



Dogs save lives

We set standards for their training



The International Search and Rescue Dog Organisation (IRO) is a global umbrella organisation for search and rescue dog organisations, promoting uniform standards in search and rescue dog work. With the support of an international team of experienced trainers, judges and classifiers, we ensure that search and rescue dog teams around the world receive training and certification in accordance with recognised guidelines.

Search and rescue dog teams are deployed when people are in immediate danger. In such situations, the highest level of professionalism is required. The IRO ensures that well-prepared teams are available when needed, and that their skills and reliability can be relied upon.



IRO Network

5,734*	search and rescue dog teams
139	member organisations
114	officials (trainers, judges, classifiers)
6	employees

*based on available member data



We are committed

We spend many hours training with our dogs, developing as a team, and preparing to help people whenever they need us.



We go the extra mile

Minimum requirements are not enough. We train teams that can work where others reach their limits.



We work with heart

Our training is shaped by respect, trust and positive reinforcement. This fosters strong teams that work with confidence and motivation.



What makes the IRO unique?

We are global

The 1988 Armenian earthquake highlighted the challenges of international search and rescue dog teams working together without common standards. IRO was founded in 1993 to connect organisations worldwide and develop shared guidelines for search and rescue dog training.



Today, the IRO unites over 130 organisations from more than 40 countries worldwide.

Why support matters

The IRO is a non-profit organisation that relies on donations. Our work depends on the dedication of our volunteers, the cooperation of our member organisations and the generosity of our supporters.

Donations enable us to deliver international examinations and training programmes, share common standards worldwide and prepare search and rescue dog teams for when they are needed.

Every donation helps safeguard the quality of volunteer search and rescue dog work, ensuring that missing or buried people can be found.

Setting standards. Saving lives.



Ways you can help

- Make a donation
- Become a sponsor
- Organise a fundraiser
- Support IRO as a partner

Find out more at: www.iro-dogs.org