



The pre-trial is intended to provide beginners with a taste of Scentwork UK trials and so encourage them to go on to compete in trials proper.

The pre-trial is a non-qualifying level and no prior qualifications are required to enter.

The pre-trial can be held at any Scentwork UK trial alongside any other levels or as a separate event on its own. It will allow participants to have a go without feeling the pressure of competition, to experience how a trial is organised and to join in and be around to watch and learn from dogs and handlers in the higher levels.

The pre-trial consists of 3 activities:

1. Tables & chairs
2. Vehicle search
3. Luggage search

The scented articles may be hidden with food or toy which must firstly be wrapped in a polythene bag (see notes below)

1. Two tables & four chairs

There will be one scented article, with or without food/toy, hidden under one of the chairs.

The participant is given 2 minutes and is allowed to call one 'false alert'

The participant can decide whether to search the area with the dog either 'on or off' leash.

Guidelines

It is recommended that the tables and chairs will be arranged in a square pattern.

The test will be conducted indoors or under cover.

2. Vehicle search

To search two sides, shown by the judge, on the exterior of a vehicle and find one scented article.

The participant is given 2 minutes and is allowed to call one 'false alert'

It is recommended that the participant conducts the search with the dog 'on' lead.

Guidelines

The scented article will be hidden on the vehicle and the judge will show the participant which two sides of the vehicle should be searched. A food treat or toy can be hidden with the scented article where it is possible

The use of any vehicle is acceptable and should be cleaned prior to the test.

The search vehicle should not contain any other dogs or food.

The vehicle should be parked in a safe area that allows the team easy access to all four sides. Ideally it should be fenced off or parked well away from kerbs and verges.

The scented article should be located no higher than 3 feet although for small, elderly dogs or disabled dogs the height should be less.

Any excessive scratching at the paintwork should be stopped by the judge immediately.



3. Luggage search

To find one scented article amongst 6 items of luggage.

The participant is given 2 minutes and is allowed to call one 'false alert'

The dog can be on or off leash.

Guidelines

To be tested indoors or under cover. The room should be as free from other room clutter as possible.

The scented article should be easily accessible to the dog for example around handle areas and pockets on luggage.

Food (treats) or toys can be hidden with the scented article.

Notes

Food and/or treats –If food or treats are hidden with the scent they should be wrapped in a heavy gauge polythene bag (see below) before being hidden with the scented article. The participant can reward the dog with the treat or toy but outside of the search area.

False Alerts - Each participant is allowed to call one false alert per search without losing marks or being penalised. The participant is then allowed to resume the test.

Handling General -It is preferred if dogs wear either a harness or flat collar whilst under test. Slip leads or a half-check collar are permitted but handling marks will be deducted if used in a corrective manner. . No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling of any dog at any time within the precincts of the competition.

Certificate of merit will be awarded to those who find all 3 scented articles with no more than 3 'false alerts', one 'false alert' allowed per search and within time.

Clean Sweep – rosettes will be awarded to those that find all 3 scented articles, without any 'false alerts' within the time.

Food (Treats) – Suitable 'non-crumblly' food only should be used so as to prevent crumbs being dropped. (Sausages, some type of cheese is suitable)

Polythene Bags – Recommend polythene bags are 100mm x150mm size and obtainable from www.expresspolythene.co.uk