Professional Conduct Policy for Cadaver Dog Handlers/Trainees

The nature of working with cadaver dogs is such that contact with human remains, both skeletal and fleshy, is a routine occurrence. This necessitates a standard of behavior higher than that of other disciplines. Handlers are expected at all times to treat human remains with dignity and respect and to maintain confidentiality when confidential or privileged information is disclosed or when given access to information of a private or otherwise sensitive nature. Professional decorum is expected and behaviors such as “horseplay,” posting on electronic media, and inappropriate humor will not be tolerated.

Photography of human or non-human remains is strictly forbidden. Ask an instructor for permission before taking a photo in, or around, the FOREST.

Handlers should not come into direct contact with human remains in the FOREST. Dogs should not come into direct contact with human remains in the FOREST. Watch where you and your dog are walking. Dogs should not be allowed to “mouth” remains or pick them up. In the event that remains are touched or stepped on by dogs or handlers in the FOREST, inform an instructor so that the incident can be recorded for the laboratory record on the set(s) of remains involved.

If a dog defecates in, or around, the FOREST or anywhere else on the WCU campus the handler must pick up after the dog and dispose of the waste in an outdoor trash receptacle.

Used disposable gloves may not be disposed of in regular trash cans. These are considered biohazardous and should be disposed of accordingly. Instructors have been provided with red biohazard bags for glove disposal.

Failure to abide by these expectations will result in immediate removal from Foundations/Burials training. Violators will not be allowed to enroll in future Cadaver Dog Training courses at Western Carolina University.

I agree to abide by the policies specified above

Signature_______________________________________________

Date__________________