching. "Usually after we have a search where they are not successful, the next time we have training their problem might only be ten minutes," she said. "Then we celebrate, and praise them".

This training technique also is employed in the field. If a dog spends an entire day searching but has been unsuccessful, the handler might "hide" someone and enable the dog to track that person within minutes, thereby allowing the dog to end the day with a successful find and the rewards that come with it. The general approach to training a dog for search and rescue is no different from training a dog to complete any other task. The first step is to figure out which reward the dog will work for, and always immediately give it to the dog when he does the right thing. Dogs don't do charity! The training starts out with very simple tasks and gets progressively more complex as the dog completes each level.

Typically, a dog retires when he can no longer handle the physical rigors of the work. Peabody reports that his team's dogs usually retire when they're eight to ten years old.

Search and rescue is a young dog's game. It can be stressful. Disaster work is hard on both the dog and the handler. When a search and rescue dog retires, he usually lives out his retirement with his handler. If the handler can't take care of him any longer, there are organizations that will find new adoptive homes for retired search dogs. In either case, the dog enjoys a life of fun, games and leisure, a much-deserved reward for a career of fun, games and public service.

**22** What is NOT TRUE, according to paragraph 1?

- A** Volunteer work takes up a lot of time and efforts.
- B** Search and rescue dogs perform a variety of tasks.
- C** There are different types of rescue dogs.
- D** Search and rescue dogs assist humans during difficult times.

**23** What does the author state in paragraph 2?

- A** Lifesaving is a costly process.
- B** Dog training lasts two years and a half.
- C** Dog training requires a lot of money.
- D** Handlers work with rescued dogs.

**24** What does the author say about search and rescue dogs in paragraph 3?

- A** They learn dog commands through play.
- B** They are trained in large search-dog groups.
- C** They are taught to seek out a human tooth.
- D** They complete a rescue mission in ten minutes.

**25** What does the training technique described in the text involve?

- A** Spending an entire day in the field with a dog.
- B** Rewarding the dog for the most difficult tasks.
- C** Encouraging the dog after a tough training.
- D** Giving the dog a chance to rescue the handler.

**26** What does the author state in paragraph 6?

- A** After ten years of service, a dog is retired from rescue work.
- B** After disaster work, both the dog and the handler get rewards.
- C** After retirement, search dogs take part in public service events.
- D** After career ending, search and rescue dogs lead a happy life.