

## **ANKC SCENT WORK RULES**

Adapted from AKC Scent Work Rules effective as at 1 May 2017



**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LTD**

## **Rules for the conduct of Scent Work Trials**

**Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

**Approved by the  
Australian National Kennel Council Ltd  
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**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the  
Australian National Kennel Council Ltd**

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# **RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF SCENT WORK TRIALS**

## **PART 1 – PRELIMINARY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Scent Work is a sport that is based on the task of working detection dogs to locate an odour and communicate to the handler that the odour has been found. Detection is done in a variety of environments and often during changing weather or environmental conditions.

Scent Work is a positive, challenging activity that allows dogs the opportunity to use their strongest natural sense in a way that is fun, engaging, and builds and strengthens a foundation of trust between the handler and dog.

Dogs are trained to recognise specific odours, and to alert their handlers when the odours are detected. Dogs may paw, bark, point with their nose or body, sit, lie down, or use any other non-destructive behaviour to communicate the location of the odour. Handlers take their dogs through a search area which may be set up in a variety of environments.

The dog and handler must work together as a team. The handler is part of the team, using body language and verbal encouragement to ensure all sections of the search area are covered, directing the dog's search only when necessary and indicating to the Judge when the dog has found the odour. Communication with and praise of the dog during the search are encouraged.

- 1.2 Scent Work encompasses an Odour Search Division<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.3 The purpose of these Rules is to encourage owners, trainers and handlers to further develop and extend their skills by participating in the discipline of Scent Work. The Rules are designed in such a way that, wherever possible, dogs and handlers of all abilities are able to compete on an equal footing, and to ensure that the welfare of the dog is paramount.
- 1.4 In the event that interpretation of these Rules is required, clarification should be sought, in writing, through the relevant member body, from the appropriate Committee of the ANKC Ltd, whose decision shall be binding.
- 1.5 Any person making an entry in a Scent Work trial does so at their own risk.
- 1.6 The National Scent Work Committee shall review and may recommend to the ANKC Ltd change(s) to these Rules two years from their date of implementation. Thereafter, the Rules shall be reviewed at five-yearly intervals from the initial date of implementation.

### **2.0 DEFINITIONS**

Where referred to in these Rules, the following words will have the meanings assigned to them below:

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<sup>1</sup> It is planned to introduce a Detector Dog Search Division at the two year rules review – subject to ANKC approval.

“Affiliate”: A member body of a Canine Control conducting a Scent Work trial.

“Alert”: A communication from the handler to the Judge that the dog has indicated the location of the odour.

"ANKC Ltd member body" or "member body": The ANKC Ltd member body in each State or Territory of Australia.

“Blank area”: A search area in which there are no hides. The dog must search and the handler must call “Finish” to proceed to the next search area.

“Change of behaviour”: Behaviour by the dog which makes it clear to the Judge that the dog has found the odour, and as a result the handler calls an “alert”. This could be subtle, such as movement of the ears, or overt such as sitting or pawing at the location.

“Contamination”: When a handler or dog violates the integrity of the search area or hide such that significant time, replacement objects, and/or a relocation of the hide are required to bring the search area back to a usable condition.

“Demonstration dog”: An accomplished dog which has earned a Scent Work title in the relevant Division and for the relevant Element and difficulty level. A demonstration dog may not be entered in the relevant class at that trial.

“Find”: A hide that has been located by the dog and called by the handler.

“Finish”: The handler is required to call “Finish” when he or she believes that all hides for a search area have been located and called. The “Finish” call stops the official search time.

“Hide”: An instance of the target odour within a search area. Depending on the class level and Element, the search area may have multiple hides. A hide will consist of odour on a scent aid placed in a scent vessel which may be concealed in a container.

“Indication” or “alert behaviour”: A behaviour on the part of the dog that communicates to the handler that the target odour has been found.

“Odour” or “target odour”: The specific scent or scents for which the dog is searching in a particular class.

“Scent aid”: A cotton ball or cotton bud that is permeated with the target odour. The scent aid is placed inside a scent vessel (which may be placed in a container) and then hidden in the search area. If cotton buds are used, only those with paper stems<sup>2</sup> may be used. The cotton buds should be cut in half, and the stems may be trimmed shorter, if preferred.

“Scent vessel”: A receptacle for holding odour; it may be any small object that prevents the scent aid from coming into direct contact with any object or surface in the search area, and that allows scent to escape.<sup>3</sup> Due to safety concerns, scent vessels may never contain glass.

“Search area”: The area on the trial grounds where the actual searching and judging activities take place.

“Start line”: A clearly marked boundary beyond which the search area lies. The dog must cross the start line in order to begin the search.

“Target odour” or “odour”: The specific scent or scents for which the dog is searching in a particular class.

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<sup>2</sup> Cotton buds with stems made of plastic, wood, bamboo or any other material other than paper may not be used.

<sup>3</sup> Some examples of a scent vessel include but should not be limited to a plastic straw, empty lip balm tube, or a metal tin with holes.

### **3.0 DECISIONS**

- 3.1 Decisions of the Committee of the Affiliate conducting any Scent Work trial shall be subject to appeal to the relevant member body in accordance with the rules of that member body.
- 3.2 The rules of the member body shall apply to any Scent Work trial and to any Affiliate conducting trials. In the event of any inconsistency, the member body rules shall prevail.
- 3.3 Anyone taking part in a trial who openly impugns the actions or decisions of the Judge shall render themselves liable to be debarred from further participation in the trial and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with in accordance with the rules of the relevant member body.

### **4.0 DIVISION AND ELEMENTS**

- 4.1 There will be an Odour Search Division, with Elements as follows:
  - (a) Container: the target odour shall be concealed within a container, and the dog must indicate in which container the odour is hidden.
  - (b) Interior: the target odour shall be concealed on, under or in an object or concealed within the environment in an indoor search area.
  - (c) Exterior: the target odour shall be concealed on, under or in an object or concealed within the environment in an outdoor search area.
  - (d) Vehicle: the target odour shall be in a small container and concealed on the exterior of a vehicle.
- 4.2 The target odour can be one (1) or more essential oils and shall be:
  - (a) Birch (*Betula lenta*);
  - (b) Anise (*Pimpinella anisum*)
  - (c) Clove (*Eugenia caryophyllata*);
  - (d) Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*).
- 4.3 These odours may be used at any level as follows:
  - (a) Novice classes shall utilise one of these target odours consistently across the four Elements;
  - (b) Advanced classes may utilise two of these target odours consistently across the four Elements;
  - (c) Excellent classes may utilise three of these target odours consistently across the four Elements;
  - (d) Master classes may utilise four target odours across the four Elements.

The Affiliate will advertise which odours will be used at each level in the Schedule.
- 4.4 The National Scent Work Committee may recommend to the ANKC the inclusion of additional and/or substitute target odours, having regard in particular to the availability of the relevant oil(s) and/or any research findings regarding particular oils.

4.5 Odour search requirements shall be as set out in Part 5 Search Requirements – Odour Search Division.

## **5.0 TITLES**

5.1 All dogs eligible to be entered in a Scent Work trial in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Title Certificates upon meeting the requirements set out in Section 5.2 below.

### **5.2 Qualifying Certificates**

All tests will be judged on a Pass/Fail basis.

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a team must:

- (a) locate all hides;
- (b) not incur any non-qualifying faults; and
- (c) complete the search within the allotted time.

5.3 The member body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of the dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:

#### **5.3.1 Scent Work Class Category**

- (a) 'SWN' signifying Scent Work Novice in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of six (6) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice class under at least two (2) different Judges, with at least one (1) Qualifying Certificate in each of the four Elements and two (2) Qualifying Certificates in two (2) of the Elements.
- (b) 'SWA' signifying Scent Work Advanced in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has achieved its Novice title and gained a total of nine (9) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class under at least two (2) different Judges, with at least two (2) Qualifying Certificates in each of three Elements, and with three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the remaining Element.
- (c) 'SWE' signifying Scent Work Excellent in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has obtained its Advanced title and gained a total of twelve (12) Qualifying Certificates in the Excellent class under at least two (2) different Judges, comprising three (3) Qualifying Certificates in each of the four (4) Elements.
- (d) 'SWM' signifying Scent Work Master in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has obtained its Excellent title and gained a total of twelve (12) Qualifying Certificates in the Master class under at least two (2) different Judges, comprising three (3) Qualifying Certificates in each of the four (4) Elements.

The following is a summary of the requirements for Class Category titles.

<b>ODOUR SEARCH DIVISION TITLES – CLASS CATEGORY</b>				
<b>ELEMENT/ LEVEL</b>	<b>NOVICE (SWN)</b>	<b>ADVANCED (SWA)</b>	<b>EXCELLENT (SWE)</b>	<b>MASTERS (SWM)</b>
<b>MINIMUM NUMBER OF QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES</b>				
<b>CONTAINER</b>	1	2	3	3
<b>INTERIOR</b>	1	2	3	3
<b>EXTERIOR</b>	1	2	3	3
<b>VEHICLE</b>	1	2	3	3
<b>SELECTED FROM ABOVE 4 ELEMENTS</b>	2	1		
<b>MINIMUM TOTAL NUMBER OF QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES</b>	6	9	12	12
<b>MINIMUM NUMBER OF JUDGES</b>	2	2	2	2

### 5.3.2 Scent Work Element Category

In the Scent Work Element Category, a dog must gain a total of eleven (11) Qualifying Certificates in the relevant Element:

- (a) comprising two (2) Qualifying Certificates at the Novice level and three (3) Qualifying Certificates at each of the Advanced, Excellent and Masters levels in the relevant Element; and
- (b) obtained under at least two (2) different Judges.

The titles to be used in connection with, and after the name of each dog, which has gained the required Qualifying Certificates will be:

- (a) 'SWC' signifying the Scent Work Container Element;
- (b) 'SWI' signifying the Scent Work Interior Element;
- (c) 'SWX' signifying the Scent Work Exterior Element;
- (d) 'SWV' signifying the Scent Work Vehicle Element.

The following is a summary of the requirements for Element Category titles.

ODOUR SEARCH DIVISION TITLES – ELEMENT CATEGORY				
ELEMENT/LEVEL	CONTAINER (SWC)	INTERIOR (SWI)	EXTERIOR (SWX)	VEHICLE (SWV)
<b>MINIMUM NUMBER OF QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES</b>				
NOVICE	2	2	2	2
ADVANCED	3	3	3	3
EXCELLENT	3	3	3	3
MASTERS	3	3	3	3
<b>MINIMUM TOTAL NUMBER OF QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES</b>	11	11	11	11
<b>MINIMUM NUMBER OF JUDGES</b>	2	2	2	2

#### 5.4 Application for title

Applications for all titles shall be submitted to the member body in the appropriate format, accompanied by the prescribed fee. Upon approval by the member body, an ANKC title certificate authorising the use of the letters after the dog's name concerned will be issued to the applicant.

#### 6.0 SCENT WORK TRIALS

The scheduling of any Scent Work trial shall be subject to the approval of the relevant member body. An Affiliate conducting a Scent Work trial may offer some or all of the elements within the titling classes listed in Rule 6.1 below.

##### 6.1 Titling Classes

The following titling classes are available<sup>4</sup>:

Scent Work - Class and Element

- (a) Novice: For dogs that have not obtained the Qualifying Certificates necessary for the Scent Work Novice Class title or have not obtained two (2) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice class for an Element as part of qualifying towards the relevant Scent Work Element title.
- (b) Advanced: For dogs that have qualified for the Scent Work Novice Class title or have gained two (2) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice class for an Element as part of qualifying towards the relevant Scent Work Element title.

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<sup>4</sup> It is at the discretion of the Affiliate conducting the event whether some or all Divisions, Elements and Classes are offered at any trial.

- (c) Excellent: For dogs that have qualified for the Scent Work Advanced Class title or have gained three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class for an Element as part of qualifying towards the relevant Scent Work Element title.
- (d) Master: For dogs that have qualified for the Scent Work Excellent Class title or have gained three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Excellent class for an Element as part of qualifying towards the relevant Scent Work Element title.

## **6.2 Progression through titling classes**

- 6.2.1 Dogs may progress through Elements at different speeds (eg a dog may compete in Novice Interior and Advanced Containers at the same trial).
- 6.2.2 A dog which has completed two (2) Qualifying Certificates in any Element at the Novice level or three (3) Qualifying Certificates in any Element at the Advanced level may not compete further in that Element at that level.
- 6.2.3 A dog which has attained an Excellent or Masters title may continue to compete in either level.
- 6.2.3 At the discretion of the Affiliate's nominee, a competitor who completes the necessary Qualifying Certificates for a title and has applied for that title after the closing of entries may request and be transferred to the next higher class in the relevant Division.

## **6.3 Non-titling Classes**

An Affiliate conducting a Scent Work trial may, at its discretion, offer non-titling classes.

## **7.0 EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS**

### **7.1 Eligibility of exhibits**

Scent Work trials are open to dogs that are:

- (a) registered with the relevant member body; and
- (b) 6 months of age or over on the first day of a sanctioned event which includes a Scent Work trial.

## **8.0 ENTRIES**

### **8.1 Entries**

- 8.1.1 All entries must be in a format providing the required data as per the example at Appendix B and in accordance with the member body rules and the timelines published in the Schedule.
- 8.1.2 A separate entry form must be submitted for each entry.
- 8.1.3 At any trial a dog may be entered in only one (1) class within an Element.
- 8.1.4 A dog may be entered in both titling and non-titling classes when the latter are offered by the Affiliate conducting the trial.

## **8.2 Entry Limits**

- 8.2.1 An Affiliate may determine which Elements are to be offered in any trial and will specify such details in the Schedule.
- 8.2.2 If an Affiliate elects, it may place limits on the number of entries on which a Judge can adjudicate at any trial and/or on the number of entries to be accepted in a single class, set of classes or trial. Any such limit(s) on total entries or entries in any class or for any Judge must be stated in the Schedule. Should a ballot of entries be necessary, then the balloting procedures of the member body shall be followed.
- 8.2.3 An Affiliate may, if entry numbers exceed the stated limit, appoint an additional Judge.

## **PART 2 – ORGANISATION OF THE TRIAL**

### **9.0 ORGANISATION OF THE TRIAL**

#### **9.1 Trial requisites**

The Affiliate conducting the trial will organise/supply:

- (a) All physical requisites for set up of the search area(s) and supplies for Judges and stewards;
- (b) All officials required to support the Judge in the conduct of the trial including Hide Stewards, the Official Timer, Assembly Steward and such other support personnel as are required;
- (c) At least one container per target odour for each of the classes of the Odour Search Division. Additional containers to hold distractors and to act as empty containers will be provided as required. Surplus containers for replacement must also be available should any of the containers become damaged or contaminated;
- (d) One warm-up scent container per odour used in the trial, to be placed in the warm-up area;
- (e) Scent aids and scent vessels for the Odour Search Division. The Affiliate may delegate the duty of supplying these to the Judge, but this must be stated in the judging contract;
- (f) Boundary markers to indicate the search area and adjoining areas (e.g. assembly area);
- (g) Distraction items for classes in which they are required; and
- (h) A timing device capable of measuring time to the hundredth of a second, for use by the Official Timer. A backup timing device is recommended.

#### **9.2 Registration and attendance**

- 9.2.1 Competitors are responsible for registering their presence with the Trial Secretary or nominee prior to the commencement of the trial, as specified in the Schedule.
- 9.2.2 The team shall be in the assembly area at the conclusion of the search of the team prior to them.

### **9.3 Welfare of Dogs**

- 9.3.1. All competitors whose dogs are entered at a member body sanctioned event shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog are met, and shall not put their dog's health or welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise.
- 9.3.2 The Affiliate will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all dogs can participate in a safe and relaxed manner and will comply with any rules of the relevant member body regarding the conduct of trials, including those relating to weather or climatic conditions.
- 9.3.3 It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that his/her dog is physically well, and capable of safely executing all the requirements of the search. Dogs with physical or behavioural challenges (including amputees, deaf and/or blind dogs) may participate provided that, in the opinion of the Judge, they display no signs of physical discomfort or stress and can safely complete the requirements of the class.
- 9.3.4 Exhibits may be required to be inspected in accordance with the requirements of the relevant member body.

### **9.4 Bitches in Oestrus**

Bitches in oestrus or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall not be permitted to compete in any trial or to remain within the precincts of the trial venue.

### **9.5 Dog attire**

- 9.5.1 During a search, a dog may only wear a fixed collar and/or a suitable harness and a lead. When a dog is on-lead, the lead must be connected to the collar or harness.
- Dogs may wear such accessories (such as paw covers or booties, jackets, and/or hair ties or bows) as the handler deems necessary for the dog to safely navigate the search area.
- A dog may wear a tick collar.
- 9.5.2 Dogs must not wear:
- (a) any kind of electric, prong, choke, or slip collars (made of chain or any other material), head halters or no-pull harnesses;
  - (b) odour emitting collars (such as no-bark collars that spray citronella, or DAP calming collars);
  - (c) any item hanging from the dog's collar or harness, except that a wearable camera may be mounted to the dog's harness, if desired;
  - (d) anything other than mentioned in Rule 9.5.1.
- 9.5.3 The lead should be made of a pliable material. Chain leads must not be used. Retractable leads may be used. Any length of lead is permitted for use during the search but, as a guide, it is recommended that the lead be a minimum of five (5) metres. The lead can be used to gently direct the dog away from the boundaries of the search area, but cannot be used as a correction device or to guide the dog towards the target odour.

- 9.5.4 For the duration of the trial, all dogs must be on a lead (or otherwise restrained [eg in a crate or car]). Dogs will enter and leave the search area on lead under the control of the handler.
- 9.5.5 Most searches will be conducted entirely on lead, but an off-lead option may be offered at the discretion of the Judge, if the area is safe and completely enclosed. In that event, the handler may remove the lead at any point after entering the search area.

## **10.0 PHYSICAL LAYOUT OF TRIAL VENUE**

### **10.1 Staging area**

The Affiliate shall establish a “staging area” for competitors out of view of the search area(s) and sign-posted so that no person inadvertently moves into view of the search area.

The staging area will include all parking, crating, warm-up, and waiting areas, as well as the Trial Secretary’s table for registration, and posting of running order and results. The staging area and search area(s) shall be separated by geographical features, walls, and/or artificial barriers.

### **10.2 Warm-Up Area**

- 10.2.1 The Affiliate shall designate a warm-up area. One (1) labelled container per target odour being used in the trial on that day will be placed in the warm-up area. This will allow teams to prepare themselves for the search prior to their run. Affiliates may also place blank containers in the warm-up area if they choose.
- 10.2.2 The warm-up period for each team shall be a maximum of two (2) minutes.
- 10.2.3 There shall be no training on the grounds of the ANKC Scent Work trial, other than in the designated warm-up area. Breach of this rule shall result in disqualification.
- Where the trial venue is a sub-set of a larger venue, the specific buildings and staging areas will be set out in the Schedule to define the boundaries of the trial area.

## **11.0 SPECTATORS**

### **11.1 Spectator Area**

- 11.1.1 At the discretion of the Judge having regard to the available space, spectators may be permitted to observe any class other than Novice. Where spectators are allowed, under the direction of the Judge, the Affiliate will establish a dedicated spectator area(s) at least eight (8) metres from the search area(s). The number of spectators permitted may be limited due to the size of the search and/or spectator area(s). No dogs shall be permitted in the spectator area(s).
- 11.1.2 Affiliates shall use tape or flags to delineate the boundaries of the spectator area so that no spectators inadvertently enter the search area.

- 11.1.3 Entry into and exit from the spectator area shall be as directed by officials. Spectators shall take care to not act in a manner that may distract competing handlers and dogs. There shall be no consumption of food or drinks in the search area. Spectators will be required to remain in the spectator area from commencement to completion of the class.

## **11.2 Communication between spectators and competitors**

- 11.2.1 Spectators shall not discuss details of the search or share video footage with competitors who have yet to run. Any competitor involved in a discussion regarding search details will be disqualified.
- 11.2.2 No spectator or other person may assist the competitor or disclose the location of the hide. Spectators should take care to remain neutral in order to not provide clues to the competitor. A Judge may disqualify a team that they reasonably believe has benefited from double handling.
- 11.2.3 Spectators who intentionally or unintentionally give aid to a competitor may be directed by the Judge to leave the spectator area or the trial venue and reported to the member body.

## **12.0 PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING DEVICES**

- 12.1 A competitor may arrange photography and/or videoing of the team's search by:
- (a) an official of the Affiliate (if one is available);
  - (b) a spectator (in circumstances where the Judge has permitted spectators to observe the search); or
  - (c) use, by the competitor, of a wearable camera.
- 12.2 Videotaping and/or photography of a competitor may only be undertaken on behalf of the competitor for their own personal use or, with the prior permission of the competitor, by the Affiliate, for promotional or educational purposes.
- 12.3 The Affiliate may, after consultation with the Judge, designate an area from which videotaping/photography may be undertaken.
- 12.4 The Judge may direct that any photography and/or videoing be discontinued if it is deemed to be disruptive or to impede any search or any class.
- 12.5 No photograph or video footage can be used to challenge the Judge's decision.

## **13.0 COMPETITORS**

- 13.1 Persons of differing abilities may compete, provided they can move about the search area without physical assistance or guidance. The use of a mobility aid<sup>5</sup> (whether hand or electric powered) is acceptable. The dog is to perform all necessary requirements of their search as stated in these Rules.

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<sup>5</sup> For example, a wheelchair, electric powered motorised device, crutches or cane.

- 13.2 Handlers must be at least 16 years of age.
- 13.3 Competitors may not handle more than one (1) dog in each class. Multiple dogs from the same owner may be entered in the same class, provided each is handled by a different handler.
- 13.4 No competitor or other person, other than those engaged in the administration of the trial, shall be in possession of any of the target odours within the boundaries of the trial venue or subset of the venue as specified in the Schedule.
- 13.5 After a dog has commenced competing in a class, no substitution of handler is permitted in that class.
- 13.6 Any person who carries out punitive correction or harsh handling of any dog at any time within the precincts of the trial venue shall be disqualified from competition and reported to and dealt with under the member body rules.
- 13.7 A competitor may give the dog verbal commands and/or encouragement and shall not be penalised for such actions at any level. Physical touch as encouragement or reward before or after completion of a search shall not be penalised at any level. Physical touch that provides guidance or direction to the dog shall result in disqualification.
- 13.8 Competitors may wear a training vest or treat pouch, acceptable to the Judge, to carry food rewards. However, no food shall be dropped in the search area, and a penalty shall be imposed if this occurs.
- 13.9 Competitors may not divulge any information about the search, the location of the hide, or details of their performance until all teams have run for the particular class. Breach of this rule will result in disqualification from all classes and all results achieved to that time on that day will be voided.

Competitors are responsible for ensuring that any person attending a trial with them is aware of the prohibition against discussing searches. If a person not entered in the trial is found to have discussed/be discussing a search before the class has ended, the Judge may direct that that person leave the trial venue; the competitor whom that person is accompanying may, at the Judge's discretion, be held responsible and penalised in accordance with this Rule and both may be reported to the member body.

- 13.10 The Trial Secretary will allocate competitors a trial number for each entry submitted. Competitors are required to wear numbers during the trial. Numbers and names of the competitor and dog, together with other relevant information, will be listed in the trial catalogue.

#### **14.0 REMOVAL OF A DOG**

- 14.1 Any dog that attacks or displays aggressive behaviour towards any person or another dog shall be removed and disqualified from all trialling on the day, and the matter shall be addressed in accordance with the incident reporting procedures of the relevant member body.
- 14.2 The Judge shall order the removal from the trial of any dog which is deemed disorderly or unmanageable, any competitor who interferes wilfully with another competitor or a

competitor's dog or whose behaviour is objectionable, and shall exclude or order the removal from trial of any dog which the Judge considers unfit to compete or to be exhibiting undue stress.

## **15.0 WITHDRAWAL OF A DOG**

- 15.1 A competitor may, with the consent of the Judge, withdraw a dog before or during judging but, following such withdrawal, that team will not be able to take any further part in that Element.
- 15.2 If a competitor withdraws, no scores will be allocated for any of the scoring categories and the score sheet shall be marked "Withdrawn (W/D)". If a competitor withdraws, no placing shall be awarded to that entry.

## **16.0 SEARCH AREAS**

- 16.1 Search areas must provide a firm and safe footing for dogs and handlers. However, outdoor searches are frequently done across natural, uneven surfaces and it is the responsibility of competitors to be aware of and prepared for this possibility.
- 16.2 The Affiliate shall submit specific dimensions and layouts of the proposed search area(s) to the Judge no later than thirty (30) days prior to the trial date to aid in search design; this shall include information on furniture and structural obstacles. Ideally, photographs will be submitted with the layouts so that the Judge has a clear understanding of the search area prior to designing the course. It is recognised that course layouts may change when the Judge reaches the site and experiences the conditions.
- 16.3 Search areas will be determined by the Judge and may be any shape. The size of the search area is determined by the Judge having regard to the Element and class level.

Search areas of unconventional shapes may not be amenable to an easy calculation of area size. The required search area sizes specified in the class descriptions should be approximated to the best of the course designer's ability, but are not expected to be exact in all situations.

- 16.4 The search area will be identified by boundary markers or gating material of any kind, provided it is safe for officials, competitors and spectators. They shall be highly visible to competitors and the Judge and not obscure the Judge's vision of competitors.

## **17.0 PREPARATION FOR THE SEARCH AND SET UP OF SEARCH AREAS**

### **17.1 Preparation and Storage of Odours**

The "scent aids" must be cotton balls or q-tips. If q-tips are used, only those with paper stems (not plastic) may be used. The q-tips should be cut in half with the stems trimmed shorter, if preferred.

To prepare the scent aids for trial, ONE cotton ball should be used as a carrier vial. This cotton ball is NOT to be used as a hide in trial, but merely acts as an infuser vessel. This ball should have 2 drops of oil dripped onto it (do not allow the vial to touch the cotton ball) and be placed in the bottom of an air tight 250ml glass jar. Into this jar should be placed 30 cotton

balls or pre-cut q-tips. Once complete, the jar should be made air tight, shaken vigorously and left to stand in a cool dark place for 48 hours.

Glass must always be used for scent preparation and storage because the essential oils are corrosive and will break down plastic containers, changing the chemical composition and affecting the scent. Plastic may be used for scent vessels, but the scent aid must be removed from the plastic container for storage.

## **17.2 Layout of search area**

The Judge will determine the layout of the search area and the placement of all hides in the search area, taking care to create a challenging course for each class, but one that is not unreasonably difficult.

## **17.3 Placement of odours**

17.3.1 The scent vessel or container may be affixed to an object or surface with tape, adhesive or by any other method, so long as it does not harm the object or surface.

17.3.2 The Hide Steward, under the direction of the Judge, shall undertake the physical placement of the hides and any adjustment to the hides. The Hide Steward should wear non-powdered latex or nitrile gloves when setting the hides. To avoid contamination, used gloves should be placed in a designated place, away from the warm-up and competition area, for later disposal.

17.3.3 To minimise contamination, the Hide Steward is the only person who may handle the scent vessel or container, and the Hide Steward shall not handle any other objects in the search area. The Hide Steward should not be in the area when the team is searching.

## **17.4 Consistent location of odour**

17.4.1 For classes in the Odour Search Division, the hide must remain in the same location for each competitor in the class, unless the hide location is contaminated or circumstances arise which, in the opinion of the Judge, otherwise require relocating the hide.

17.4.2 If the Judge determines that a hide must be relocated during the running of a class, it should be moved to a location that presents the same challenges as at the original location. The location of the original hide should be wiped with undiluted distilled white vinegar and the scent vessel or container must be left to stand in the new hide location for 10 minutes before the next dog is run. At least one other area, of similar size, should also be wiped with undiluted distilled white vinegar.

17.4.3 The hide may be relocated between classes, but must be left in the new location for 10 minutes before the first dog in the next class begins their search.

## **17.5 Accessible and inaccessible hides**

17.5.1 A hide is considered accessible if a dog is able to pinpoint the exact location of the hide (or as close as possible).

17.5.2 A hide is considered inaccessible if it is hidden inside a drawer or on the backside of another object such as a piece of furniture against a wall. A dog may not be able to

pinpoint the exact location of the hide, but should be able to indicate the approximate location of the hide.

## **17.6 Distraction Items**

17.6.1 Certain searches, as determined by Element and class difficulty level, will include distraction items.

17.6.2 Distraction items may be of the following types:

(a) **Non-food distraction**

Any item, other than food, that might be enticing to a dog. The non-food distraction may not contain any artificial scent (such as another essential oil, a perfume, or a scented lotion), but it may contain the scent of another animal (such as a cat toy, or litter).

(b) **Food distraction**

Any kind of human or dog food. Whenever a food distraction is used, it must be enclosed within a container such that a searching dog would be unable to consume the food, and such containers should be large enough that they cannot be swallowed whole.

(c) **Mimic distraction**

An object such as a toy or doll but it may not include a stuffed animal or statue that looks like a realistic animal. If a mimic distraction is used, the Affiliate should have a backup in case a dog contaminates the object.

(d) **Human distraction**

A person, other than the Judge, who is present inside the search area. The human distraction should be clothed in normal street attire and not be dressed in a costume that significantly alters their shape or appearance as a human. They may be standing or sitting, and may look at the dog, but may not maintain eye contact if the dog's attention should turn to them. The human distraction may not speak to or intentionally touch the dog.

## **PART 3 - CONDUCT OF THE TRIAL**

### **18.0 DEMONSTRATION DOG**

18.1 After the hides have been set, a demonstration dog should, if possible, run the search area to evaluate the appropriateness of the search for the class as designed. If the demonstration dog encounters unexpected difficulty, the Judge may adjust the hide location(s) in accordance with Rule 17.4 and/or the search time.

18.2 In situations where the Affiliate is unable to procure a demonstration dog, the first dog in the running order will complete the search, after which the Judge will determine whether the search, as designed, is acceptable. If the first dog to run encounters unforeseen difficulties such that the Judge decides to adjust the hide location(s) in accordance with Rule 17.4, that dog will be re-run at the end of the class, with no penalty.

## **19.0 CONDUCT OF THE SEARCH**

### **19.1 General**

19.1.1 The standard and quality of the work presented by the team should be higher and, shall be judged accordingly, as they progress through the classes.

19.1.2 The search must start and finish within the confines of the designated search area, but a dog may need to work outside the search area while following odour.

### **19.2 Competitors' briefing**

19.2.1 The Judge shall conduct a short competitors' briefing prior to the start of each class.

19.2.2 In the competitors' briefing the Judge shall indicate:

- (a) if there is an off-lead option;
- (b) how many hides there are (if the number of hides is allowed to be known by competitors);
- (c) the maximum height of the hides;
- (d) for interior searches only, the number of different search areas; and
- (e) the maximum time for each search.

Judges may also remind competitors of the basic rules, as required.

19.2.3 Competitors will be able to ask any questions about the search area at this time.

19.2.4 No dogs may be present during the competitors' briefing.

### **19.3 Judging schedule**

Competitors within a class shall be run in the catalogue order. The steward, in consultation with the Judge, has the discretion to allow a dog to be judged out of sequence at the request of the competitor if it is determined that a valid conflict exists.

### **19.4 Trial stewards**

The Affiliate shall appoint as many trial stewards as it considers necessary to facilitate conduct of the trial. Trial stewards shall:

- (a) bring each team to the start line; and
- (b) carry out orders from the Judge (such as repositioning items in the search area), and any other duties as required by the Affiliate or the Judge, including acting as the Official Timer.

### **19.5 Timing**

19.5.1 The Official Timer, under the direction of the Judge, shall:

- (a) record the search time of each team; this includes monitoring and recording the actual time (recorded to one-hundredth of a second) it takes the team to complete the search;
- (b) ensure that the team does not exceed the maximum allowable time for the search; and

(c) provide a 30 second warning to the competitor.

19.5.2 The official time for all classes and/or for each search shall start when any part of the dog's or the competitor's body crosses the start line.

19.5.3 The official time shall stop:

(a) In Novice classes when the competitor calls "Alert";

(b) In all other classes when the competitor calls "Finish".

19.5.4 The official time for the first search area will be recorded on the score sheet while the team is led to the next search area, if applicable. The timer will then be reset, and the timing will follow the same procedure for each additional search area. The official time for each search area will be recorded independently and then combined for a total time for that Element.

19.5.5 In the case of a timer malfunction on a qualifying search, the competitor will have two (2) options:

(a) the maximum search time may be recorded as their official time for that class; or

(b) the competitor may re-run the search at the end of the class. The first search outcomes will consequently be voided. The outcomes of the second search will be recorded as the trial result ie if the competitor chooses to re-run the search for time and fails to complete a qualifying performance on the re-run, the team will be awarded a non-qualifying result.

If the team chooses to re-run the search, the hide location(s) must be relocated and left to stand for 10 minutes prior to their search.

19.5.6 Competitors may wear watches or other timing devices in the search area in order to be aware of the time remaining in their search. However, in no case may a competitor use their own timing device to dispute the conclusion of the Official Timer. The official time will be determined solely by the Official Timer's device.

## **19.6 Competitor looking for the hide**

A competitor should not actively look for the scent vessel during the search. Any competitor who, in the opinion of the Judge, actively looks for the hide shall be faulted or disqualified by the Judge.

## **19.7 Touching the dog**

A competitor may touch the dog at any time during the search as encouragement or praise but not to guide or correct the dog.

## **19.8 Crossing search boundaries**

Teams may cross search boundaries without penalty during the search, provided that they remain working.

## **19.9 Disruption of the search area**

A competitor may not touch objects in the search area without express permission from the Judge. Breach of this rule shall result in disqualification.

#### **19.10 Barking/vocalisation**

- 19.10.1 Within reason as determined by the Judge, a dog may bark or vocalise while participating in a search, without penalty.
- 19.10.2 If the Judge determines that the dog is barking out of frustration or is becoming overly disruptive in a way that threatens future use of the trial area, the Judge shall give the competitor a warning. If the competitor is unable to get the dog to stop the disruptive behaviour within 10 seconds after the warning, the dog shall be excused from the search and disqualified.
- 19.10.3 A dog which is excused from a search may, at the discretion of the Judge, still be permitted to participate in other classes in which the dog is entered on that day.

#### **19.11 Alerts – All hide types**

- 19.11.1 The dog must demonstrate an alert behaviour to indicate location of the hide, but the nature of the alert behaviour is not prescribed.
- 19.11.2 The Judge may use their discretion to allow for environmental factors such as wind, but the following size parameters should be applied in ideal conditions:
  - (a) For Novice and Advanced classes, the competitor may indicate an area up to 15 cm, on any axis (a vertical 15 cm, a horizontal 15 cm, or a diagonal 15 cm).
  - (b) For Excellent and Master classes, the competitor may indicate an area up to 5 cm, on any axis.
- 19.11.3 The competitor shall confirm the dog's indication of the odour source with the word "Alert" when the dog indicates a find. If a verbal confirmation is not possible due to environmental factors or a competitor's ability, the competitor may inform the Judge of an alternate confirmation, such as an obvious hand signal, before commencing the search.
- 19.11.4 When the competitor calls "Alert", the Judge shall confirm whether the alert is correct or incorrect. If, in the opinion of the Judge, the dog is clearly indicating the source of the odour, the Judge should respond "correct" when the competitor calls "Alert".
- 19.11.5 If the dog is near the source of the odour, but it is not clear to the Judge that the dog has communicated the exact location to the competitor, the Judge should ask "where?" The competitor must then indicate the source of the odour by pointing or gesturing to an area within the prescribed size parameters.
- 19.11.6 If the competitor gestures to an area that is larger than the prescribed size parameters, the Judge should ask the competitor to indicate an area within those parameters.
- 19.11.7 If the hide is not within the area that the competitor indicates, the alert should be considered incorrect, and the team will not qualify.

- 19.11.8 For a hide that is out of reach due to a dog's height, the area to which the competitor gestures need not encompass the location of the hide, but must be on the same vertical axis.

### **19.12 Alert Confirmation for Inaccessible Hides**

- 19.12.1 For inaccessible hides, the dog will not be able to pinpoint the exact location of the hide, but is expected to get as close as possible to the inaccessible hide location.
- 19.12.2 For a hide that is inaccessible for all dogs, such as a hide inside a drawer or on the backside of furniture, the area that the competitor gestures to must encompass either the location of the hide, or the location that is the closest the dog can possibly get to the inaccessible hide location, having regard to scent movement.

### **19.13 "Finish" Calls**

- 19.13.1 The "Finish" call is used in classes that contain multiple hides (all Advanced, Excellent, and Master searches) and is required to stop timing of the search.
- 19.13.2 The competitor is required to call "Finish" when all hides have been located for the search area (or, for classes with an unknown number of hides, when the competitor believes that all hides have been located).
- 19.13.3 If the competitor fails to correctly call "Finish" within 15 seconds of the Official Timer calling the expiration of the search time, the team will receive a fault and the maximum time allowed for that search.

### **19.14 Rewards and reinforcers**

- 19.14.1 When a dog correctly finds the hide, the competitor may reward the dog with a food or toy reinforcer. These items may be used as a reward only and may not be used to bait or guide the dog toward a specific location to search.
- 19.14.2 A competitor may reward at or away from source, but must take care not to contaminate the search area with food particles or saliva.
- 19.14.3 If a toy is used, the toy must stay in contact with the competitor at all times (toys cannot be thrown). Toys that make noise shall not be used.

### **19.15 Contamination of the Search Area**

- 19.15.1 Dropping food while rewarding a dog is considered a contamination of the search area, regardless of whether the food is dropped on, near, or away from the hide.
- 19.15.2 Contamination of the search area is regarded as a fault or non-qualifying fault, depending on the Judge's assessment of the severity of the contamination.

### **19.16 Cleaning Contamination in the Search Area**

- 19.16.1 If a search area is contaminated, every effort must be made to return the area to its original condition before the running of the next dog.

19.16.2 If a dog eliminates in an indoor search area, all surfaces or objects in the affected area must be thoroughly cleaned with water. If a dog eliminates in an outdoor search area, any small affected objects such as rocks or sticks should be removed, and the ground should be sprayed with water.

In either event, at least one other area, of similar size, should also be wiped with the same water.

19.16.3 If an area or object is contaminated by food residue or saliva, the food residue should be removed and the area or object should be wiped down with water. Any container that is contaminated by significant food residue or significant saliva should be replaced.

## **PART 4 - JUDGES AND JUDGING**

### **20.0 JUDGES**

#### **20.1 Judges**

20.1.1 All Judges at any titling Scent Work trial must have been approved by the relevant member body for judging at the relevant level.

20.1.2 The Judge must sign a Qualifying Certificate for each qualifying dog, denoting the relevant Division, Element and class. A marked catalogue is to be forwarded to the Secretary of the relevant member body within seven (7) days of the trial.

### **21.0 JUDGING**

#### **21.1 Maximum number of searches to be judged**

A Judge may judge a maximum of eighty (80) searches on any one day.

#### **21.2 Role and authorities of Judge**

20.2.1 The Judge shall:

- (a) have and maintain complete control and decision-making over matters in the search area;
- (b) design each of the searches; this includes course design and selecting (and/or, if appropriate, varying) the hide locations;
- (c) set a time limit for the search;
- (d) evaluate each team's performance during the search;
- (e) when the competitor calls "Alert" or "Finish", confirm whether the call is correct or incorrect;
- (f) assess the team for any faults such as handling errors and rule infractions during the search;
- (g) issue NQ faults and excusals when necessary; and
- (h) assign a Qualify or Non-Qualify result for each search.

- 21.2.2 Judges may modify specific requirements of these Rules or of a particular search so that competitors of differing abilities may compete, provided that such modifications do not aid the team's performance.
- 21.2.3 If, in the opinion of the Judge, a dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar or extraordinary circumstances outside the control of the competitor, the Judge has the discretion to determine that all or the relevant component of the search may be re-run.

## **22. SCORING**

### **22.1 Penalties**

- 22.1.1 Penalties for misbehaviour and physical and verbal corrections to and/or management or manipulation of the dog while the dog is under the control of the Judge shall incur a penalty up to disqualification, according to the level of correction/management/manipulation undertaken.

### **22.2 Faults**

- 22.2.1 Errors occurring during the search will be assessed as faults, as follows:
- (a) handler error (eg not crossing the start line at the commencement of the search, unnecessarily crowding the dog while it is searching, moving on to a new search area [where there are multiple search areas] without advising the Judge that an area is clear, lack of team work);
  - (b) safety concern (eg taking the dog off-lead in an on-lead only search area, allowing the dog to be put in an unsafe situation);
  - (c) mildly compromising the search area (eg competitor accidentally touching an object in the search area without the Judge's permission, untidy reward delivery, poor lead handling, dog retrieving hide or distraction).
- 22.2.2 Each fault can be applied multiple times in the same search, if warranted. Faults affect placings only; there is no maximum number of faults per search. Any team that finds and calls all of the hides within the search time with no NQ faults will qualify.
- 22.1.3 Faults will not be called out by the Judge during the search. If time permits, the Judge may briefly explain any assessed faults to the competitor at the completion of the search.

### **22.3 Non-Qualifying Faults**

- 22.3.1 The following behaviours are deemed to be faults which will result in a non-qualifying score:
- (a) the competitor calls "Alert" on the incorrect location. While the dog should not qualify in this Element, the Judge may indicate where the hide is, to allow the dog to find the hide and be rewarded;
  - (b) the competitor calls "Finish" before all hides in the search area have been located;
  - (c) the maximum time for a search at that level has been exceeded;

- (d) the competitor is not able to point to the location of the hide when asked by the Judge;
- (f) the dog is not under the competitor's control;
- (g) the dog or competitor stops working or performs disruptive behaviour for ten (10) or more seconds after warning from the Judge;
- (h) the dog shows signs of extreme stress or fear;
- (i) the Judge considers the dog is unfit to compete and/or exhibiting undue stress;
- (j) any violation of the Rules relating to dog attire;
- (k) the competitor is unable to stop the dog's barking, after a warning from the Judge.

22.3.2 The Judge may determine that, because of the non-qualifying fault incurred, the competitor and dog should be excluded from any further searching of an Element and excuse the competitor from the search area. A competitor who is excused from a search must vacate the search area immediately.

22.3.3 A competitor who is excused from a search may, at the discretion of the Judge, still be allowed to compete in other classes or Elements in which they are entered at that trial.

## 22.4 Disqualification

- 22.4.1 A competitor shall be disqualified from the trial and the score sheet must be marked 'Disqualified (D.Q)' if, in the opinion of the Judge, any of the following apply:
- (a) any harsh handling or correction of the dog by the competitor (eg physical guidance or positioning of the dog, verbal or physical reprimands, intimidating or abusive commands);
  - (b) the competitor is or has been in possession of any of the target odours when at the trial venue;
  - (c) the competitor undertakes training at the trial venue or subset of the venue as specified in the Schedule, other than in the designated warm-up area;
  - (d) the competitor receives assistance from a spectator or another competitor;
  - (e) the competitor touches, moves or disrupts any object in the search area without express permission from the Judge and this has interfered with or contaminated or changed the search area such that it impacts unfairly on subsequent searches;
  - (f) the competitor discusses a search with any other person before the class has ended.
  - (g) the dog eliminates (urinates, defecates or vomits) in the search area;
  - (e) the competitor allows the dog to disrupt the search area unduly. This includes excessive saliva<sup>6</sup> or food residue, or intentional biting, hard scratching, pouncing or other behaviour by the dog that causes damage to the container/object/area. Cases in which a dog's nose or feet get caught on containers or the

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<sup>6</sup> Excessive saliva will only be penalised if the competitor could reasonably have prevented the contamination, but did not do so.

dog paws at or gently picks up a container or other objects in the search area shall not be considered a disruption of the search area;

- 22.4.2 If a competitor is disqualified under sub-paragraph (a), a report shall be submitted to the member body.

### **23.0 MARKS AND PLACINGS**

- 23.1 The results for each class, including marks and Judge's name, must be displayed on the day and be accessible to all competitors.
- 23.2 Placings shall be based on the fewest number of faults, and then on time. A team with no faults will place higher than a faster-finishing team with faults. Qualifying scores take precedence over non-qualifying scores for placings.

## **PART 5 - SCENT WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENTS BY DIVISION, ELEMENT AND LEVEL**

### **ODOUR SEARCH DIVISION**

#### **24.0 CONTAINER SEARCHES**

The Container search Element tests a dog's ability to:

- (a) locate the target odour(s), hidden in one (1) or more containers within a search area; and
- (b) communicate the find to their handler.

Container searches may be conducted either inside or outside.

#### **24.1 Containers**

- 24.1.1 Containers shall be used to conceal the scent vessel for container searches in the Odour Search Division.
- 24.1.2 A container is any receptacle for holding target odour. Containers can include cardboard boxes, paper bags, inverted flower pots, briefcases, luggage, backpacks, storage bins, or any other similar odour-permeable container, acceptable to the Judge having regard to the class level.
- 24.1.3 Containers utilising glass may never be used.
- 24.1.4 Containers in Novice searches must be cardboard boxes and must all be identical. They shall be at least 25 cm long by 20 cm wide; they must be no less than 7 cm and no more than 20 cm tall. Whenever cardboard boxes are used in higher classes, several different sized boxes may be used to increase the challenge and add variety, as long as there is uniformity in different sizes.
- 24.1.5 Whenever cardboard boxes are used, the bottoms of the boxes must have no opening or be taped shut.

- 24.1.6 For Container Advanced, Excellent and Master classes, the distraction may be in a container or loose in the search area. If in a container, it should be in a similar type of container as those in the search area.

## **24.2 Container Novice Class**

- 24.2.1 The search area shall be at least 25 and no more than 35 square metres.
- 24.2.2 No fewer than ten (10) and no more than fifteen (15) identical cardboard box containers shall be laid out on the floor of the search area. The boxes shall be arranged in rows of five (5) containers. Each box shall be at least 30 cm apart, and each row shall be at least 90 cm apart.
- 24.2.3 One (1) of the containers shall hold the chosen target odour.
- 24.2.4 There shall be no distractions.
- 24.2.5 The dog shall locate the container with the target odour and communicate the find to its handler within two (2) minutes of the start of the search.

## **24.3 Container Advanced Class**

- 24.3.1 The search area shall be at least 35 and no more than 55 square metres.
- 24.3.2 No fewer than fifteen (15) and no more than twenty (20) containers of various size and type shall be laid out on the floor of the search area. The containers may be arranged in rows of five (5) containers, in a circle, or in a "U" formation. Each container shall be at least 30 cm apart, and if rows are used, each row shall be at least 90 cm apart.
- 24.3.3 Two (2) of the containers shall hold the chosen target odours. Each scent vessel may contain the same odour, or one (1) may contain one odour and the other may contain another odour.
- 24.3.4 One of the containers shall hold a non-food distraction (may not be the same container that holds a target odour).
- 24.3.5 The dog shall locate the containers with the target odours and communicate the finds to its handler within two (2) minutes of the start of the search.

## **24.4 Container Excellent Class**

- 24.4.1 The search area shall be at least 55 square metres and no more than 75 square metres.
- 24.4.2 No fewer than twenty (20) and no more than thirty (30) containers of various size and type shall be laid out on the floor of the search area. The containers may be arranged in rows of five (5) containers, in a circle, or in a "U" formation. Each container shall be at least 30 cm apart, and if rows are used, each row shall be at least 90 cm apart.
- 24.4.3 Three (3) of the containers shall contain the chosen target odours.
- 24.4.4 There shall be two (2) distractions at this level, which may be non-food or food.
- 24.4.5 The dog shall locate the containers with the target odour and communicate the finds to its handler within three (3) minutes of the start of the search.

## **24.5 Container Master Class**

- 24.5.1 The search area shall be at least 55 and no more than 75 square metres.

- 24.5.2 No fewer than twenty-five (25) and no more than thirty-five (35) containers of various size and type shall be laid out on the floor of the search area. The containers may be arranged in rows of five (5) containers, in a circle, or in a “U” formation. Each container shall be at least 30 cm apart, and if rows are used, each row shall be at least 90 cm apart.
- 24.5.3 One (1), two (2) or three (3) of the containers shall contain the chosen target odours.
- 24.5.4 There shall be three (3) distractions which may be non-food, food, mimic or human.
- 24.5.5 The dog shall locate the containers with the target odour and communicate the finds to its handler within four (4) minutes of the start of the search.

## 24.6 Summary of Container search requirements

	<b>Novice</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>Size of search area</b>	25 – 35 sq m	35 – 55 sq m	55 – 75 sq m	55 – 75 sq m
<b>Number of containers</b>	10-15	15-20	20-30	25-35
<b>Types of containers</b>	Identical cardboard boxes	Various size and type	Various size and type	Various size and type
<b>Arrangement of containers</b>	rows of 5 containers	rows of 5 containers, circle or “U” formation	rows of 5 containers, circle, or “U” formation or random	rows of 5 containers, circle or “U” formation or random
<b>Minimum distance between containers</b>	30 cm in all directions; 90 cm between rows	30 cm in all directions; 90 cm between rows (if used)	30 cm in all directions; 90 cm between rows (if used)	30 cm in all directions; 90 cm between rows (if used)
<b>Number of hides</b>	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	1-3 (number unknown)
<b>Time limit</b>	2 minutes	2 minutes	3 minutes	4 minutes
<b>Distractions</b>	None	1 non-food	2: non-food or food	3: non-food, food or human or mimic
<b>Required calls</b>	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	3 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) for each find and Finish

## 25.0 INTERIOR SEARCHES

### 25.1 Requirements

- 25.1.1 The Interior Search Element tests the dog’s ability to locate the target odour in an indoor search environment.
- 25.1.2 The search shall take place inside a room or rooms in a building (such as an office, classroom, kitchen, bathroom, warehouse, etc.). The entire room need not be

utilised for the search area. If part of the room is excluded, the search area boundaries shall be clearly defined.

- 25.1.3 Where more than one room is included in the search, it is possible that a room may not include a target odour. The dog and handler will be required to search all rooms and either call 'alert' to a target odour being present; or call 'finish' to advise that it is a 'blank room'.
- 25.1.3 The Judge may include props (such as furniture, children's toys or other objects) in an Interior Search for hide placement and/or to enhance interest and/or complexity to the search area.
- 25.1.5 The minimum and maximum times for an Interior Search are specified, but the actual time limit in each of these classes shall be determined by the Judge.

## **25.2 Interior Novice Class**

- 25.2.1 The target odour shall be hidden in a room or part of a room with an area of not less than 10 and not more than 15 square metres.
- 25.2.2 There shall be one (1) hide, which shall be accessible and may not be located higher than 60 cm off the floor.
- 25.2.3 The chosen target odour shall be hidden on, under, or in an object or any solid walls or doors or windows within the search area. It may not be hidden on boundary markers, such as bunting or witches' hats.
- 25.2.4 There shall be no intentional distractions.
- 25.2.5 The dog shall find the target odour and communicate the find to its handler within the time limit is set by the Judge, which shall be between one (1) and three (3) minutes.

## **25.3 Interior Advanced Class**

- 25.3.1 The target odours shall be hidden in a room or part of a room with an area of not less than 15 and not more than 35 square metres.
- 25.3.2 There shall be two (2) hides, which shall be accessible and may not be located higher than 90 cm off the floor.
- 25.3.3 The chosen target odours shall be hidden on, under, or in an object or any solid walls or doors or windows within the search area. It may not be hidden on boundary markers, such as bunting or witches' hats.
- 25.3.4 There shall be one (1) non-food distraction.
- 25.3.5 The dog shall find the target odours and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit is set by the Judge, which shall be between one (1) and three (3) minutes.

## **25.4 Interior Excellent Class**

- 25.4.1 The target odours shall be hidden in two (2) distinct search areas in one (1) or more rooms, or part of a room. The total space of the two (2) search areas shall not be less than 35 and not more than 75 square metres. Each search area shall be worked independently, with a separate time limit.
- 25.4.2 There shall be three (3) hides, two (2) of which shall be accessible and none of which may be located higher than 120 cm off the floor.

- 25.4.3 The chosen target odours shall be hidden on, under, or in an object or any solid walls or doors or windows within the search area. They may not be hidden on boundary markers, such as bunting or witches' hats.
- 25.4.4 There shall be two (2) distractions, which may be non-food or food.
- 25.4.5 The dog shall find the target odours and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between three (1) and three (3) minutes per search.

## 25.5 Interior Master Class

- 25.5.1 The target odours shall be hidden in two (2) or three (3) distinct search areas in one (1) or more rooms, or part of a room. The total space of the search areas shall not be less than 55 and not more than 100 square metres. Each search area shall be worked independently, with a separate time limit.
- 25.5.2 There shall be up to three (3) hides. Any or all of these hides may be inaccessible. None may be located higher than 150 cm off the floor.
- 25.5.3 The chosen target odours shall be hidden on, under, or in an object or any solid walls or doors or windows within the search area. They may not be hidden on boundary markers, such as bunting or witches' hats.
- 25.5.4 There shall be three (3) distractions, which may be non-food, food, human or mimic.
- 25.5.5 The dog shall find the target odours and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between one (1) and three (3) minutes per search.

## 25.6 Summary of Interior Search requirements

	<b>Novice</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>Size of search area</b>	10 - 15 sq m	15 - 35 sq m	2 areas: 35 – 75 sq m total	2 – 3 areas 55 – 100 sq m total
<b>Blank areas</b>	None	None	None	Maximum 1
<b>Number of hides</b>	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	0 – 3 (unknown)
<b>Max. height of hides (cm)</b>	60	90	120	150
<b>Accessibility</b>	Accessible only	Accessible only	1 hide may be inaccessible	All hides may be inaccessible
<b>Time limit</b>	1 – 3 minutes	1 – 3 minutes	1 – 3 minutes per search area	1 – 3 minutes per search area
<b>Distractions</b>	None	1 non-food	2: non-food or food	3: non-food, food or, human or mimic
<b>Required calls</b>	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	3 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) for each find and Finish

## **26.0 EXTERIOR SEARCHES**

### **26.1 Requirements**

- 26.1.1 The Exterior Search Element tests the dog's ability to locate the target odour in an area with natural airflow and changing airflow patterns, weather conditions and natural distractions such as the sounds and smells of nature. The search may be in a covered area but should have no more than two (2) walls. The search area boundaries shall be clearly delineated.
- 26.1.2 The Judge may include props (e.g. furniture, flower pots) in an Exterior Search for hide placement and/or to enhance interest and/or complexity to the search area.
- 26.1.3 The minimum and maximum time for an Exterior Search is specified, but the actual time limit in each of these classes shall be determined by the Judge.

### **26.2 Exterior Novice Class**

- 26.2.1 The target odour shall be hidden in an outdoor area at least 15 but not more than 35 square metres.
- 26.2.2 There shall be one (1) hide, which shall be accessible and may not be located higher than 60 cm above the ground.
- 26.2.3 The chosen target odour will be hidden in the exterior search area
- 26.2.4 There shall be no intentional distractions.
- 26.2.5 The dog shall find the target odour and communicate the find to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between two (2) and four (4) minutes.

### **26.3 Exterior Advanced Class**

- 26.3.1 The target odour shall be hidden in an outdoor area at least 35 but not more than 75 square metres.
- 26.3.2 There shall be two (2) hides, which shall be accessible and may not be located higher than 90 cm above the ground.
- 26.3.3 The two chosen target odours will be hidden in the exterior search area.
- 26.3.4 There shall be one (1) non-food distraction.
- 26.3.5 The dog shall find the target odours and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between two (2) and four (4) minutes.

### **26.4 Exterior Excellent Class**

- 26.4.1 The target odour shall be hidden in an outdoor area at least 75 but not more than 140 square metres.
- 26.4.2 There shall be three (3) hides. One (1) hide may be inaccessible. None of the hides may be located higher than 120 cm above the ground.
- 26.4.3 The three chosen target odours will be hidden in the exterior search area
- 26.4.4 There shall be two (2) distractions, which may be non-food or food.
- 26.4.5 The dog shall find the target odours and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between three (3) and five (5) minutes.

## 26.5 Exterior Master Class

- 26.5.1 The target odour shall be hidden in an outdoor area at least 140 but not more than 200 square metres.
- 26.5.2 There shall be up to three (3) hides. The competitor shall not know the exact number of hides. Any or all of the hides may be inaccessible. None may be located higher than 150 cm above the ground.
- 26.5.3 The chosen target odours will be hidden in the exterior search area
- 26.5.4 There shall be three (3) distractions, which may be non-food, food or human or mimic.
- 26.5.5 The dog shall find the target odours and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be between three (3) and five (5) minutes.

## 26.6 Summary of Exterior Search requirements

	<b>Novice</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>Size of search area</b>	15 - 35 sq m	35 - 75 sq m	75 - 140 sq m total	140 – 200 sq m
<b>Number of hides</b>	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	0 – 3 (unknown)
<b>Max. height of hides (cm)</b>	60	90	120	150
<b>Accessibility</b>	Accessible only	Accessible only	1 hide may be inaccessible	All hides may be inaccessible
<b>Time limit</b>	2 - 4 minutes	2 - 4 minutes	3 - 5 minutes	3 – 5 minutes
<b>Distractions</b>	None	1 non-food	2: non-food or food	3: non-food, food, human or mimic
<b>Required calls</b>	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	3 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) for each find and Finish

## 27. VEHICLE SEARCHES

### 27.1 Requirements

- 27.1.1 A vehicle is any wheeled apparatus which provides suitable hide areas and which can be suitably secured to prevent injury to the searching dog. Vehicles other than a regular motor vehicle or van can include, but are not limited to, a truck, trailer, tractor, earth-moving equipment, box trailer, caravan, dog trailer, horse float, boat/jet ski on a trailer, motorbike, golf cart, combination ride-on mower and/or garden trailer.
- 27.1.2 The vehicles shall be parked in an open, outdoor area.

- 27.1.3 Hides in vehicle searches shall only be placed on the frame (bumper, seams, and number plate), wheel (hubcaps/spokes), or wheel wells of the vehicles. Hides shall not be placed in the interior, on the roof or bonnet of a vehicle, or be placed more than 5 cm under a vehicle.
- 27.1.4 For vehicle searches, dogs shall not be allowed in or under the vehicle during a search. A handler will never be required to open a vehicle door or direct the dog into or on any vehicle to locate the hide. All vehicles to be used for hides shall be thoroughly checked for fuel/ oil leaks and fumes, shall not be hot, or have sharp or protruding parts which can harm the dog.
- 27.1.5 The size of the search area depends on the number and size of vehicles used. The vehicles must be no less than 1.5 and no more than 2 metres apart to allow easy passage of the dog and handler.
- 27.1.6 There may be up to two (2) hides on any one vehicle.
- 27.1.7 The minimum and maximum time for a Vehicle Search is specified but the actual time limit in each of these classes shall be determined by the Judge

## **27.2 Vehicle Novice Class**

- 27.2.1 There shall be two (2) or three (3) vehicles, set in a line and facing in the same direction.
- 27.2.2 There shall be one (1) hide. The chosen target odour shall be placed on only one (1) of the vehicles.
- 27.2.3 There shall be no intentional distractions.
- 27.2.4 The dog shall find the target odour and communicate the find to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be three (3) minutes.

## **27.3 Vehicle Advanced Class**

- 27.3.1 There shall be two (2) or three (3) vehicles, set in a line and facing in different directions.
- 27.3.2 There shall be two (2) hides. The two chosen target odours shall be placed on any vehicle(s).
- 27.3.3 There shall be one (1) non-food distraction.
- 27.3.4 The dog shall find the target odours and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be three (3) minutes.

## **27.4 Vehicle Excellent Class**

- 27.4.1 There shall be three (3) to four (4) vehicles, placed in any pattern that is, the vehicles may be all in a row and facing in different directions, perpendicular to each other or randomly placed.

- 27.4.2 There shall be three (3) hides. The chosen target odours shall be placed on any vehicle(s).
- 27.4.3 There shall be two (2) distractions which may be non-food and/or food.
- 27.4.4 The dog shall find the target odours and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be five (5) minutes.

**27.5 Vehicle Master Class**

- 27.5.1 There shall be three (3) or four (4) vehicles, placed in any pattern that is, the vehicles may be all in a row and facing in different directions, perpendicular to each other or randomly placed.
- 27.5.2 There shall be up to three (3) hides. The chosen target odours shall be place on any vehicle(s). The number of hides shall be unknown to the handler.
- 27.5.3 There shall be three (3) distractions which may be non-food, food, mimic and/or human. A distraction may be placed on a vehicle but it cannot be placed on the same vehicle as the hide.
- 27.5.4 The dog shall find the target odours and communicate the finds to its handler within the time limit set by the Judge, which shall be five (5) minutes.

**27.6 Summary of Vehicle Search requirements**

	<b>Novice</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Master</b>
<b>Number of vehicles</b>	2-3	2-3	3-4	3-4
<b>Number of hides</b>	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	Up to 3 (unknown)
<b>Time limit</b>	3 minutes	3 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes
<b>Distractions</b>	None	1 non-food	2: non-food, food	3: non-food, food mimic or human
<b>Required calls</b>	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) for each odour and Finish	Alert(s) for each odour and Finish

**APPENDIX A**

**SCENT WORK  
JUDGE'S MARK SHEET**

<b>Affiliate</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>Division:</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Novice</b>	<b>Competitor number</b>
<b>Element:</b>		<b>Advanced</b>	
		<b>Excellent</b>	
		<b>Master</b>	
<b>Judge</b>		<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Faults</b>			
<b>Non-Qualifying Faults</b>			
<b>Disqualifications</b>			
<b>PASS/FAIL</b>			
<b>Comments</b>			

## APPENDIX B

### SAMPLE OFFICIAL SCENT WORK ENTRY FORM

To be held under the Rules and Regulations of the State/Territory Member Body

**Note:** Writing shall be in ink, and all names (ie dog and owner) shall be in block letters.  
Use a separate form for each entry.

\_\_\_\_\_ Affiliate      Date of Trial    /    /  
(Name of club for which entry is made)

**EXHIBITOR'S DECLARATION** I hereby apply to enter the following exhibit in terms of and upon the conditions set out in the State/Territory member body's Constitution Rules and Regulations by which I agree to be bound, and I hereby certify to the correctness of the particulars endorsed hereon.

BREED \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF EXHIBIT \_\_\_\_\_

Details of dog entered must be identical with the registration of the Canine Control with which the dog is registered

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Registered No \_\_\_\_\_  
State D or B

Name of Registered Owner/Lessee \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss - BLOCK LETTERS please)

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership No \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of handler (if different from owner/lessee): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Element and class entered

Element:	Container	Interior	Exterior	Vehicle
Novice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Master	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I certify that this exhibit has been vaccinated in accordance with Member Body Rules.

Usual Signature of owner/lessee(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Fees \_\_\_\_\_

Catalogue \_\_\_\_\_

Sundries \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Payment method and date \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX C

### GUIDELINES FOR SCENT WORK SCHEDULES

Subject to member body requirements, published Schedules for Scent Work trials normally include the following information:

1. The name of the Affiliate conducting the trial.
2. The date and venue at which the trial is to be conducted.
3. Details of the venue. Where the trial venue is a sub-set of a larger venue, the specific buildings and/or areas will be specified, to define the boundaries of the trial venue in scope for the Rules.
4. The closing date for entries.
5. The address to which entries should be forwarded and/or details of the online entry system being used.
6. Entry fees and other charges such as catalogues.
7. Divisions, Elements and classes offered and the Judge(s) for each.
8. Target odours to be used in each Division, Element and class.
9. Commencing time of vetting and judging.
10. Contact phone number (mobile) for the Affiliate on the day of the trial.
11. Entry limits or a statement that entry is unlimited.
12. Entry acceptance methods for limited entry trials.
13. In the case of a ballot, the date, hour, and location of the ballot.
14. Such other information specific to the trial as the Affiliate considers appropriate.

Where relevant, the Schedule should also include a statement to the effect: "It is not appropriate to visit the trial location prior to the trial date. Many search locations are real-life environments and such visits may risk the host losing the opportunity to use the location in the future."

## **APPENDIX D**

### **DETECTOR DOG DIVISION**

The 'Detective Class' is a feature of the AKC rules with the intention to emulate as closely as possible the work of a true detection dog.

It is envisaged that dogs in the ANKC Detector Dog Class will encounter any Element during one large search. The Detector Dog Class will contain multiple areas and many hides, all of which must be found to earn a qualifying score.

The criteria for the Detector Dog title; search area, number and placement of hides, search time, target odours and distractions will be developed and presented at the 2 year rule review for approval.

The Detector Dog Class will be open to dogs who have achieved a Scent Work Masters title in the Odour Search Division.