

# ASCA Scent Search Program

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## ASCA Scent Search

### Mission Statement

The Scent Search Committee is dedicated to raising awareness around the fundamental role that scent plays with working stock dogs, highlighting the skills of problem-solving in any terrain or weather while showcasing independent working and thinking. A dog who uses its nose to do its job is a well-rounded and versatile working partner. This is also a sport in which veteran dogs and handlers or otherwise challenged handlers/dogs can compete and succeed.

### **Holding a Scent Search Trial**

To hold a Scent Search trial, you do not have to hold all levels or all elements. You can choose what your club wants to offer depending on how many days, the type of facility, how many judges you want to hire and how many volunteers you have.

#### **1.1 Who can hold an ASCA Scent Search Trial?**

Only ASCA Affiliate Clubs in good standing may sanction an ASCA Scent Search Trial.

No Scent Search Trials will be sanctioned within 300 miles regardless of state lines taking into account the considerations listed below.

1.1.1 California Areas - California is divided into three areas: from the Mexican border north to the city of Ventura, from Ventura north to San Jose, from San Jose north to Oregon.

1.1.2 Nevada is divided into two areas: From the southernmost border north to Highway 6, Highway 6 north to the Oregon and Idaho borders.

1.1.3 Alaska Exception - Alaska Affiliates may have more than one of each type of event per day from October 1 through March 30.

#### **1.2 Non-Affiliate Group**

1.2.1 Official ASCA programs that require sanctioning and award points or qualifying scores that lead to an ASCA title shall not be conducted by any individual(s), non-ASCA Affiliated corporation(s) or business(es). Affiliate Club(s) in good standing with ASCA will have the exclusive right to schedule, sanction and conduct Official ASCA programs.

1.2.2 Non-ASCA Affiliated, Corporation, Business or Individual cannot put on sanctioned ASCA events.

1.2.3 No individual(s), non ASCA Affiliated corporation(s) or business(es) shall realize any monetary profit, or any other benefit as a result of any connection with an ASCA sanctioned event. Normal event sponsorship or advertisement by any individual(s), corporation(s) or business(s) shall not be considered to be in conflict with this rule. Individuals, corporations or businesses that enter into agreements with Affiliate Clubs to supply materials, services, facility rentals, livestock rentals or any other need required for the conduct of sanctioned events shall not be considered to be in conflict with this rule.

### **1.3. Limiting Entries**

1.3.1 Entries will be limited to 125 runs a day plus 15 runs with permission from the

1.3.2 When the host club has had a trial they may have a discussion with the judge(s) to increase the runs to 140.

1.3.3 When the limit is reached the host club may decide to draw or accept by postmark basis.

1.3.4 Host club may consider hiring another judge.

### **1.4 Boundaries of Trial Grounds**

1.4.1 Minimum Requirements are explained in each class and level. The total area needed will be defined by what the event classes shall include.

1.4.2 Trial Grounds are the boundaries of the grounds on which ASCA events are being held. They include, but not limited to, all areas outside the ring/trial arena (including the buffer zone) set aside for grooming, holding of dogs, and parking of vehicles of the exhibitor. 1.4.3 Trial Site is the boundary in which judging of an ASCA event occurs and over which the Judge has authority. The boundary is defined by physical barriers plus a buffer zone extending ten (10) feet from such physical barriers.

### **1.5 Sanctioning a Trial**

1.5.1 ASCA Sanctioning Form, see ASCA Website for current form. A sanctioning fee will be submitted with the official request for sanctioning form to the ASCA Business Office. This form will not be accepted without being fully completed. This application must be submitted and postmarked no later than sixty (60) days prior to the event. A sanction fee, as determined by the board, per trial shall be submitted with the application.

1.5.2 Two ASCA Affiliates may hold a trial on the same site together IF they submit their sanctioning in together with a letter of understanding included with both completed sanctioning forms.

1.5.3 Late Sanctioning Fee requests received between 45-60 days prior to an event will be accepted upon payment of a fine, a fee to be determined by the board, for the first three (3) days past the 60-day postmark deadline with an increase fee to be determined by the board, per day thereafter. Sanctioning request \*received by the Business Office\* less than 45 days prior to a sanctioned event will not be accepted under any circumstances. Clubs submitting delinquent sanctioning request three times will lose all late sanctioning privileges for a period of 2 years. It is recommended Clubs retain proof of mailing for all sanctioning requests. The ASCA Business Office will not accept responsibility for sanctioning requests lost in the mail. All sanctioning requests sent after the 60-day postmark deadline must be original forms (no faxes or emails) and must have all required signatures and fees.

### **1.6 The Premium**

Must accompany the sanctioning form. The premium must at a minimum supply the following information:

1.6.1 Name of affiliate club hosting the event.

- 1.6.2 Sanctioning status (pending or approved).
- 1.6.3 A statement that the trial will be held under the current rules and regulations of ASCA.
- 1.6.4 Date and Location of show(s) including physical address.
- 1.6.5 Trial secretary and trial chairperson's name and contact information. Must include a phone or email address that will be answered daily.
- 1.6.6 Number of trials events and what they are.
- 1.6.7 Judges' names, accompanied by their affiliation, and their judging assignments.
- 1.6.8 A description of prizes and awards.
- 1.6.9 The scents that will be used for each level.
- 1.6.10 A listing of all classes offered for each day in the order they will proceed.
- 1.6.11 Fee amounts for pre-entry and day of show entries for classes.
- 1.6.12 Postmark dates for opening and/or closing of pre-entries and maximum entry number.
- 1.6.13 Day of Show Entries times and date (if applicable).
- 1.6.14 Maximum entries and how entries over that will be handled.
- 1.6.15 Handler's Meeting Time at the beginning of the trial.
- 1.6.16 Time the show grounds will be open for set up.
- 1.6.17 Any concerns for handicapped or limited mobility handlers or dogs such as: long distances between search areas, uneven surfaces, steep grades, steps etc.
- 1.6.18 Whether spectators or videoing will or will not be allowed.
- 1.6.19 Local veterinarians for emergency contact.
- 1.6.20 Local hotel(s) and pet accommodation information.
- 1.6.21 RV hook-up amenities and availability if show facility is an RV Park.
- 1.6.22 Food Vendor Information.
- 1.6.23 Show photographer contact information (if applicable).
- 1.6.24 Rules of the club (including waivers to be signed, if applicable).

1.6.25 Listing of any applicable local laws or show site regulations pertaining to the exhibition of dogs. (Including, waivers to be signed, if applicable).

1.6.26 A statement that no entry shall be accepted from a dog or handler disqualified from the ASCA programs or a person not in good standing with ASCA.

1.6.27 Link to the entry forms on the ASCA Website must be included.

1.6.28 Cancellation and Refund policy

### **1.7 Trial Committee Needed and Job Descriptions**

A club holding a trial must name a Trial Secretary and a Trial Chairperson, which cannot be the same person. The Chairperson must be a member in good standings with ASCA and of the affiliate club. The premium list for all trials shall designate the Trial Secretary as receiving entries. Trial Secretary and Chairperson shall be ineligible to judge at the event in which they are acting in these official capacities.

1.7.1 Trial Chairperson - Must be a full member in ASCA. The job will include but not be limited to securing the trial site, hiring the judges, filing the sanctioning, and overseeing the trial in general. This person is required to be always on the trial grounds during competition. The Trial Chairperson is ineligible to judge. The chairperson may participate in Scent Search trials where they perform these duties, though this participation should not interfere with their official duties.

The Trial Chair should plan on speaking at the beginning of each day welcoming the participants and volunteers, going over any special requests and introducing the judges.

1.7.2 Trial Secretary - Must be a full member in ASCA. This job will include but not be limited to being the record keeper including taking entries and taking care of the ASCA paperwork. This person will help the judge keep track of all paperwork and collect the paperwork at the end of the trial that will have to go to ASCA, making sure that all paperwork is signed by the judge. This person is required to be on the grounds at all times during competition. The Secretary may participate in Scent Search trials where they perform these duties, though this participation should not interfere with their official duties or slow down the trial.

1.7.3 Score Table/Computer Operator - This person is responsible for inputting all scores, determining the placements in the classes and ensuring the judge has verified these records. When that is completed the awards and ribbons may be handed out. At the end of a level this person computes High Scores and any other special awards, verifies with the judge, and distributes those awards in some manner.

1.7.4 Judges Hospitality - To be responsible for taking care of the judge. This may include arranging the judge has their airline tickets, motel room, transportation (when needed), and food and drink before, during and after the event. It is recommended to provide an ice chest at each scent area for the judges and workers. Always take into consideration any dietary needs of all the judges. (This should be addressed on the judge's contract.) This person is only responsible for making sure the jobs are done, not necessarily to do each of these jobs themselves.

1.7.5 Stewards -

A. Gate Steward - Will keep the trial running smoothly making sure the judge has the will have a minimum of two dogs in line ready to compete and assuring that the handler cannot see the search pattern or hear anything being said in the search area. They will accept any



other duties assigned to them by the judge. This steward may compete in this event but not in the class they are stewarding for.

B. Timing Steward - Will time the competing team and relay the correct time to the judge. The time shall be kept to the hundredth of a second. A back up clock may be used but only one timer is needed. The time will start when the dog steps over the marked line. The timer will stop the *clock* when the handler calls "Alert" (for Novice) or "Finish" (for multiple hides). Timers will preferably time an entire level; if that is not possible, they must complete the entire class. This steward may compete in this event but not in the class they are stewarding for. The timer will sit or stand at approximately 4 ft. from the start line for all competitors. The timer remains in the same spot for all runs in that class. \*Malfunction of the Clock will give the handler 2 choices. They may take the maximum time as decided by the judge prior to the start of that class OR they may rerun the search. If there is a rerun of the search it will be held at the end of that class and the hides will be reset and rest for 10 minutes before starting the new search. IF the search does not qualify the handler will accept an NQ and will not be allowed to accept the first run.

C. Equipment Steward - The equipment steward will assure that there are enough vessels, containers and misc. needs are at the needed trial area and everything from the past class is picked up. This may need to be more than one person. The judge will handle the scents.

D. Cold Box Steward - Handles the boxes/containers with no scent, at no time is this person allowed to handle anything with scent. This person straightens or replaces (if needed) any COLD boxes/containers that may get disturbed by the working dog. This person does not touch or straighten the HOT box (if needed).

E. Hot Box Steward - Handles the boxes/containers that contain the scent, at no time does this person handle any other boxes/containers not containing the scent. This person straightens or replaces (if needed) any HOT boxes/containers that may get disturbed by the working dog. This person does not touch or straighten the COLD boxes. Will not be handling any scent not in a vessel

F. Scribe Steward - Records faults and hides as given by the judge. Records final time as given by the Time Steward. The judge may prefer to do this on their own. These score sheets should be turned in to the main score table for recording.

## 1.8 Trial Equipment Needed

1.8.1 Rule book **MUST** be at the entry table.

1.8.2 All Scent Search Forms

1.8.3 Tables and chairs

1.8.4 Computer- laptop & printer with extra paper

1.8.5 Ring tape, Painter's tape, and cones per search area

1.8.6 One (1) Stopwatch per judge but extras watches and batteries need to be available in case of malfunction.

1.8.7 White Boards, Markers and Erasers

1.8.8 Clip boards, pens/pencils, markers, tape

1.8.9 A 20 ft measuring tape minimum

1.8.10 Scent containers per level

1.8.11 Plastic garbage bags

### **1.9 General Rules for all Trials**

1.9.1 Hide will not be known or easily visible to the handler. Handler should not be actively looking for the source of the odor. It is the dog's job to indicate to the handler where the odor is. Handler will be warned if the judge feels they are looking for the odor source.

1.9.2 Handler may reward dog in the search area with food or toys at any time during the search. Handlers may wear treat bags to carry treats and toys. Handler should assure treats and toys do not fall out of the treat bag or be dropped in the search area. If one should fall the handler must pick it up immediately. If this delays the trial the judge may issue a fault after repeat offenses.

1.9.3 Handler may touch the dog at any time during the search.

1.9.4 Hides will not be on search boundary lines or markers.

1.9.5 Search locations are not to be discussed by anyone (competitors, volunteers, spectators) until the completion of the class/element.

1.9.6 Handlers should not touch anything in the search area without permission from the judge.

1.9.7 Dogs may wear a flat buckle collar, martingale collar, and/or harness.

1.9.8 No electronic collars, prong collars or choke collars will be allowed on the trial grounds. Dogs may not wear cameras in the search area.

1.9.9 Leash may be of any length but dog must always remain under control. Flexi leads are allowed in the search area only.

1.9.10 Dogs may wear any other items that may seem necessary by the handler such as sweaters or jackets, booties, hair clips or tags that do not jingle. The Judge will make final determination if questioned.

1.9.11 Handlers may carry a timer or wear watches in the search area to be aware of the time remaining in their search.

1.9.12 Scents will not be allowed on the grounds or in other vehicles except for the judge's use.

1.9.13 Spectators will be allowed in an area where the Judge and Trial Chairperson designates. Spectators may video but not take pictures with a flash or any noise. Competitors may spectate or video only if they are not in that class. Videos should not be watched until after the entire class is completed to assure confidentiality.

1.9.14 The handler must confirm the dog's indication of odor with the word "ALERT" If verbal confirmation is not possible the handler may inform the judge with another signal such as a raised hand. If it is not obvious to the judge where the dog is indicating, the judge may ask "WHERE" at which time the handler must immediately point to the hide (within 6 inches) indicated by the dog. The "FINISH" call is used in all classes, except Novice, to indicate when all hides have been located. The "FINISH" call will stop the time. If handler fails to call "FINISH" before the end of the search time the team if in Open will receive full time allowed and if in Advanced and Excellent and will NQ.

#### 1.9.15 Limitations of Entries

- A. Entries will be limited to 125 runs a day, plus 15 runs, with permission from the judge.
- B. When the host club has had a trial, they may have a discussion with the judge(s) to increase the runs to 140.
- C. When the limit is reached the host club may decide to draw or accept by postmark basis.
- D. Host club may consider hiring another judge.

1.9.16 Weather Conditions - All outdoor searches will compete regardless of the weather unless deemed unsafe by the judge. Searches may be postponed for to finish class(es).

1.9.17 A warm-up and recovery area should be designated and should contain at least one scent from each of the levels offered. Blank boxes are optional. Teams on deck should have priority in using this area

#### 1.10 Ribbons and Awards

- A. Ribbons or the four official placements within a single Scent Search class at Sanctioned Scent Search Trial must be awarded only to dogs that earn Qualifying scores. Although placement awards are not absolutely required, they are very strongly encouraged for at least the top qualifying runs in all levels and divisions.
- B. A green qualifying ribbon or rosette shall be given for each qualifying round in each class. Each ribbon awarded at the trial shall have the words "ASCA Sanctioned Trial" printed on it (synonyms such as "event" may be used for the word "trial").
- C. The ribbon or rosette shall be printed with the host club's name and the placement awarded. The ASCA logo may be used in awards if an ASCA Affiliate is hosting a sanctioned show, trial, or agility competition. These can be made from a computer or crafty person for a match only.
- D. Ribbons colors shall be as follows:
  - 1st – Blue
  - 2nd – Red
  - 3rd - Yellow

4th - White  
 Green Qualifying Score – Green

E. Additional Ribbons and Awards may be awarded if the club chooses to do so.

F. Self-Serve table for awards unless the judge wants to hand our awards.

1. It is suggested that you order tabs with 2-sided tape on them for levels and Elements and lay them out so that people can get what they want instead of someone handing them out.

2. Also suggested that a label for the back of the ribbon showing the class, award, score and time will be helpful to the competitors. Here again you can print them off and just leave them on a table.

## 2. Scent

### SCENT CHART

Suggested Usage:	Novice (Choose One Line)	Open (Choose One Line)	Advanced (Choose One Line)	Excellent (Choose One Line)
Line 1 U.S.	Birch (Betula Lenta)	Anise (Pimpinella)	Clove (Eugenia Caryophyllata)	No new scent
Line 2 Canada	Wintergreen (Gaultharia Procumbens)	Anise (Pimpinella Anisum)	Clove (Eugenia Caryophyllata)	No new scent
Line 3 Europe	Lavendar (Lavandula Intermedia)	Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus Globulus)	Bay (Larus / Sinus)	No new scent

**2.1 Scents** - There is a **choice** of 3 suggested scents per level. The first line (Birch, Anise, & Clove) are most common in the US and the second line (Wintergreen, Pine and Thyme) are what is used in Canada (CDC). The Third line (Eucalyptus and Lavendar, and Bay) are used in the European trials. It is suggested that his recommendation be followed for a more acceptable trial by all competitors.

**2.2 Scent Preparation** - This will be done by the judge. The scent must be prepared 24 to 48 hours before the trial. Gloves should be used while preparing the scent. The scent swabs must be 100% cotton swabs with paper stems not plastic. The cotton swab stems should be cut in half or shorter. Trimmed cotton swabs

should be placed in a small glass jar, making sure to prepare enough cotton swabs for the entire trial. Each odor must have its own jar. *Extract ½ to one dropper full of a target odor oil and drizzle it around the inside of the glass jar. Secure the lid and shake the cotton swabs around in the jar.* Odor **SHOULD NOT** be applied directly to the cotton swab. Let cotton swabs sit ('cook') for 24 hours, then check to see if odor strength is sufficient. Add more odor to the sides of the jar if needed.

**2.3 Scent Transport and Storage** - The scented cotton swabs should be transported/stored in a glass jar with a threaded plastic or metal lid. If storing scented tips, they should be kept in an airtight, glass storage container away from sunlight. Do not store scented swabs in plastic containers, *refrigerator or freezer.*

**2.4 Scent Vessels** - A scent vessel (hide) will prevent the swab from coming in contact and contaminating the object surface area, while allowing air to escape. Scent vessels must never contain glass. Some examples of scent vessels may be a metal box with holes, plastic straw, ink pen cap, or tea strainer. More than one cotton swab may be used per scent vessel.

**2.5 Hide Placement** - The scent vessel is attached to an object surface or secured to the inside of a container using tape, putty, a magnet, or any other means, that does not harm the object or surface. The odor at the trial is only handled by the judge or Hot Box Steward.

**2.6 Combining Scent in same scent vessel** – Scent Combinations may be used in the Excellent level. Combination scents are when multiple scents for a single hide are placed in the same scent vessel.

**2.7 Selecting the Hide Locations** - Judges are responsible for selecting the hide location. The challenges presented should be level-appropriate taking into consideration the condition of the search area (weather, unintentional distractions already presented in the search area, airflow, temperature, humidity etc. The scent must remain in the same location for each team in the class.

**2.8 Reuse of Scent Area** - If search areas are reused or a hide must be relocated in the middle of a class in a trial, the judge must inform teams during the handler's briefing or at the start line of the search. These areas must also be marked with stickers or tape. In the case of a relocated hide the new location should be of the same challenges as the old hide. The scent should be left to stand for 10 minutes before the next dog is run.

### 3. Scores and Titles

**3.1 Score** - The Scent Search competition is a pass/fail competition. Placements are determined by the number of faults acquired and the time of the run.

#### 3.2 Titling in Novice

3.2.1 Dog/handler team must have 3 q's from an individual element to earn the Novice element title.

3.2.2 Containers SSNc

3.2.3 Interiors SSNi

3.2.4 Exterior SSNe

3.2.5 Vehicles SSNv

3.2.6 ACQUIRE ALL NOVICE ELEMENT TITLES – SSN4. Separate element titles are dropped.

NOTE: The four at the end of the combination title designates how many elements are required for this title. If there is an increase in the number elements, then this number should increase. The dog

with a title of "4" must then earn the next element(s) to earn the changed number or leave the number at four.

### **3.3 Titling in Open**

3.3.1 Dog/handler team must have 3 Q's from an individual element to earn the Open element title.

3.3.2 Containers SSOc

3.3.3 Interiors SSOi

3.3.4 Exteriors SSOe

3.2.5 Vehicles SSOv

3.3.6 ACQUIRE ALL OPEN ELEMENT TITLES - SSO4 Separate element titles are dropped.

NOTE: The four at the end of the combination title designates how many elements are required for this title. If there is an increase in the number elements, then this number should increase. The dog with a title of "4" must then earn the next element(s) to earn the changed number or leave the number at four.

### **3.4 Titling in Advanced**

3.4.1 Dog/handler team must have 3 q's from an individual element to earn the Advanced element title.

3.4.2 Containers SSAc

3.4.3 Interiors SSAi

3.4.4 Exteriors SSAe

3.4.5 Vehicles SSAv

3.4.6 ACQUIRE ALL ADVANCED ELEMENT TITLES - SSA4 Separate element titles are dropped.

NOTE: The four at the end of the combination title designates how many elements are required for this title. If there is an increase in the number elements, then this number should increase. The dog with a title of "4" must then earn the next element(s) to earn the changed number or leave the number at four.

### **3.5 Titling in Excellent**

3.5.1 Dog/handler team must have 3 q's from an individual element to earn the Excellent element title.

3.5.2 Containers SSEc

3.5.3 Interiors SSEi

3.5.4 Exteriors SSEe

3.5.5 Vehicles SSEv

3.5.6 ACQUIRE ALL EXCELLENT ELEMENT TITLES - SSE4 Separate element titles are dropped.

NOTE: The four at the end of the combination title designates how many elements are required for this title. If there is an increase in the number elements, then this number should increase. The dog with a title of "4" must then earn the next element(s) to earn the changed number or leave the number at four.

#### 4. Novice Level and Elements -

##### NOVICE LEVEL CHART

ELEMENT	AREA	MAX TIME	# OF HIDES KNOWN	QUALIFYING FAULTS	# OF Q'S TITLES
Containers	12 Identical, <u>New</u> Cardboard Boxes A minimum of 3 ft. apart	3 Min.	1 Hide	2	3 SSNc
Interiors	100 - 400 Sq. Ft.	3 Min.	1 Hide	2	3 SSNi
Exteriors	200 - 400 Sq. Ft.	3 Min.	1 Hide	2	3 SSNe
Vehicles	3 Vehicles	3 Min.	1 Hide	2	3 SSNv

ALL dogs must start at the NOVICE level!

A Novice dog should demonstrate "scent obedience".

A Novice handler should recognize a change in behavior while the dog works to scent source.

#### 4.1 Novice - Scents to be used:

4.1.1 The host club will pick one of the scents from the Novice List on the Scent Search Chart

4.1.2 The host club will enter the scent onto the sanctioning form and place it on the premium.

#### 4.2 Novice - Setting the Course

4.2.1 There will be 1 hide per element.

4.2.2 No intentional distractions are allowed at this level.

4.2.3 No non-accessible hides at this level.

4.2.4 The hide will be no more than 2 feet high in any novice class.

4.2.5 Actual search time to be determined by the judge with a maximum time of 3 minutes.

### 4.3 Novice - Competing

4.3.1 No incorrect calls are allowed at this level. If at any time during the search an incorrect call is made the search will be ended. When there is an incorrect call the judge may tell a Novice team where a correct hide is and the handler has the choice to show and reward their dog quickly before they leave the area.

4.3.2 You may have no more than 2 faults to qualify.

4.3.3 If the Judge asks "Where" handler must identify the source by pointing to the location without touching anything.

4.3.4 The judge will decide if the area is safe for an off-leash search. It is up to the handler if they want to run the dog on or off leash.

### 4.4 Novice - Container Search

4.4.1 Description of Containers:

A. Twelve (12) identical, new cardboard boxes must be used, minimum of 4" x 6" x 2" deep and maximum of 8" x 8" x 4" deep.

B. The box must have a lid that will allow the odor to escape.

4.4.2 Hide Placement:

A. Boxes may be set up in a simple pattern such as a square, one or two rows, a circle, or triangle.

B. Boxes must be at least three feet apart in all directions.

C. It is required that there are enough extra boxes available to replace when damaged.

### 4.5 Novice - Interior Area Search

4.5.1 Description of Area:

A. This area can be anything from kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms, office rooms, living rooms, school rooms or meeting rooms including hallways and common areas.

B. An interior room search may also be contained within a larger room and designated by a caution tape, ring gates or other acceptable markers.

C. Interior means with roof and 4 walls from floor to ceiling.

D. There must be no odor cross contamination between rooms.

4.5.2 Hide Placement

A. Hides must be accessible to the dog.

B. The hide may be located on or under any objects such as tables, dressers, chairs, and any other object that may conceal the odor container from plain sight.

### 4.6 Novice - Exterior Area Search

4.6.1 Description of Area:

A. This area can be anything from exteriors of buildings, courtyards, patios, parking lots or grassy areas.

B. Area will be clearly identified with cones, tape, or other markers.



- C. This area may have a roof with no more than 2 walls and open enough that fresh air will circulate at all times.
- D. Hides cannot be buried.

4.6.2 Hide Placement:

- A. Hide must be accessible to the dog.
- B. The hide may be located on or under any object that may conceal the hide vessel from plain sight.
- C. These areas can include picnic tables, camp chairs, logs, trash cans, or anything that has been brought outdoors.

**4.7 Novice - Vehicle Search**

4.7.1 Description of Vehicles:

- A. Anything with wheels and has a brake or can be stabilized so that it is not moveable.  
*(Examples include automobiles, pick-up trucks, SUV's, snowmobiles or ATVs, tractors, agricultural vehicles, boats, or RVs. Non-motorized examples include wheelbarrows, hand carts, wagons etc.)*
- B. Vehicles may be placed in any physical arrangement, no closer than five feet from each other in any direction.

4.7.2 Hide Placement:

- A. The hide will only be placed on the EXTERIOR of the vehicle and must be accessible to the dog.
- B. Hides will be placed no more than 2 inches in depth under the frame of the vehicle.
- C. Hides may NOT be placed in tail pipes.
- D. There may NOT be any dogs, humans or any odor inside the vehicle when being used in a search.
- E. No odor may have been placed on the vehicle for 4 weeks prior (no lingering odor).
- F. Exterior of vehicles should be relatively clean.
- G. Exterior of vehicles should be relatively clean.
- H. Once a vehicle has held a hide for a class or level it cannot be reused for that trial. Vehicles without hides (cold) may be reuse.

## 5. Open Level and Elements -

OPEN LEVEL CHART

ELEMENT	AREA	MAX TIME	# OF HIDES KNOWN	QUALIFYING FAULTS	# OF Q'S TITLE
<b>Container</b>	12-18 Containers Any container that is not fabric or glass.	4 Min.	1-3 Hides	2	3 SSNc
<b>Interiors</b>	300-600 sq. ft.	4 Min.	1-3 Hides	2	3 SSOi
<b>Exteriors</b>	300-800 sq. ft.	4 Min.	1-3 Hides	2	3 SSOe
<b>Vehicles</b>	3-5 Vehicles	4 Min.	1-3 Hides	2	3 SSOv

An Open dog should be able to find multiple scents and be able to find scents regardless of distractions in the search area.

Teams do not need to earn all the Novice element titles to move up to Open. They must have finished their title in that element but not the entire level. *(EXAMPLE: once a dog earns their Novice Container Title they are eligible to move up to the Open Level in Containers even if they have not earned their Novice titles in the other 3 elements.)*

### 5.1 Open - Scents to be used:

5.1.1 The host club will pick one Novice scent and one Open scent from the Scent Search Chart from the same line.

5.1.2 The host club will enter the chosen scents onto the sanctioning form and place it on the premium.

### 5.2 Open - Setting the Course

5.2.1 Handler will be told the number of hides (1 to 3) before the start of the search.

5.2.2 There may or may not be one, non-food distraction at this level.

5.2.3 Hides can be accessible or inaccessible.

5.2.4 The hide will be no more than 3 feet high in any open class.

5.2.5 Actual search time to be determined by the judge with a maximum time of 4 minutes.

### 5.3 Open - Competing

5.3.1 No incorrect calls are allowed at this level. If at any time during the search an incorrect call is made the search will be ended.

5.3.2 You may have no more than 2 faults to qualify.

5.3.3 If the Judge asks “Where” handler must identify the source by pointing to the location without touching anything.

5.3.4 The judge will decide if the area is safe for an off-leash search. It is up to the handler if they want to run the dog on or off leash.

5.3.5 The handler must call “Finish” to stop time when all hides are located. If the handler does not call “Finish” the team will still pass but be given the full time allotted for that element.

## **5.4 Open - Container Search**

5.4.1 Description of Containers:

- A. There are 12-18 containers (no fabric or glass), which can include one type or a mix of any of the following examples: boxes, plastic containers, metal containers, gift boxes, etc.
- B. A container is something that you can put something in but has holes or other means for the odor to escape but is not easily seen by the handler or the dog.

5.4.2 Hide placement

- A. Containers may be set up in any pattern the judge prefers.
- B. Containers must be no less than 2 feet apart.
- C. Search can be indoors or outdoors.
- D. Extra containers need to be available to replace damaged containers.
- E. There may or may not be one intentional non-food distraction.

## **5.5 Open - Interior Area Search**

5.5.1 Description of Area:

- A. This area may be kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms, office rooms, living rooms, school rooms, meeting areas, hallways or common areas, etc.
- B. An interior room search may also be contained within a larger room and designated by caution tape, ring gates or other acceptable markers.
- C. There may be no odor cross contamination between rooms.
- D. Interior means a roof with 4 walls from floor to ceiling.
- E. If bringing items into the area they should be placed to look as if they belong in the area.

5.5.2 Hide Placement:

- A. The hide may be located on, in or under an object. Examples of hide locations include (but are not limited to) tables, drawers, dressers, chairs, cabinets, and any other object that may conceal the scent container from plain sight.
- B. There may or may not be one intentional non-food distraction.

## **5.6 Open- Exterior Area Search**

5.6.1 Description of Area:

- A. This area can be exteriors of buildings, courtyards, patios, parking lots or grassy areas.
- B. Area will be clearly identified with cones, tape or other markers.
- C. This area may have a roof with no more than 2 walls and open enough that fresh air will always circulate.
- D. Hides cannot be buried.

5.6.2 Hide Placement:

- A. The hide may be located on, in or under an object, that will conceal the odor container from plain sight.
- B. The area can include picnic tables, camp chairs, logs, trash cans, or anything found outdoors. Objects can be brought out from indoors but should be placed to look as they belong in the area.
- C. There may or may not be one intentional non-food distraction.

**5.7 Open - Vehicle Search**

5.7.1 Description of Vehicles:

- A. Anything with at least two wheels and that can be stabilized so that it is not moveable. *(Examples include automobiles, pick-up trucks, SUV's, snowmobiles or ATVs, tractors, agricultural vehicles, boats, or RVs. Non-motorized examples include wheelbarrows, hand carts, wagons etc.)*
- B. Vehicles may be placed in any physical arrangement, no closer than 4 feet from each other in any direction.

5.7.2 Hide Placement:

- A. Search can be indoors or outdoors.
- B. The hides will only be placed on the EXTERIOR of the vehicle no higher than 3 feet and no more than six inches under the vehicle.
- C. No more than one hide per vehicle.
- D. Hides may NOT be placed in tail pipes.
- E. There may NOT be any dogs, humans or any odor inside the vehicle when being used in a search.
- F. No scent may have been placed on the vehicle for 4 weeks prior (no lingering odor).
- G. Exterior of vehicles should be relatively clean.
- H. Once a vehicle has held a hide for a class or level it cannot be reused for that trial. Vehicles without hides (cold) may be reuse.
- I. There may not be intentional distractions.

## 6. Advanced Level and Elements

### ADVANCED LEVEL CHART

ELEMENT	AREA	MAX TIME	# OF HIDES UNKNOWN	QUALIFYING FAULTS	# OF Q'S TITLES
<b>Containers</b>	12-24 containers Any container that is not glass.	4 Min.	UNKNOWN 1-3 Hides	1	3 SSAC
<b>Interior 1 or 2 Rooms</b>	Two smaller rooms (400-700 sq ft each) or one large room (up to 1200 sq ft)	6 Min. Total	UNKNOWN 1-3 Hides Total	1	3 SSAi
<b>Exterior</b>	600-1000 sq. ft.	4 Min.	UNKNOWN 1-3 Hides	1	3 SSAe
<b>Vehicles</b>	4-6 Vehicles	4 Min.	UNKNOWN 1-3 Hides	1	3 SSAv

Teams do not need to earn all of the Open element titles to move up to Advanced. They must have finished their title in that element but not the entire level. (EXAMPLE: once a dog earns their Open Container Title they are eligible to move up to the Advanced Level in Containers even if they have not earned their Open titles in the other 3 elements.)

An Advanced dog should be able to find multiple odors, and be able to find odor regardless of distractions in the search area. The Advanced handler should be able to determine when all hides have been found in a search area.

#### 6.1 Advance – Scent to be used

6.1.1 The host club will pick three scents from the same line to include a Novice, Open and Advanced scent off of the Scent Search Chart.

6.1.2 The host club will enter scents being on the sanctioning form and place it on the premium.

#### 6.2 Advanced - Setting the Course

6.2.1 Handler **will not** be told the number of hides (1 to 3) before the start of the search.

6.2.2 There may or may not be up to two (2) intentional food or non-food distractions at this level.

6.2.3 Hides can be accessible or inaccessible.

6.2.4 The hide will be no more than 4 feet high in any open class.

6.2.5 Actual search time to be determined by the judge with a maximum time of 4 minutes for Containers, Exteriors, Vehicles, and 6 minutes for Interior.

### 6.3 Advanced - Competing

6.3.1 No incorrect calls are allowed at this level. If at any time during the search an incorrect call is made the search will be ended.

6.3.2 You may have no more than 1 fault to qualify.

6.3.3 If the Judge asks "Where" handler must identify the source by pointing to the location without touching anything.

6.3.4 The judge will decide if the area is safe for an off-leash search. It is up to the handler if they want to run the dog on or off leash.

6.3.5 The handler must call "Finish" to stop time when they believe all hides have been located. If the handler does not call "Finish", or the "Finish" is called and not all hides have been located the team will not qualify.

### 6.4 Advanced - Container Search

6.4.1 Description of the Containers:

A. 12-24 containers, which can include one type or a mix of any of the following examples: boxes, plastic containers, metal containers, gift boxes, cloth bags, luggage, backpacks, purses, etc.

B. A container is something that you can put something in but has holes or other means for the odor to escape but is not easily seen by the handler or the dog.

6.4.2 Hide placement:

A. Containers may be set up in any pattern the judge prefers, no less than 2 feet apart.

B. Containers can be elevated. Example placed on a bench or a chair.

C. Search can be indoors or outdoors.

D. Extra containers need to be available to replace damaged containers.

E. There may or may not be up to two intentional food or non-food distractions

### 6.5 Advanced - Interior Area

6.5.1 Description of Search Area

A. The areas may be kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms, office rooms, living rooms, school rooms, meeting areas, hallways, or common areas, etc. Interior means a roof with 4 walls from floor to ceiling.

B. An interior room search may be contained within a larger room or be split up into to separate rooms or adjoining areas. When using 1 room with multiple search areas each area must be designated by caution tape, ring gates or other acceptable markers and should be at least 30 feet apart with visible markers, preferably with at least 5-foot barriers that are flush to the ground/floor.

C. When using 2 rooms or areas only one area will be searched at a time.

D. If bringing items into the area, they should be placed to look as if they belong in the area.

6.5.2 Hide Placement:

A. The hide may be located on, in or under an object. Hides may also be located on walls, floor beams or baseboards. Hides must be placed so air may circulate. *(Examples: hide locations may include but are not limited to tables, inside drawers, dressers, chairs, cabinets,*

- and any other object that may conceal the scent container from plain sight.)* Objects may be brought in from outdoors but should be placed to look as they belong in the area.
- B. If using two rooms both rooms must contain a minimum of 1 hide.
  - C. If using two rooms the search time can either be combined time for both areas or as separate search times per room. The Judge will determine how the search and time will be computed. The total times cannot exceed the total search time allowed of 6 minutes
  - D. If using two rooms the handler must clear the first room by calling "FINISH" at which time the timer will stop the clock so the handler, dog, judge, and crew can move to the second room. Timer will restart the clock when the team crosses the start line of the second search. Search team cannot return to the first room. If a handler fails to find all the hides or calls a false alert in the first search area, they may not continue the search and will be considered a DQ.
  - E. There may or may not be up to two intentional food or non-food distractions.

## **6.6 Advanced - Exterior Area Search**

### 6.6.1 Description of Area:

- A. This area can be exteriors of buildings, courtyards, patios, parking lots or grassy areas. This area may have a roof with no more than 2 walls and open enough that fresh air will circulate at all times.
- B. An area search may be contained within a larger area or be split up into to separate rooms or adjoining areas. When using 1 area with multiple search areas each area must be designated by caution tape, ring gates or other acceptable markers and should be at least 30 feet apart with visible markers, preferably with at least 5-foot barriers that are flush to the ground/floor.
- C. When using 2 areas only one area will be searched at a time.
- D. If bringing items into the area they should be placed to look as if they belong in the area.

### 6.6.2 Hide Placement:

- A. The hide may be located on, in or under an object. The hide may be placed at ground level such as in rocks, sidewalk cracks, drainpipes, or on walls, trees, etc. the odor container must be concealed from plain sight. The area can include picnic tables, camp chairs, logs, trash cans, or anything found outdoors.
- B. Objects may be brought out from indoors but should be placed to look as they belong in the area.
- C. Hide cannot be buried.
- D. There may or may not be up to two intentional food or non-food distractions.

## **6.7 Advanced - Vehicle Search**

### 6.7.1 Description of Vehicles:

- A. Anything with at least two wheels and that can be stabilized so that it is not moveable. *Examples include, automobiles, pick-up trucks, SUV's, snowmobiles or ATVs, tractors, agricultural vehicles, boats, or RVs. Non-motorized examples include wheelbarrows, hand carts, wagons etc.*
- B. Vehicles may be placed in any physical arrangement, no closer than 3 feet from each other in any direction.

### 6.7.2 Hide Placement:

- A. Vehicles may be placed indoors or outdoors.

- B. The hide will only be placed on the EXTERIOR of the vehicle no higher than 3 feet and no more than 6 inches under the vehicle.
- C. More than one hide can be placed on a vehicle but all hides must be at least 4 feet apart.
- D. Hides may NOT be placed in tail pipes.
- E. There may NOT be any dogs, humans or any odor inside the vehicle when being used in a search.
- F. No scent may have been placed on the vehicle for 4 weeks prior (no lingering odor).
- G. Exterior of vehicles should be relatively clean.
- H. Once a vehicle has held a hide for a class or level it cannot be reused for that trial. Vehicles without hides (cold) may be reuse.
- I. There may or may not be up to two intentional food or non-food distractions. But these distractions should not be placed on the vehicles.

## 7. Excellent Class Levels and Elements

### Excellent Level Client

ELEMENT	AREA	MAX TIME	# OF HIDES UNKNOWN	QUALIFYING FAULTS	# OF Q'S TITLE
Containers	Minimum of 20 or containers or more. Any container as long as it is not glass.	4 min	UNKNOWN 0-4	1	3 SSEc
Interiors	One large area (up to 1500 sq. ft.) or two smaller areas (600-800 sq. ft. each).	5 min total	UNKNOWN 0-4 hides total	1	3 SSEi
Exteriors	One large area (up to 1400 sq. ft.) or two smaller areas (600-800 sq. ft. each)	6 minutes total	UNKNOWN 0-4 hides total	1	3 SSEe
Vehicles	5 or more	4 min	UNKNOWN 0-4 hides	1	3 SSEv

Teams do not need to earn all the Advanced element titles to move up to Excellent. They must have finished their title in that element but not the entire level. (EXAMPLE: once a dog earns their Advanced Container Title they are eligible to move up to the Excellent Level in Containers even if they have not earned their Advanced titles in the other 3 elements.)

An Excellent dog should be able to find multiple odors or a combination of odors, regardless of distractions in the search area. The Excellent handler should be able to determine when all hides have been found or if there are no hides in a search area.



## **7.1 Excellent – Scents to be used**

7.1.1 The host club will pick three scents from the same line to include a Novice, Open and Advanced scent off of the Scent Search Chart.

7.1.2 The host club will enter scents being on the sanctioning form and place it on the premium.

7.1.3 The Search area can include single odor hides or combination odor hides (Example: Birch-Clove combo). All odors do not need to be used.

## **7.2 Excellent - Setting the Course**

7.2.1 Handler will not be told the number of hides (0-4) before the start of the search.

7.2.2 There may or may not be up to three (3) intentional food or non-food distractions at this level.

7.2.3 Hides can be accessible or inaccessible.

7.2.4 The hide will be no more than 5 feet high in any Excellent class.

7.2.5 Actual search time to be determined by the judge with a maximum time of 4 minutes for Containers and Vehicles, 5 minutes for Interiors and 6 minutes for Exteriors.

7.2.6 If the Interior or Exterior search involves two areas only one of those search areas may be blank.

7.2.7 No more than one search can have zero hides per trial.

## **7.3 Excellent - Competing**

7.3.1 No incorrect calls are allowed at this level. If at any time during the search an incorrect call is made the search will be ended.

7.3.2 You may have no more than 1 fault to qualify.

7.3.3 If the Judge asks “Where” the handler must identify the source by pointing to the location without touching anything.

7.3.4 The judge will decide if the area is safe for an off-leash search. It is up to the handler if they want to run the dog on or off leash.

7.3.5 The handler must call “Finish” to stop time when they believe all hides have been located. If the handler does not call “Finish”, or the “Finish” is called and not all hides have been located the team will not qualify.

## **7.4 Excellent - Container Search**

7.4.1 Description of the Containers

A. A minimum of 20 containers can be used which can include one type or a mix of any of the following examples: boxes, plastic containers, metal containers, cloth bags, luggage, backpacks, purses, etc.

B. A container is something that you can put something in but has holes or other means for the odor to escape.

#### 7.4.2 Hide Placement

- A. Containers may be arranged in any pattern the judge prefers, no less than 2 feet apart.
- B. Containers can be elevated (placed on a chair or bench)
- C. Search can be indoors or outdoors.
- D. Extra containers need to be available to replace damaged containers.
- E. There may or may not be up to three intentional food or non-food distractions.

### 7.5 Excellent - Interior Area Search

#### 7.5.1 Description of search area

- A. The areas may be kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms, office rooms, living rooms, school rooms, meeting areas, hallways, or common areas, etc. Interior means a roof with 4 walls from floor to ceiling.
- B. An interior room search may be contained within a larger room or be split up into to separate rooms or adjoining areas. When using 1 room with multiple search areas each area must be designated by caution tape, ring gates or other acceptable markers and should be at least 30 feet apart with visible markers, preferably with at least 5-foot barriers that are flush to the ground/floor.
- C. When using 2 rooms or areas only one area will be searched at a time.
- D. If bringing items into the area, they should be placed to look as if they belong in the area.

#### 7.5.2 Hide Placement:

- A. The hide may be located on, in or under an object. Hides may also be located on walls, floor beams or baseboards. Hides must be placed so air may circulate. (*Examples: hide locations may include but are not limited to tables, inside drawers, dressers, chairs, cabinets, and any other object that may conceal the scent container from plain sight.*) Objects may be brought in from outdoors but should be placed to look as they belong in the area.
- B. If using two rooms both rooms, only one room can be blank (NO hide)
- C. If using two rooms the search time can either be combined time for both areas or as separate search times per room. The Judge will determine how the search and time will be computed. The total times cannot exceed the total search time allowed of 6 minutes
- D. If using two rooms the handler must clear the first room by calling "FINISH" at which time the timer will stop the clock so the handler, dog, judge, and crew can move to the second room. Timer will restart the clock when the team crosses the start line of the second search. Search team cannot return to the first room. If a handler fails to find all the hides or calls a false alert in the first search area, they may not continue the search and will be considered a DQ.
- E. There may or may not be up to three intentional food or non-food distractions.

### 7.6 Excellent - Exterior Area Search

#### 7.6.1 Description of Area:

- A. This area can be exteriors of buildings, courtyards, patios, parking lots or grassy areas. This area may have a roof with no more than 2 walls and open enough that fresh air will circulate.

- B. An area search may be contained within a larger area or be split up into to separate rooms or adjoining areas. When using 1 area with multiple search areas each area must be designated by caution tape, ring gates or other acceptable markers and should be at least 30 feet apart with visible markers, preferably with at least 5-foot barriers that are flush to the ground/floor.
- C. When using 2 areas only one area will be searched at a time.
- D. If bringing items into the area they should be placed to look as if they belong in the area.

#### 7.6.2 Hide Placement:

- A. The hide may be located on, in or under an object. The hide may be placed at ground level such as in rocks, sidewalk cracks, drainpipes, or on walls, trees, etc. The odor container must be hidden from plain sight. The area can include picnic tables, camp chairs, logs, trash cans, or anything found outdoors.
- B. If using two rooms both rooms, only one room can be blank (NO hide)
- C. If using two areas the search time can either be combined time for both areas or as separate search times per area. The Judge will determine how the search and time will be computed. The total times cannot exceed the total search time allowed of 6 minutes
- D. If using two rooms the handler must clear the first room by calling "FINISH" at which time the timer will stop the clock so the handler, dog, judge, and crew can move to the second room. Timer will restart the clock when the team crosses the start line of the second search. Search team cannot return to the first room. If a handler fails to find all the hides or calls a false alert in the first search area, they may not continue the search and will be considered a DQ.
- E. There may or may not be up to three intentional food or non-food distractions.

### 7.7 Excellent - Vehicle Search

#### 7.7.1 Description of Vehicles:

- A. Anything with at least two wheels and that can be stabilized so that it is not moveable. *Examples include, automobiles, pick-up trucks, SUV's, snowmobiles or ATVs, tractors, agricultural vehicles, boats, or RVs. Non-motorized examples include wheelbarrows, hand carts, wagons etc.*
- B. Vehicles may be arranged in any physical arrangement, no closer than 3 feet from each other in any direction.

#### 7.7.2 Hide Placement:

- A. The Vehicle search may be indoors or outdoors.
- B. The hide will only be placed on the EXTERIOR of the vehicle no higher than 3 feet and no more than 6 inches under the vehicle.
- C. More than one hide may be placed on a vehicle but all hides must be at least 3 feet apart.
- D. Hides may NOT be placed in tail pipes.
- E. There may NOT be any dogs, humans or any odor inside the vehicle when being used in a search.
- F. No scent may have been placed on the vehicle for 4 weeks prior (no lingering odor).
- G. Exterior of vehicles should be relatively clean.
- H. Once a vehicle has held a hide for a class or level it cannot be reused for that trial. Vehicles without hides (cold) may be reuse.

I. There may or may not be up to three intentional food or non-food distractions. But these distractions should not be placed on the vehicles. The food distraction must be concealed from plain sight; however, the other distractions need not be.

## **8. Faults**

All faults are at the discretion of the judge. The judge may discuss the call if time permits but the call will stand.

### **8.1 Qualifying faults**

- 8.1.1 Handler drops food intentionally or multiple times.
- 8.1.2 Handler takes the dog off leash in an "on leash" search area without permission
- 8.1.3 Handler allows the dog to crawl completely under a vehicle or object
- 8.1.4 Entering search area from other than the designated start line
- 8.1.5 Handler allows dog to disturb the search.

### **8.2 Disqualifying faults**

Dogs will be excused from the search area if at the opinion of the judge any of the following points are met. Dogs may still compete in any other classes they may have entered that day.

- 8.2.1 Dog Eliminates in the search area
- 8.2.2 Exceeding Maximum time
- 8.2.3 Dog stops working for an extended period of time, and does not re-engage
- 8.2.4 Dog destroying the containers or boxes
- 8.2.5 Dog or handler causes excessive disturbance of the search area to the extent that the judge must address before the next team may compete
- 8.2.6 Dog excessively scratches or causes any damage to vehicle or property. When a dog gently braces itself on an object for balance it is not a fault.
- 8.2.7 Handler not able to point to hide location if asked "WHERE"
- 8.2.8 Handler makes an incorrectly call:
  - A. Handler calls "Alert" incorrectly.
  - B. Handler names the location of the hide instead of saying "ALERT" as other competitors could overhear.
  - C. Handler does not call "FINISH" at the end of a search in the Advanced and Excellent levels.
  - D. Handler calls "FINSH" when search area is not cleared Open, Advanced and Excellent.

**8.3 Excusal** - Dog will be excused from the trial ground if, in the opinion of the judge, any of the following points are met. Dogs must leave the grounds and may not compete. There will be **NO** refund. The judge will make note on their paperwork.

8.3.1 Dog shows signs of extreme pain, stress, fear or aggression

8.3.2 Harsh handling or corrections of the dog

8.3.3 Poor Sportsmanship

8.3.4 Revealing the location of a hide to another exhibitor.

## **9. Intentional Distractions**

### **9.1 When Allowed**

No Intentional Distractions are allowed in Novice. Intentional distractions are allowed in all levels AFTER the Novice level.

### **9.2 Placement of distraction.**

A distraction may not be placed on top of the hide or on top of the location of a previous hide.

### **9.3 Type of Distractions:**

9.3.1 Non-food: Any type of item that may be considered tempting to a dog. Examples include, dog toys, tennis balls, shoes, socks etc. This item cannot have any type of artificial scent on it such as essential oils (of any odor), scented lotions or perfumes. Natural scents are ok. Non-food items like toys and tennis balls must be in a container. Old toys that smell good must be in a container for safety of spreading disease accidentally. Remember, new items will not have a strong scent distraction just eye candy but if a dog does pick it up or mouth it, it would be considered an old toy. To avoid this and maintain fairness to all contestants any non-food distraction will be in a container.

9.3.2 Food: Any type of human or animal food is allowed. No food that is considered harmful to dogs can be used. Food must be in a container large enough to not be swallowed and secure enough that a dog cannot consume anything.

## **10. Becoming a Judge**

### **10.1 ASCA Scent Search Judge Applicants**

10.1.1 Applicants who wish to apply to become an ASCA Scent Search Judge, with affiliations other than ASCA, should fill out the Application Form, (see back of this rule book), and send it to the ASCA Office for review.

10.1.2 The Applications Form will be forwarded to the Scent Search Committee for review.

10.1.3 When approved, applicants will become Provisional Judges for a minimum of two assignments per level.

10.1.4 After the Provisional Judge's assignments are completed, the applicant can petition the Board to be moved to regular status by sending copies of the Co-Judge reviews to the Executive Secretary to be forwarded to the ASCA Board the copies of the Co-judge reviews and if accepted their name will go forward in the approval process.

## **10.2 Non-ASCA Members Applicants**

Judges in good standing with ASCA and the following organizations may apply for judges status in the ASCA Scent Search Program by completing and sending an application (see back of this rule book) to the ASCA Business Office.

10.2.1 National Assoc. Canine Scent Work Judges approved to judge through NACSW III. (NACSW)

10.2.2 American Kennel Club Scent Work/Tracking Judges (AKC)

10.2.3 Canadian Kennel Club Scent Work/Tracking Judges (CKC)

10.2.4 United Kennel Club Scent Work judge (UKC)

10.2.5 Canine Performance Events Scent Work Judges (CPE)

## **10.3 Requirements to become an ASCA Scent Search Judge**

10.3.1 Completed Application (see back of this rule book)

10.3.2 Must be 21 yrs of age

10.3.3 Must be in good standing with the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) but do not have to be a member of ASCA.

10.3.4 Have full mobility and physically able to perform all duties of a judge.

10.3.5 Active in some type of scent work for at least three years.

10.3.6 Experience with how scent works in different environments and conditions.

10.3.7 PLUS any 3 of the following with documentation. The ASCA Business Office will review that all information is included on the application.

A. Be a judge or CO from any of the above-mentioned organizations

B. Has successfully completed an in-depth training course from any of the above-mentioned organizations.

C. Trained or Handled dogs for law enforcement, military or private organizations having to do with scent.

D. Trained and handled Search and Rescue dogs for 3+ years.

E. 2 references of Scent Search experience

F. Be an ASCA Tracking Judge.

F. Has obtained at least one of the following

AKC - Master Title

CKC - Master Title

CPE - Level CH Or any other organization equivalent Title

UKC - MN Title

NACSW - NW3 Title

(This committee could not find out what was available in the European countries but the higher-level titles would be acceptable.)

## **10.4 Approval Process**

10.4.1 ASCA Scent Search Application – Approval by ASCA Scent Search Committee, then ASCA Business Office, then ASCA Board of Directors.

10.4.2 Passed the Scent Search written, open book test by 100% derived from the rules and procedures. If there is a question that is found incorrect by the committee it will be deleted from the test for that person and rewritten by the committee. The ASCA Business Office will send this out.

10.4.3 All levels need Approval of the ASCA Business Office, Scent Search Committee and the ASCA Board of Directors.

## **11 Judging Guidelines**

NOTE: Judging an ASCA Scent Search Trial is a privilege not a right. Approval to judge Scent Search Trials for other organizations is not a guarantee of approval to judge any ASCA Scent Search Trial. Judges must follow ASCA Scent Search Regulations and adhere to ASCA's Code of Ethics. Any documented failure to perform on this level may result in the revocation of judging privileges by the ASCA Board of Directors without regard to any other qualifications or for former service.

### **11.1 Judge Duties**

11.1.1 Working knowledge of SCENT THEORY and how to apply it.

11.1.2 Strong understanding of the scent picture and hide placement considering variable factors; weather; aging; contamination; airflow; scent gaps; intakes and exhausts; humidity; terrain; surface changes. With the ability to increase and lower criteria depending upon day of trial conditions.

11.1.3 Confirm that designated search areas are following ASCA rules for each class and level. Verify search areas are constructed in such a way that odor drift is minimal between multiple areas.

11.1.4 Make simple modifications to a search area to aid a handicapped handler (if needed), but no modification can be made that may aid the dog or how the dog performs.

11.1.5 Conducting the briefings in a professional and quick, to the point manner, answering all questions efficiently. Realize we are encouraging junior handlers and must talk to them, not over their head or level of understanding.

11.1.6 Vigilant about search area conditions (food drops, dog damage to site or containers). When an area is contaminated that it properly and thoroughly cleaned.

11.1.7 Be aware of keeping competitions running smoothly and to manage the volunteers, e.g., timers paying attention and making timely calls; containers hot/cold setters keeping hot container clean and cold containers free from odor; ensuring score are getting to the runners.

11.1.8 Ensure competitor and judges' comments cannot be overheard by waiting competitors.

11.1.9 Assess faults when applicable and in accordance with these rules.

11.1.10 Double check all placements before handing out placements.

11.1.11 A judge may use a White Dog to verify the course. This dog may be their own or a chosen dog that is not in the competing element or level.

### **11.2 Judges Directions (Handler's Meeting)**

Judges will give an encouraging statement before the trial starts including an idea of what is expected from the dog and handler. This should include what do not want to see. Finish this meeting asking if anyone has any questions.

### **11.3 Payment to the Judge**

\$1.00 per dog participating, per run and all travel expenses and meals that are not provided.

## **12. People Who May/May Not Compete**

### **12.1 People Who May Compete**

**12.1.1** Physically Challenged Handlers: Only one person may handle a dog in each search area. Handlers must be able to navigate the search areas without any outside guidance. Judge may make simple modifications to a search area to aid the handler maneuverability, but no modification can be made that may aid the dog or how the dog performs. Premium should state any concerns for handicapped or limited mobility handlers or dogs such as: long distances between search areas, uneven surfaces, steep grades, steps etc.

**12.1.2** Multiple Dogs owned by one owner/co-owner – anyone can handle a dog but a handler can only handle one dog per class / level.

**12.1.3** Trainers – Handlers and owners may compete under their trainer as a presiding judge.

### **12.2 People Who May Not Compete**

**12.2.1** Handlers who own/co-own Dogs owned/co-owned by a judge or judges' family may not compete under the presiding judge.

**12.2.2** Handlers may not compete under a family member who is the presiding judge.

## **13. Dogs Who May Compete**

### **13.1 Dogs that may compete**

All dogs of any breed or mixed breed may compete in ASCA Scent Search, dogs must be over 6 months of age and have an ASCA registration or tracking number. The tracking number may be applied for on the proper form with the first entry.

### **13.2 Bitches in Season** Bitches in Season **may** compete.

13.2.1 Bitches will be kenneled in a vehicle and potty in an area away from everyone else.

13.2.2 Teams will run last in their class.



13.2.3 Bitches must wear panties. Bitches in season should also wear a red bandana to remind others to maintain a safe distance.

13.2.4 No class will be held or reset.

13.3.5 Competitor must notify the Trial Chair 72 hours in advance of the event to allow for any adjustment in the run schedule and parking/exercise arrangements (if location permits).

### **13.3 Socializing**

13.3.1 Dogs should always maintain an eight-to-ten-foot (8-10 ft.) distance from other competitors.

13.3.2 Dogs socializing and being too close may affect a dog's ability to work at their best. Dog/Handler teams may wear (or attach to leash) a white bandanna to let others know they would like to maintain extra space and be left alone.

**13.4 Physically Challenged Dogs** may compete as long as they display no signs of physical discomfort.

If your dog requires a cart, please attach a note to your entry stating how long your cart and dog is so the judge will be prepared.

### **14 Dogs who may NOT compete**

**14.1** A dog may not compete with visible bandages, sutures, or wounds.

**14.2** No lactating bitches may compete.

**14.3** A dog that is incontinent may not compete; belly bands will not be allowed.

**14.4** Communicable Disease - No dog shall be eligible to compete or be brought onto the trial grounds if the dog has knowingly been exposed, be housed with or is showing signs of a communicable illness within the prior 30 days.

### **15 For Exhibit Only (FEO)**

Dogs may compete as FEO. Teams will run in the regular order. There must be an official ASCA entry form filled out and a full entry must be paid.

### **16 Junior Handlers**

**16.1** Minimum age requirement for handlers is eight (8) years of age. A Junior may run any dog that is not previously titled higher than the class they are entered.

**16.2** Juniors will compete with and in the same classes as the adults. The host club will keep these statistics and entry forms separate and turn into the office in a manner that will alert the office that this is a junior. The host club is encouraged to acknowledge all juniors that qualify in some special manner.

**16.3** All minors must always have an adult responsible for them on the show grounds.

**16.4** All competing junior handlers are encouraged to let the office know when they receive a qualifying score or a title.

## 17 Glossary of Terms

**Accessible:** A hide that the dog can reach and touch with his nose.

**Alert:** The dog demonstrates a change in behavior that communicates to the handler; the handler notifies the judge by stating "Alert" or raising a hand. The judge will confirm if the dog has correctly identified the location of the hide.

**Anise:** Essential oil, Pimpinella Anisum or "Aniseed".

**Birch:** Essential oil, Betula Lenta or "Sweet Birch".

**Blank area/room:** Area or room used in trial without targeted odor.

**Clove:** Essential oil, Clove Bud or Eugenia Caryophyllata.

**Cold Box:** Container holding NO scent at all.

**Container:** A container is something you can put something in such as boxes, cans/pails, backpack that can contain scented swabs/targeted odor.

**Change of behavior:** The behavior of the dog that indicates the dog has found the source of the odor.

**Demo Dog/Dog in White (DIW):** Dog that is not entered in trial and is used to identify ability of a dog to successfully find the placement of the hide, source of odor or check the time is correct for max. time.

**Distractor(s):** Distractor or distractions are smells, articles, effects that competes for the dog's attention during the search. The distractor can be food, non-food, sound, light, or human.

**Disqualify:** Action by judge or trial committee to bar team from future scent events.

**Elements:** A specific search area, such as containers, interior, exterior.

**Exterior:** Outdoor or outside search area with natural air flow and no more than 2 walls.

**Finish:** Call made by handler to indicate that the team is completed search. The "finish" call stops the clock.

**Fringing:** Behavior of dog on objects or area near, but not at source of scent.

**Handler:** The person who takes the dog through the search.

**Handler Discrimination:** A search in which the handler's scent on an article of clothing is used instead of essential oil.

**Hide:** Targeted scent or container placed in the search area.

**Hot Box (container):** Container holding scented cotton swabs of targeted scent.

**Inaccessible Hide:** Hide placed in a position in which the dog cannot touch with his nose.

**Interior:** Indoor search area that must have 4 walls and ceiling.

**Indication:** Change of behavior exhibited when dog identifies targeted scent.

**Lingering odor:** A persistent scent that is slow to leave the search area, scent that may be carried on air currents or air flow.

**Non-qualifying:** The search in which the team does not meet requirements for a successful completion of the search.

**Novice:** Beginning or 1st level of competition.

**Pine:** Essential oil, Pinus Sylvestris or Pine

**Residual Odor/Scent:** Scent that remains on an item in a search area after the target scent has been removed.

**Scent:** Scent used in scent or nose work. A smell that is generated from natural oil.

**Scent Cone:** Movement of scent out from the target scent in a cone-like shape.

**Scent Obedient:** Is when a dog is "alerting" or indicating with a trained behavior on a particular scent/odor. The dog indicates scent regardless of other food or scent distractions that may be in the search area.

**Scent Vessel:** A container holding cotton swabs scented with natural oil – Birch, Anise, Clove or other oil. The vessel can be metal, plastic straw, other permeable material but not glass. The vessel is used to place the scent source in the search area.

**Search area:** Designated space that search will be judged.

**Source:** The specific location of the scent vessel the dog is searching for.

**Start Line:** Threshold or designated line that the dog/handler team must pass over to start timing the search; can be a tape line, doorway, cone or other identified markers.

**Stewards:** Individuals assigned specific tasks to facilitate a trial.

**Target odor/scent:** A natural oil used to scent cotton swabs. The specific scent or scents that a dog is searching for in a particular class.

**Thyme:** Essential oil, Thymus Vulgaris or Thyme

**Timed Out:** The time reached without the team completing the requirements of the search

**Trial Committee:** The Committee consists of the Chair, Secretary, Stewards and any other title the Chair decides they want.

**Wintergreen:** Essential oil, Gaultheria Procumbens or Wintergreen

## **17. Forms**

Sanctioning Form

Judges Application

Entry Form

Trial Score Records

Match Permission Form

**See side bar for Excel Spreadsheet, print as needed**

To be added by ASCA Office but can be found on the ASCA website.

## **18. ASCA Forms**

ASCA Judges Code of Ethics

ASCA Dog Aggression Policy

ASCA Conflict Protocol and Form

ASCA Incident Report Form