

PRELIMINARY DRAFT – ANKC SCENT WORK RULES

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



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LTD

DRAFT Rules for the conduct of Scent Work Trials

Effective from (Date)

**Approved by the
Australian National Kennel Council Ltd
(Date)**

**Yet to be 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 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 remains mostly passive, guiding the dog's search only when necessary and indicating to the judge when the dog has found the odour. Communication and praise of the dog during the search are encouraged.

- 1.2 Scent Work encompasses an Odour Search Division¹.
- 1.3 The purpose of these rules is to encourage the 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 dogs and handlers of all abilities are able to compete on an equal footing and 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, 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 change(s) to these Rules two years from their date of implementation. Thereafter, the rules shall be reviewed at five-yearly intervals.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

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

“Accessible Hide”: A hide that is reachable by a dog such that he is able to put his nose on it.

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

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

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

“Alert Behaviour”: see “Indication.”

"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. This could be subtle, such as movement of the ears, or overt such as sitting or pawing at the location.

“Class:” A particular element and difficulty level (eg: Novice Container, Advanced Exterior, etc.)

“Container”: A receptacle for holding odour. Containers made of or including glass may not be used. (see also Scent Vessel)

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

“Difficulty level”: Novice, Advanced, Excellent, or Master.

“Division”: Odour Search²

“Element”: A particular search environment. The elements are Container, Interior, Exterior, and Vehicle.

“Excusal”: When a team is asked to stop searching and leave the search area in response to specific conditions or behaviours on the part of the dog or handler.

“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”: A hide refers to an instance of the target odour within the search area. Depending on the difficulty level and element the class 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.

“Hide Steward”: The person who is in charge of placing the scented article or scent vessel in the location designated by the Judge.

“Inaccessible hide”: A hide that the dog is not able to place his nose on. A hide can either be “inaccessible to all dogs” (such as hidden inside a drawer or on the backside of a piece of furniture against a wall), or “inaccessible to some dogs” (such as a high hide that short dogs would not be able to reach).

“Indication”: An indication (or “Alert behaviour”) is a behaviour on the part of the dog that is intended to communicate to the handler that the target odour has been found.

² It is planned to introduce a Detector Dog Search Division at the two year rules review – subject to ANKC approval.

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

“Odour Search Division”: Classes in which the target odour is one (1) or more of the specified essential oils.

“Official Timer”: The person responsible for keeping the search time of each handler-dog team.

“Reward/reinforcer”: Any object or handler behaviour (such as a toy, food or petting) that serves to mark and encourage a dog to repeat a desirable behaviour.

“Scent aid”: A cotton ball or cotton bud that is permeated with the target odour. The scent aid is placed inside a scent vessel and then hidden in the search area. If cotton buds are used, only those with paper stems (not plastic) 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.³ 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.

“Spectator”: A person who is not involved in the administration of the trial who observes a team’s search performance.

“Staging Area”: An area on the trial grounds out of view of the search area(s). The staging area will include all parking, crating, warm-up, and waiting areas, as well as the secretary’s table for check-ins, 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.

“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.

“Steward”: A person who assists in the orderly conduct of the trial. Some stewards will work in the search area and act as assistants to the judge, and others will work outside the search area and be responsible for ushering teams to the start line when it is their turn to search.

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

“Team”: The handler and dog team entered in the trial.

“Time limit”: The maximum time for each search specified by the judge, beyond which any team that has not located and called all hides will not qualify.

“Vehicle”: A vehicle is any wheeled apparatus which provides suitable hide areas. 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, horse float, boat/jet ski on a trailer, motorbike, golf cart, combination ride-on mower and/or garden trailer.

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 Some examples of a scent vessel include a plastic straw, empty lip balm tube, or a metal tin with holes.

- 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 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 4.1 below.

4.1 Division and Elements

- 4.1.1 There will be an Odour Search Division⁴, 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 or in an object in an indoor search area.
 - (c) Exterior: the target odour shall be concealed on or in an object in an outdoor search area (this requires the dog to locate the odour despite changing airflow patterns, weather conditions, and natural distractions).
 - (d) Vehicle: the target odour shall be in a small container and concealed on the exterior of a vehicle (see definition of vehicle).
- 4.1.2 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*).
- 4.1.3 Novice classes shall utilise Birch only. Advanced classes may utilise Birch and/or Anise. Excellent classes may utilise Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove. Master Classes may utilise Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Cypress.
- 4.1.4 Odour search requirements shall be as set out in Appendix A.

4.2 Titling Classes

The following titling classes are available⁵:

⁴ It is planned to introduce a Detector Dog Search Division at the two year rules review – subject to ANKC approval

⁵ It is at the discretion of the Affiliate conducting the event whether some or all Divisions, Elements and Classes are offered at any trial.

- (a) Novice: For dogs that have not completed two (2) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice class for the relevant element or have not qualified for the Novice title.
- (b) Advanced: For dogs that have gained two (2) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice class for the relevant element or have qualified for the Novice title.
- (c) Excellent: For dogs that have gained three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class for the relevant element or have qualified for the Advanced title.
- (d) Master: For dogs that have gained three (3) qualifying scores in the Excellent class for the relevant element.

4.3 Progression through titling classes

- 3.3.1 Dogs may progress through the elements at different speeds (eg a dog may compete in the Novice Interior class and the Advanced Container class at the same trial).
- 3.3.2 A dog which has completed two (2) Qualifying Certificates in any element at the Novice or Advanced level or three (Qualifying Certificates) in any element at the Excellent or Master level may not compete further in that element at that level.
- 3.3.3 At the discretion of the Affiliate's nominee, a competitor who completes the necessary Qualifying Certificates may request and be transferred to the next higher class in the relevant Division.

4.4 Non-titling Classes

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

5.0 TITLES

5.1 Qualifying Certificates

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

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a competitor must:

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

5.2 Scent Work titles

- 5.2.1 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 Rule 5.2.2 below.
- 5.2.2 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:

- (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 at least three (3) of the four (4) elements in the Novice class in the Odour Search Division, under at least two (2) different Judges.
- (b) 'SWA' signifying Scent Work Advanced in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of nine (9) Qualifying Certificates in at least three (3) of the four (4) elements in the Advanced class in the Odour Search Division, under at least two (2) different Judges.
- (c) 'SWE' signifying Scent Work Excellent in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of twelve (12) Qualifying Certificates, comprising at least three (3) Qualifying Certificates in each of the four (4) elements in the Excellent class in the Odour Search Division, under at least two (2) different Judges.
- (d) 'SWM' signifying Scent Work Master in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of twelve (12) Qualifying Certificates, comprising at least three (3) Qualifying Certificates in each of the four (4) elements in the Master class in the Odour Search Division, under at least two (2) different Judges.

5.2.3 The following is a summary of the requirements for titles at each level. Only the highest Scent Work title in the Odour Search Division awarded to the dog shall be used in connection with the name of the dog.

ODOUR SEARCH DIVISION TITLES				
ELEMENTS	NOVICE (SWN)	ADVANCED (SWA)	EXCELLENT (SWE)	MASTERS (SWM)
MINIMUM NUMBER OF QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES				
CONTAINER	2	3	3	3
INTERIOR	2	3	3	3
EXTERIOR	2	3	3	3
VEHICLE	2	3	3	3
TOTAL	6⁶	9⁷	12	12
MINIMUM NUMBER OF JUDGES	2	2	2	2

5.2.4 Application for title

⁶ Six (6) Qualifying scores must be obtained across at least three (3) of the four (4) elements.

⁷ Nine (9) Qualifying scores must be obtained across at least three (3) of the four (4) elements.

Applications for all titles shall be submitted on the appropriate form, accompanied by the prescribed fee. Upon approval by the member body, an ANKC title certificate authorising the use of the letters concerned will be issued to the applicant.

6.0 EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Eligibility of exhibits

Scent Work trials are open to dogs that are:

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

7.0 ENTRIES

7.1 Entries

7.1.1 All entries must be made on the prescribed entry form and in accordance with the member body rules and the timelines published in the Schedule.

7.1.2 A separate entry form must be submitted for each entry.

7.1.3 At any trial a dog may be entered in:

- (a) only one (1) class within an element; and
- (b) a maximum of two (2) classes in different elements⁸.

7.1.4 A dog may be entered in both titling and non-titling classes when the latter are offered by the Affiliate conducting the trial.

7.2 Entry Limits

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.

PART 2 – ORGANISATION OF THE TRIAL

8.0 ORGANISATION OF THE TRIAL

8.1 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.

⁸ Dogs may progress through the elements at different speeds (ie a dog may complete in the Novice Interior class and the Advanced Container class at the same trial)

- (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) One container per target odour for each of the classes of the Odour Search Divisions. Additional containers to hold distractors and to act as empty containers as required.
- (d) One warm-up scent container per odour used in the trial to be placed in the warm-up area.
- (e) Scent aids (e.g. scented cotton balls or cotton buds) and scent vessels for the Odour Search Division. The Affiliate may designate 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.
- (h) A timing device, for use by the Official Timer; it must be capable of measuring time to the hundredth of a second. A backup timing device is recommended.

8.2 Registration and attendance

- 8.2.1 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.
- 8.2.2 The team shall be in the assembly area at the conclusion of the search of the team prior to them.

8.3 Welfare of Dogs

- 8.3.1. 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.
- 8.3.2 The Affiliate will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all dogs can participate in a safe and relaxed manner.
- 8.3.3 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.
- 8.3.4 Exhibits may be required to be inspected in accordance with the requirements of the relevant member body.
- 8.3.5 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.

8.4 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.

8.5 Dog attire

8.5.1 Dogs may only wear a buckle collar or a suitable harness and a lead; such attire must be approved by the Judge. 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.

Dogs may wear tick collars.

8.5.2 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) any 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 8.5.1.

8.5.3 The lead should be made of plain, pliable material. Chain or retractable leads must not be used. Any length of lead is permitted for use during the search. The lead can be used to gently guide the dog away from the boundaries of the search area, but cannot be used as a correction device. 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.

8.5.4 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.

8.5.5 At the discretion of the judge, the handler may remove the lead at any point after entering the search area.

9.0 PHYSICAL LAYOUT OF TRIAL VENUE

9.1 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.

9.2 Warm-Up Area

- 9.2.1 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.
- 9.2.2 Each team should limit their warm-up to two (2) minutes or less.
- 9.2.3 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.

10.0 SPECTATORS

10.1 Spectator Area

- 10.1.1 At the discretion of the Judge, spectators may be permitted to observe any class other than Novice. Where spectators are allowed, the Affiliate will establish a dedicated spectator area(s); no dogs shall be permitted in the spectator area(s)

Affiliates shall use tape or flags to delineate the boundaries of the spectator area so that no spectators inadvertently enter the search area.

- 10.1.2 Any person not handling a dog in the current class, or any person who has already completed their run in that class, may choose to watch searches from the spectator area. A competitor shall not watch other teams from their class prior to their search. Entry into to the spectators' area shall be as directed by officials.

10.2 Communication between spectators and competitors

- 10.2.1 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.
- 10.2.2 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 or re-run a competitor whose dog they reasonably believe has benefited from double handling.
- 10.2.3 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.

11.0 PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING DEVICES

- 11.1 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.

- 11.2 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 conducting the trial, for promotional or educational purposes.
- 11.3 The Affiliate conducting the trial may, after consultation with the Judge, designate an area from which videotaping/photography may be undertaken.
- 11.4 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.
- 11.5 No photograph or video footage can be used to challenge the Judge's decision

12.0 COMPETITORS

- 12.1 Persons of differing abilities may compete, provided they can move about the ring without physical assistance or guidance. The use of a wheelchair, crutches or cane is acceptable. The dog is to perform all necessary requirements of their search as stated in these rules.
- 12.2 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 they are run by different handlers.
- 12.3 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 when at the trial venue.
- 12.4 After a dog has commenced competing in a class, no substitution of handler is permitted in that class.
- 12.5 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 reported and dealt with under the member body rules.
- 12.6 The 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.
- 12.7 Competitors may wear a training vest or treat pouch, acceptable to the Judge, to carry food rewards. However, they should be advised not to drop food in the search area, and that a penalty shall be awarded if this occurs.
- 12.8 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 be discussing a search before the class has ended, the competitor whom that person is accompanying may, at the Judge's discretion, be held responsible and penalised in accordance with this Rule.

12.9 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.

13.0 REMOVAL OF A DOG

13.1 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 member body.

13.2 The Judge may order the removal from trial of any dog which is deemed disorderly or unmanageable, any handler 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.

14.0 WITHDRAWAL OF A DOG

14.1 A competitor may withdraw a dog before or during judging but, following such withdrawal, that team will not be able to take any further part in that trial, unless the Judge, in exceptional circumstances, otherwise approves.

14.2 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.

15.0 SEARCH AREAS

15.1 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 handlers to be aware of and prepared for this possibility.

15.2 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.

15.3 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 is not expected to be exact in all situations.

15.4 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.

16.0 PREPARATION FOR THE SEARCH AND SET UP OF SEARCH AREAS

16.1 Preparation and Storage of Odours

The scent aids shall be placed inside a clean glass jar and left to stand for at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the trial. 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 odour. Plastic may be used for scent vessels, but the scent aid must be removed from the plastic container for storage. Glass vessels may not be used in a search.

16.2 Containers

- 16.2.1 Containers shall be used to conceal the scent vessel for container searches in the Odour Search Division.
- 16.2.2 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 difficulty level.
- 16.2.3 Containers utilising glass may never be used.
- 16.2.4 Containers in Novice searches must be cardboard boxes and must all be identical. Whenever cardboard boxes are used, they must be of uniform size and 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.
- 16.2.5 Whenever cardboard boxes are used, the bottoms of the boxes must be taped shut.
- 16.2.6 Surplus containers for replacement must be available should any of the containers become damaged or contaminated.

16.3 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 level, but one that is not unreasonably difficult.

16.4 Placement of odours

- 16.4.1 The scent aid must always be placed inside a scent vessel, which is then hidden in the search area; a scent vessel may be placed in a container to conceal its location. 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.
- 16.4.2 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 latex or nitrile gloves when setting the hides.
- 16.4.3 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.

16.5 Consistent location odour

- 16.5.1 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.
- 16.5.2 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.
- 16.5.3 The hide should be relocated between classes, but must be left in the new location for 10 minutes before the first dog in the new class begins their search.

16.6 Accessible and inaccessible hides

- 16.6.1 A hide is considered accessible if it is in a location where the dog can reach it with his nose.
- 16.6.2 If the dog is unable to place his nose on the hide, it is considered inaccessible. Since the reach of a dog varies with its height, a hide that is accessible for tall dogs may be inaccessible for shorter dogs.

16.7 Vehicle searches

- 16.7.1 The vehicles shall be parked in an open, outdoor area.
- 16.7.2 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 15cm under a vehicle.
- 16.7.3 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.
- 16.7.4 Each hide must be placed on a separate vehicle.

16.8 Distraction Items

- 16.8.1 Certain searches, as determined by element and difficulty level, will include distraction items.
- 16.8.2 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. The following items are prohibited for use as a food distraction because they are known to be harmful to dogs: chocolate, grapes, avocados, onions, cherries, and any food with xylitol. 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) **Visual distraction**

A mild light in the search area⁹. The light may be continuous during the search, or may turn on and off (though it may not flash). If the light turns on and off, it should either do so on a pattern (eg alternating 3 seconds on, 3 seconds off), or it should do so when the dog reaches a certain place in the search area.

The light may be automatic or controlled. If controlled, the person controlling the light must be outside the search area and should take care that the use of the light distraction is uniform for all dogs in the class. The room lights, or any light used for functional illumination in the area may not be used as the visual distraction.

(d) **Auditory distraction**

Any unusual sound in the search area¹⁰. The sound may be continuous during the search or may be intermittent. If intermittent, the sound should be triggered when the dog reaches a certain place in the search area.

The sound may be automatic or controlled. If controlled, the person controlling the sound must be outside the search area and should take care that the use of the auditory distraction is uniform for all dogs in the class.

Excessive or startling sounds¹¹ are not permissible. The sound is not intended to frighten the dog, merely to vie for the dog's attention such that it is a challenge to remain focused on the search.

(e) **Mimic distraction**

An object that looks like a realistic animal¹². If a mimic distraction is used, the Affiliate should have a backup in case a dog contaminates the object.

(f) **Human distraction**

A person, other than the Judge, who is present inside the search area. The human distraction may be standing or sitting, and may look at the dog, but may

⁹ Examples of a mild light include the backlight of a mobile phone, a flashlight trained on the ground, an LED keychain.

¹⁰ Examples of an auditory distraction include a toy that makes a noise when touched or approached, clapping, or a mobile phone ringtone.

¹¹ Examples of excessive sounds include banging of pans, dropping of heavy objects, or slamming of doors.

¹² Examples of a mimic distraction object include a stuffed animal or statue.

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.

- 16.8.3 For Container and Vehicle Advanced classes, the distraction may be in a container or loose in the search area. If in a container, it may not be in the same type of container as the odour.

PART 3 CONDUCT OF THE TRIAL

17.0 DEMONSTRATION DOG

- 17.1 After the hides have been set, a demonstration dog may run the course to evaluate the appropriateness of the search for the level as designed. If the demonstration dog encounters unexpected difficulty, the Judge may adjust the hide location(s) and/or the course time.
- 17.2 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), that dog will be re-run at the end of the class, with no penalty.

18.0 CONDUCT OF THE SEARCH

18.1 General

- 18.1.1 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.
- 18.1.2 The search must start, continue, and finish within the confines of the designated search area.

18.2 Competitors' briefing

- 18.2.1 The Judge shall conduct a short competitors' briefing prior to the start of each class. The competitors' briefing shall take place in view of the search area after hide(s) have been set and the demonstration dog has run.
- 18.2.2 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 known);
 - (c) the maximum height of the hides;
 - (d) for interior searches only, the number of different search areas; and
 - (e) the maximum time for the course.

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

18.2.3 Exhibitors will be able to ask any questions about the search area at this time.

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

18.3 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.

18.4 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;
- (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.

18.5 Timing

18.5.1 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) at the Judge's discretion, when feasible, provide a 30 second warning to the competitor.

18.5.2 The search time shall be determined as follows:

- (a) For Novice classes, the official time shall start when the dog's nose crosses the start line, when any part of the competitor's body crosses the start line, or when the competitor gives the search command, whichever is first. The official time shall stop when the competitor calls "Alert."
- (b) For classes with multiple hides in a single search area, the official time shall start when the dog's nose crosses the start line, when any part of the competitor's body crosses the start line, or when the competitor gives the search command, whichever is first. The official time shall stop when the competitor calls "Finish."
- (c) For classes with multiple search areas: The official time for the first search area shall start when the dog's nose crosses the start line for that search area, when any part of the competitor's body crosses the start line, or when the handler gives the search command, whichever is first. The official time shall stop when the competitor calls "Finish."

18.5.3 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. 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.

- 18.5.4 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 that is, 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.

- 18.5.5 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.

18.6 Competitor looking for the hide

The competitor should not be actively looking for the scent vessel during the search. It is the job of the dog to find the hide. It is the competitor's job only to read their dog and communicate to the Judge when the dog has found the hide. Any competitor who actively looks for the hide may be faulted or disqualified by the Judge.

18.7 Touching the dog

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

18.8 Crossing search boundaries

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

18.9 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 may result in disqualification.

18.10 Barking/vocalisation

- 18.10.1 Within reason as determined by the Judge, a dog may bark or vocalise while participating in a search, without penalty.
- 18.10.2 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 venue, 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.
- 18.10.3 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.

18.11 Alerts – All hide types

- 18.11.1 No specific or formal alert behaviour is required from the dog, but there must be a change in behaviour from the dog such that the judge can tell that the dog has found the odour. The change in behaviour may be subtle (eg a turn of the head or twitch of the ears) or a clear change of behaviour or posture.
- 18.11.2 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.
- 18.11.3 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.
- Any gesture by the competitor to the source of the odour must be within the parameters in Rule 18.11.5 and 18.11.6.
- 18.11.4 When the competitor calls Alert, the Judge shall confirm whether the alert is correct or incorrect. If the dog is clearly indicating the source of the odour, the Judge should respond "correct" when the competitor calls Alert.
- 18.11.5 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.
- 18.11.6 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.
- 18.11.7 If the hide is not within the area that the competitor indicates, the alert should be considered incorrect, and the team will not qualify.

18.12 Alert Confirmation for Inaccessible Hides

- 18.12.1 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.
- 18.12.2 For a hide that is inaccessible for all dogs, such as a hide inside a drawer or on the backside of furniture against a wall, 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.
- 18.12.3 For a hide that is inaccessible due to a dog's height, the area that the competitor gestures to need not encompass the location of the hide, but must be on the same

vertical axis. For hides that are inaccessible due to the dog's height, the prescribed size parameters should apply in ideal conditions, but a relaxed standard can be used if there are compelling environmental factors

18.13 "Finish" Calls

- 18.13.1 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.
- 18.13.2 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).
- 18.13.3 If the competitor fails to correctly call "Finish" prior to the expiration of the search time, the team will receive a non-qualifying score (NQ).

18.14 Rewards and reinforcers

- 18.14.1 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 the dog toward a specific location to search.
- 18.14.2 A competitor may reward at or away from source, but must take care not to contaminate the search area with food particles or saliva.
- 18.14.3 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.

18.15 Contamination of the Search Area

- 18.15.1 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.
- 18.15.2 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.

18.16 Cleaning Contamination in the Search Area

- 18.16.1 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.
- 18.16.2 If a dog eliminates in an indoor search area, all surfaces or objects in the affected area must be thoroughly cleaned with an enzymatic cleaner. 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 an enzymatic cleaner.

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

- 18.16.3 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

19.0 JUDGES

19.1 Judges

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

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

20.0 JUDGING

20.1 Maximum number of searches to be judged

A Judge may judge a maximum of 125 searches on any one day.

20.2 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, selecting (and/or, if appropriate, varying) the hide locations;
- (c) set a time limit for the search;
- (d) evaluate the team's performance during the search;
- (e) when the competitor calls Alert, confirm whether the alert is correct or incorrect;
- (f) assess the team for any faults such as handling errors and mild rule infractions during the search;
- (g) issue NQ faults and excusals when necessary;
- (h) assign a Qualify or Non-Qualify result for each search.

20.2.2 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.

20.2.3 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.

21.0 SCORING

21.1 Faults

21.1.1 Errors occurring during the search will be assessed as faults, as follows:

- (a) handler error (eg pulling the dog off scent, excessive interference with a dog that is working, competitor actively looking for the scent vessel);
- (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 moving an object in the search area without the Judge's permission, untidy reward delivery).

21.1.2 Each fault can be given multiple times in the same search, if warranted. Faults affect placements only; there is no maximum number of faults per run. Any team who finds and calls all of the hides within the search time with no NQ faults will qualify.

21.1.3 Faults will not be called out by the Judge during the search. If time permits, the Judge may briefly explain any faults assessed to the competitor at the completion of the search.

21.2 Non-Qualifying Faults

The following behaviours will result in a non-qualifying performance:

- (a) The competitor calls "Alert" on the incorrect location.
- (b) The competitor calls "Finish" before all hides in the 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 (see Rule 18.11 for requirements on pointing to the hide location).
- (e) Any harsh handling or corrections of the dog by the competitor.
- (f) The competitor allows the dog to disrupt the search area unduly. This includes excessive saliva¹³ 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 other objects shall not be considered a disruption of the area.

21.3. Disqualification

21.3.1 A competitor shall be excused from a search if, in the opinion of the Judge, any of the following apply:

- (a) the dog is not under the competitor's control;
- (b) the dog or competitor stops working or performs disruptive behaviour for 10 or more seconds after warning from the Judge;
- (c) the dog eliminates (urinates, defecates, or vomits) in the search area;
- (d) the dog shows signs of extreme stress or fear;
- (e) harsh or punitive treatment of the dog;

¹³ Excessive saliva will only be penalised if the handler could reasonably have prevented the contamination, but did not do so.

- (f) the competitor is or has been in possession of any of the target odours when at the trial venue;
 - (g) the competitor undertakes training at the trial venue, other than in the designated warm-up area;
 - (h) the competitor receives assistance from a spectator or another competitor;
 - (i) the competitor touches any object in the search area without express permission from the Judge;
 - (i) the competitor discusses a search with any other person before the class has ended;
 - (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
 - (l) the Judge considers the dog is unfit to compete and/or exhibiting undue stress.
- 21.3.2 Physical management or manipulation of the dog during the routine shall incur a penalty up to disqualification, according to the level of management/manipulation undertaken.
- 21.4.3 A competitor who is excused from a search must vacate the search area immediately.
- 21.3.4 A competitor who is excused from a search may, at the discretion of the Judge, still be allowed to compete in other classes in which they are entered at that trial.
- 21.3.6 If a competitor is disqualified, the score sheet must be marked "Disqualified (D/Q)".

22.0 MARKS AND PLACINGS

- 22.1 The results for each class, including marks and Judge's name, must be displayed on the day and be accessible to all competitors.
- 22.2 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.

APPENDIX A
SCENT WORK SEARCH REQUIREMENTS
BY DIVISION, ELEMENT AND LEVEL

ODOUR SEARCH DIVISION

1.0 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.

1.1 Container Novice Class

- 1.1.1 The search area shall be at least 25 and no more than 35 square metres.
- 1.1.2 Ten (10) identical cardboard box containers (see Rule 2) shall be laid out on the floor of the search area. The boxes shall be arranged in two (2) rows of five (5) containers. Each box shall be at least 30 cm apart, and each row shall be at least 90 cm apart.
- 1.1.3 One (1) of the containers holds the target odour of Birch.
- 1.1.4 There shall be no distractions.
- 1.1.5 The dog shall locate the container with the target odour and communicate the find to its handler within 2 minutes of the start of the search.

1.2 Container Advanced Class

- 1.2.1 The search area shall be at least 35 and no more than 55 square metres.
- 1.2.2 Fifteen (15) containers of various size and type shall be laid out on the floor of the search area. The containers may be arranged in three (3) 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.
- 1.2.3 Two (2) of the containers hold the target odour, which may be Birch or Anise (each scent vessel may contain the same odour, or one (1) may contain Birch and the other may contain Anise).
- 1.2.4 One of the containers shall hold a non-food distraction (may not be the same container that holds odour).
- 1.2.5 The dog shall locate the containers with the target odours and communicate the finds to its handler within 2 minutes of the start of the search.

1.3 Container Excellent Class

- 1.3.1 The search area shall be at least 55 and no more than 75 square metres.
- 1.3.2 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 four (4) 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.
- 1.3.3 Three (3) of the containers shall contain the target odour, which shall be Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove.

- 1.3.4 There shall be two (2) distractions at this level, which may be non-food, food, auditory or visual.
- 1.3.5 The dog shall locate the containers with the target odour and communicate the finds to its handler within 3 minutes of the start of the search.

1.4 Container Master Class

- 1.4.1 The search area shall be at least 55 and no more than 75 square metres.
- 1.4.2 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 four (4) 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.
- 1.4.3 One (1), two (2) or three (3) of the containers shall contain the target odour(s), which shall be Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Cypress.
- 1.4.4 There shall be three (3) distractions which may be non-food, food, auditory, visual, mimic or human.
- 1.4.5 The dog shall locate the containers with the target odour and communicate the finds to its handler within 4 minutes of the start of the search.

1.5 Summary of Container search requirements

	Novice	Advanced	Excellent	Master
Size of search area	25 – 55 sq m	35 – 55 sq m	55 – 75 sq m	55 – 75 sq m
Number of containers	10	15	20	20
Types of containers	Identical cardboard boxes	Various size and type	Various size and type	Various size and type
Arrangement of containers	2 rows of 5 containers	3 rows of 5 containers, circle or “U” formation	4 rows of 5 containers, circle, or “U” formation	4 rows of 5 containers, circle or “U” formation
Minimum distance between containers	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)
Number of hides	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	1-3 (number unknown)
Scents	Birch	Birch and/or Anise	Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove	Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Cypress
Time limit	2 minutes	2 minutes	3 minutes	4 minutes
Distractions	None	1 non-food	2: non-food, food, auditory or visual	3: non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic

Required calls	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	3 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) for each find and Finish
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2.0 Interior Searches

The Interior search element tests the dog's ability to locate the target odour in an indoor search environment. 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, but if part of the room is excluded from the search area then the boundaries shall be clearly delineated.

The minimum and maximum times shall be specified, but the actual time limit in each of these classes shall be determined by the Judge.

2.1 Interior Novice Class

- 2.1.1 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.
- 2.1.2 There shall be one (1) hide, which shall be accessible and may not be located higher than 60 cm off the floor.
- 2.1.3 The target odour of Birch shall be hidden on, under, or in an object within the search area.
- 2.1.4 There shall be no intentional distractions.
- 2.1.5 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 1 and 3 minutes.

2.2 Interior Advanced Class

- 2.2.1 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.
- 2.2.2 There shall be two (2) hides, which shall be accessible and may not be located higher than 90 cm off the floor.
- 2.2.3 The target odours of Birch and/or Anise shall be hidden on, under, or in an object within the search area.
- 2.2.4 There shall be one (1) non-food distraction.
- 2.2.5 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.

2.3 Interior Excellent Class

- 2.3.1 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.
- 2.3.2 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.
- 2.3.3 The target odours of Birch and/ or Anise and/or Clove shall be hidden on, under, or in an object within the search areas.

- 2.3.4 There shall be two (2) distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory or visual.
- 2.3.5 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 1 and 3 minutes.

2.4 Interior Master Class

- 2.4.1 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 two (2) 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.
- 2.4.2 There shall be one (1), two (2) or three (3) hides. Any or all of these hides may be inaccessible. None may be located higher than 150 cm off the floor.
- 2.4.3 The target odours of Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove and/ or Cypress shall be hidden on, under, or in an object within the search areas.
- 2.4.4 There shall be three (3) distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic.
- 2.4.5 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 1 and 3 minutes.

2.5 Summary of Interior search requirements

	Novice	Advanced	Excellent	Master
Size of search area	10 - 20 sq m	20 - 40 sq m	2 areas: 35 – 75 sq m total	2 – 3 areas 55 – 100 sq m total
Blank areas	None	None	None	Maximum 1
Number of hides	1 (known)	2 (known)	3 (known)	1 – 3 (unknown)
Max. height of hides (cm)	60	90	120	150
Accessibility	Accessible only	Accessible only	1 hide shall be inaccessible	All hides may be inaccessible
Scents	Birch	Birch and/or Anise	Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove	Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Cypress
Time limit	1 – 3 minutes	1 – 3 minutes	1 – 3 minutes per search area	1 – 3 minutes per search area
Distractions	None	1 non-food	2: non-food, food, auditory or visual	3: non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic
Required calls	Alert only	2 Alert calls and Finish	3 Alert calls and Finish	Alert(s) for each find and Finish

3.0 Exterior Searches

The exterior search element tests the dog's ability to locate the target odour in an area with natural airflow, and in spite of everyday 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.

The minimum and maximum time shall be specified, but the actual time limit in each of these classes shall be determined by the Judge.

3.1 Exterior Novice Class

- 3.1.1 The target odour shall be hidden in an outdoor area at least 15 but not more than 35 square metres.
- 3.1.2 There shall be one (1) hide, which shall be accessible and may not be located higher than 60 cm above the ground.
- 3.1.3 The target odour shall be Birch.
- 3.1.4 There shall be no intentional distractions.
- 3.1.5 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 2 and 4 minutes.

3.2 Exterior Advanced Class

- 3.1.1 The target odour shall be hidden in an outdoor area at least 35 but not more than 75 square metres.
- 3.1.2 There shall be two (2) hides, which shall be accessible and may not be located higher than 90 cm above the ground.
- 3.1.3 The target odours shall be Birch and/or Anise.
- 3.1.4 There shall be one (1) non-food distraction.
- 3.1.5 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 2 and 4 minutes.

3.3 Exterior Excellent Class

- 3.3.1 The target odour shall be hidden in an outdoor area at least 75 but not more than 140 square metres.
- 3.3.2 There shall be three (3) hides, one (1) of which may be inaccessible and none of which may not be located higher than 120 cm above the ground.
- 3.3.3 The target odours shall be Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove.
- 3.3.4 There shall be two (2) distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory or visual.
- 3.3.5 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 3 and 5 minutes.

3.4 Exterior Master Class

- 3.4.1 The target odour shall be hidden in an outdoor area at least 140 but not more than 200 square metres.

- 3.4.2 There shall be one (1), two (2), or 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.
- 3.4.3 The target odours shall be Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Cypress.
- 3.4.4 There shall be three (3) distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory, visual, human or mimic.
- 3.4.5 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 3 and 5 minutes.

3.5 Summary of Exterior search requirements

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

4. Vehicle Searches

4.1 Vehicle Novice Class

- 4.1.1 There shall be two (2) or three (3) vehicles, set in a line and facing in the same direction.
- 4.1.2 There shall be one (1) hide. The target odour shall be Birch and it shall be placed on only one (1) of the vehicles.
- 4.1.3 There shall be no intentional distractions.

- 4.1.4 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 2 minutes.

4.2 Vehicle Advanced Class

- 4.2.1 There shall be two (2) or three (3) vehicles, set in a line and face in different directions.
- 4.2.2 There shall be two (2) hides. The target odours shall be Birch and/or Anise and they shall be placed on two (2) separate vehicles.
- 4.2.3 There shall be one (1) non-food distraction.
- 4.2.4 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 between 2 and 3 minutes.

4.3 Vehicle Excellent Class

- 4.3.1 There shall be four (4) or five (5) larger vehicles, placed in any pattern.¹⁴
- 4.3.2 There shall be up to four (4) hides. The target odours shall be Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove. The number of hides shall be unknown to the handler.
- 4.3.3 There shall be two (2) distractions which may be non-food, food and/or auditory or a combination.
- 4.3.4 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 between 4 and 5 minutes.

4.4 Vehicle Master Class

- 4.4.1 There shall be four (4) or five (5) larger vehicles, placed in any pattern.¹⁵
- 4.4.2 There shall be up to five (5) hides. The target odours shall be Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Cypress. The number of hides shall be unknown to the handler.
- 4.4.3 There shall be three (3) distractions which may be non-food, food, auditory, visual and/or human. A distraction may be placed on a vehicle but it cannot be placed on the same vehicle as the hide.

¹⁴ The vehicles may be all in a row and facing in different directions, perpendicular to each other or randomly placed.

¹⁵ The vehicles may be all in a row and facing in different directions, perpendicular to each other or randomly placed.

4.3.4 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 between 4 and 5 minutes.

4.5 Summary of Vehicle search requirements

	Novice	Advanced	Excellent	Master
Number of vehicles	2-3	3-4	4-5	4-5
Number of hides	1 (known)	2 (known)	Up to 4 (unknown)	Up to 5 (unknown)
Scents	Birch	Birch/ Anise	Birch/Anise/Clove	Birch/Anise/Clove/ Cypress
Time limit	2 minutes	2 – 3 minutes	4 - 5 minutes	4 – 5 minutes
Distractions	None	1 non-food	2: non-food, food, auditory or combination	3: non-food, food, auditory, visual, human
Required calls	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

Affiliate		Date	
Division:	Class	Novice Advanced Excellent Master	Competitor number
Element:			
Judge		Judge's Signature	
Faults			
Non-Qualifying Faults			
PASS/FAIL			
Judge's Comments			

APPENDIX B

OFFICIAL SCENT WORK ENTRY FORM

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

Note: Writing shall be in black 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): _____

Entered in DIVISION	Odour Search	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entered in CLASS	Novice	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Masters	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entered in ELEMENT	Containers	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Interiors	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Exteriors	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vehicle Search	<input type="checkbox"/>

I certify that this exhibit has not within a period of three (3) months been in kennels affected with Distemper, Canine Hepatitis, Parvo Virus or any other contagious or infectious disease and that the dog has been vaccinated.

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.
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. Commencing time of vetting and judging.
9. Contact phone number (mobile) for the Affiliate on the day of the trial.
10. Entry limits or a statement that entry is unlimited.
11. Entry acceptance methods for limited entry trials.
12. In the case of a random draw, the date, hour, and location of the draw.
13. 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.