



**World Rescue Dogs Championships  
- in France for the first time ever  
l' Herault region  
June 27 - July 2 2005**

Earthquakes, land collapse, missing persons, acts of terrorism... each and every year events in the news confirm the need for dog rescue teams in a constant state of readiness to go to far-flung corners of the world.

A rescue dog's skills are based on its sense of smell and endurance. These skills are applied by a partnership of dog and master in specifically focussed search disciplines: tracking (searching for people using scent), searching (searching for people when no trail exists) and rubble search (finding buried people).

Rescue teams must be able to go into operation immediately on arrival on site by plane or helicopter. They must be able to deal with jet lag, sudden altitude changes, and very different atmospheric conditions within a very short space of time.

**A spirit of sportsmanship and sharing**

The requirement for these lifesavers to be operational without delay involves

- daily training for man and dog, and regular training exercises in simulated conditions
- collaboration between rescue teams to keep methods and techniques finely honed.

With this in mind, IRO, an international organisation created in 1994, launched the World Rescue Dogs Championships. Although the emphasis of the event is on sporting prowess, each Championships gives teams the chance to compare ideas and practices and acquire new methods of preparation and operation, making them more effective on the ground.

All the competitors come from the world's finest dog rescue teams. This year, **for the first time, and led by the Brigade des Sapeurs Pompiers de Paris (BSPP – Paris Fire and Rescue Brigade), a team made up of firefighters from different rescue centres throughout the country will defend France's honours.**

**The technical presidency of the Championships** has been entrusted to **Colonel Dominique Grandjean**, of the BSPP, who is also a veterinarian and professor at the National School of Veterinary Science at Maisons-Alfort, France, where he set up and heads the Sports and Medicine Breeding Unit (UMES). From there he has carried out research into cellular oxidative stress and the way in which, through training and precisely adapted nutrition, the dog's reaction to effort can be improved.

**Championships in the heart of the Camargue**

At Dr. Grandjean's request, **Royal Canin**, European market leader in health-nutrition for dogs and cats, has agreed to **sponsor these Championships** and to be involved with their organisation in the South of France, home to Royal Canin since its creation.

The Championships are being organised by the **Herault Rescue and Fire Services (SDIS 34)**, under the direction of **Colonel Cassar, president of the Organising Committee.**

Throughout the week, the stadium in the town of La Grande Motte will be the central meeting point and venue for the obedience, skills and tracking trials. Nearby Gignac, which has one of the very few fire service approved rubble search training areas in France, will host the rubble search trials.

All the trials are open to the general public free of charge. From March onwards, information is available on the web site Search and Rescue Dog – World Championship 2005 – [www.sardog-wc2005.com](http://www.sardog-wc2005.com)

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**Comité d'Organisation du 11<sup>ème</sup> Championnat  
du monde de chiens de sauvetage Montpellier-Hérault 2005  
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