



Scentwork UK

Guidelines for Level 1 Trials



The Test involves 4 timed searches

- 1) The dog to find one scented article hidden on one of 8 chairs arranged around 2-4 tables.
- 2) The dog to find one scented article hidden amongst 10-15 large items in a 'marked out' outdoor area approximately 20 x 20m in size. The area can be of any shape. Prior to the test the handlers can be told that the scented article is hidden on one of three items selected by the judge.
- 3) The dog to find one scented article hidden on the exterior of a vehicle or wall.
- 4) The dog to find one scented article indoors amongst 10-15 containers.

There will be a draw for each of the tests to determine the running order of the teams. Dogs can be on or off lead. The length of time allowed for each search will be 3 minutes.

Marking System

1) Tables & chairs	25
2) Exterior Search	25
3) Vehicle/Wall Search	25
4) Boxes & Luggage	25
Total =	100
Pass Mark =	60

The team must find 3 out of 4 scented articles to pass the overall test.

Allocation of marks – 20 points for the handler calling the 'Alert/Find' correctly and 5 points if no deductions marks are made.

If the handler fails a section, the handler is still entitled to 5 points, providing no deductions have been made which will go towards the final total.

The exercises can run in any order.

Certificates of merit will be awarded to those that pass and in addition there will be rosettes from 1st -4th awarded to those with the highest marks. In the event of a tie the team with the fastest time will be the winner



General Guidelines

The team to find 3 out of 4 scented articles indicating using either an 'active' or 'passive' indication. (see notes on p8 for definition)

Competitors will run in draw order. The dog can be worked on or off lead to be decided by the handler.

For each test there should be a start point marked with a cone

The handler will tell the judge when he/she is ready. As soon as the dog's nose passes the start marker the judge or steward will start the stop watch.

The trials manager will decide whether to use a vehicle or wall for 'Vehicle or Wall' search.

No items should be touched or moved by the competitor unless the judge gives permission.

The time for each exercise is 3 minutes.

The handler is given the option to have a 30 second warning before the 3 minute time is up.

Calling the 'Alert/Find' – When the handler thinks his/her dog has found the scented article the handler should tell the judge either verbally and/or raising their hand/arm to the judge. If the judge asks the competitor to confirm 'where' for clarification, the competitor should not send the dog in again but should show the judge by 'pointing' to where the scented article might be hidden. **Marks will be lost if the competitor asks the dog to search for a second time.** The judge will tell the handler at the time if this is correct and this will result in a pass or fail for this team.

The competitor will be told after the search how many scented articles were found and how many deductions were lost except in level 8. It is the responsibility of the competitor to point out any discrepancies at the time as marks cannot be changed from then after.

Judges Guidelines

The judge may hold a briefing before the tests begin and may give the handler a brief critique of their work after each test.

The Judge will ask the competitor how they will let them know that their dog has found the scented article.

The judge will ask the competitor if they want a 30 second warning before the end of time

When the competitor calls the 'alert' the judge will tell the competitor at the time if this is correct or not.

Scented articles should be placed in the hide 10 minutes before the first competitor starts.

The scented article should be hidden from view and positioned to prevent the dog from retrieving as far as possible.

Hides should not be readily visible but neither must they be fully enclosed. They should be placed in such a way that the scent of the article is easily accessible to the dog.



In the vehicle or wall search if the dog is near the source of the scent, but it is not clear to the judge that the dog has communicated the exact location to the handler, the judge should ask “where?” The handler must then indicate the source of the scent by pointing or gesturing. For Level 1-4 trials, the handler may indicate an area up to 6 inches, on any axis. (a vertical six inches, a horizontal six inches, or a diagonal six inches).

The handler can indicate the source of the scented article to the judge even though the dog isn't in that area when it is called; providing it is called before the time is up

A 'White dog' can be used prior to testing to check the scent strength and its location.

Judges Deductions

Deduction Reason	Points
Handler Pulling dog away from Article (see definitions)	.25
Dog Continuing to return to found Article (L3 and above)	.25
Handler not believing dogs indication (see definitions)	.30
Dog Not Searching Under Test	.35
Handler getting in dog's way	.35
Dog not quite at source (within 6 inches on Vehicle, See definitions)	.40
Dog pulling out, dropping or retrieving the scented article (see definitions)	.50
Handler with Tight Lead (see definitions)	.50
Dog Leaving Search Area and not responding to handlers recall (reward purposes and to reset dog allowed)	.50
Overuse of Verbal Corrections	.90
Dog Trashing Article (see definitions)	1.00
Handler putting dog back onto scent after calling the Alert	2.00
Handler Touching Items/Vehicle/Wall	2.50
Handler using lead/harness in corrective manner	2.60
Dog Swallowing Article	3.50
Handler Rewarding Dog in Search Area (food and toys)	4.70
Dog Scratching Vehicle and causing Damage	5.00
Dog fouling in Search Area	5.00
Dog Continuing to Foul in Search Area (Eliminated for that search only)	Eliminated
Dog Continuing to Trash Article (Eliminated for that search only)	Eliminated
Dog/Handler attacking any person or dog at a SWUK Trial	Disqualified

Judges Notes:

Please note that the above deductions are the only deductions that can be used when Judging a Level 1 – 4 SWUK Trial.

Once a maximum of 5 marks has been lost the competitor can no longer lose any further points but may continue with the search except for continuous fouling and trashing.

Deductions are per search area and can only be deducted once per search.



Definitions

Dog removing the scented article - If the 'scented' article is removed and either dropped or retrieved by the dog, marks will be lost. In this event the judge must replace a fresh 'scented' article in the exact same position before it was removed and before the next dog & handler team runs. The item does not need to be replaced unless damaged occurred during the 'scented article' removal. (see definitions of 'scented article' and 'item'.)

Scented article – Articles that can be used as the carrier for the 'target odour'. In L1-5 the carriers can be black polycotton, polyamide and/or Velcro. In L6-8 the carriers can be any material which has shown to be absorbent to the scent and small enough to be concealed from the handler (see L6 – 8 Judge's Guidelines)

Items – The term used to describe the object upon which the judge hides the scented article eg. box, bag, luggage, and any of the exterior items.

Handler pulling dog away from article and handler not believing dogs indication - Marks will be lost if it is clear to the judge that the dog has detected the odour and the handler either 'pulls the dog away' or does not believe the dog's indication.

Tight lead - Marks will be lost for the following:

-Dogs being worked continually on a tight lead.

-Dogs being restrained and prevented from reaching the hidden odour.

NB: The judge must decipher whether it is the dog or the handler that causes the tight lead. A dog that becomes momentarily restrained by its own choice should not be penalised.

Dog not quite at source - A 0.40 mark will be lost if the dog is not quite at source. (please read guidelines below for levels)

levels 1 & 2: Marks in L1 & 2 will not be lost for the handler identifying the correct box, piece of luggage, chair, interior item, and exterior items however far the dog is indicating from the hidden scented article. If the dog indicates beyond 6" from the source on the vehicle/wall search no points will be awarded for the find (it will be counted as a false alert) but further deductions can be made for other aspects of the search.

Level 3 & 4: A mark of 0.40 will be lost if the dog hasn't indicated the exact location of the scented article, including those hidden on the perimeter, except in the vehicle/wall search where the dog is required to be within 6" and less. If the dog indicates beyond 6" from the source on the vehicle/wall search no points will be awarded for the find (it will be counted as a false alert) but further deductions can be made for other aspects of the search. In level 3 and 4 the scent on the perimeter can be on a cupboard door/drawer rather than an item.

Trashing & Fouling - (Please read indication description in Notes on page 8) Any behaviour that is excessive or could potentially cause damage to any items including the item that is scented. Behaviours not acceptable will include biting, persistent paw scratching (more than 3 paw contacts in succession) or throwing items around and rough handling of any non-scented items. In the event of 'trashing' items and 'fouling', marks for finding the scented article should not be lost and will go towards the final total. After a fouling incident it is recommended that the search items are moved to a new search area, if possible. If the search area cannot be moved, subsequent competitors must



be made aware where the fouling incident happened. However, in the event of continuous trashing of items and repeated fouling the test must immediately be stopped by the judge and the handler/dog team 'will' be eliminated from this 'section' (not get any marks for this section) although the dog/handler team shall be allowed to partake in the other exercises.



1) 2/4 Tables and 8 chairs.

The test will be conducted indoors.

There will be one scented article hidden on one of the chairs.

The competitor can decide whether to search the area with the dog either 'on or off' leash and will not be penalised for doing part of the test 'on' and the other part, 'off' leash.

The room should be as free from other room clutter which is not part of the test.

The tables and chairs can be arranged in any way although a square pattern is preferred

2) Exterior Search

The test must be conducted outdoors. The ground surface can consist of materials such as grass, gravel, tarmac, artificial grass/fabric. If it is to take place in a public area it is recommended that the area is fenced off using plastic webbing or something similar.

The judge will select 3 items from the 10-15 that the trial organiser has provided. The items must not contain other materials such as litter, rope, hessian packaging or anything else that could become a 'scent' distraction to the dog. The handlers will have the option to be told prior to the test which three items the judge has selected and that the scented article will be hidden on one of these. The three items will then be placed amongst the other 7-12 items which will become decoys in the test. The handler & dog team must search the area and the handler must not reprimand or restrain the dog from investigating the decoys.

If a dog is interfered with by another dog entering the search area then the team is allowed a re-run.

3) Vehicle or Wall Search

To find one scented article on the exterior of a vehicle or a wall of 10m in length. If a vehicle is used it should be cleaned prior to the test and 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. Handlers of these dogs should notify the judge before the start of the test.

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

The outside wall can be brick, wood or any solid material. The length may include doors, window sills, drain pipes, taps, heating vents etc. These may be used as potential hiding places but not, heating vents if they are in use.

The scented articles should be located no higher than at nose height of the smallest dog whilst standing on its rear legs. For elderly or disabled dogs the height should be no more than at shoulder height. Handlers of these dogs should notify the judge before the start of the test.



4) Containers Search

To be tested indoors. The room should be as free from other room clutter as possible. There should be a mixture of approximately 10-15 containers which may include cardboard boxes, luggage, bags, hard plastic & wooden containers and any other suitable items. The luggage shouldn't be padded with anything other than newspaper or bubble wrap.

The scented article should be easily accessible to the dog for example around handle areas and pockets on luggage and underneath the flaps on a single box. The boxes can either be 'open end' up or 'over turned' (see pictures below) and the scented articles should be placed just under the flap or just in the seam.





Notes:

Age of Dogs allowed to compete – Dogs aged four and a half calendar months and over on the day of the trial are eligible to compete.

Indication - The dog can indicate to the handler by expressing 'any' non- destructive behaviour. (see definition of trashing, page 4). Acceptable indications can include: freeze, stare, sit, down, lick, paw touch, nibbling, nose prod and barking.

Eligibility for entry - Open to new dog and new handler teams, experienced Handler and new dog teams and experienced dog and new handler teams.

Not open to teams who have gained 20 points in Level 1 or have qualified in level 2 or new teams that consist of an experienced handler and an experienced dog.

Once a dog & handler team have gained their 'Ex' title in level 1 they can no longer stay in level 1 unless they run NFC.

White Dog – An experienced dog, not entered in the trial, allowed to do a 'pre-run' of the test to test swab strength and its location. This dog is not to be owned by anyone entered in the trial. When a 'white dog' ~~isn't~~ **is not** available the first dog in the running order will complete the search, after which the judge will determine whether the search is acceptable or not. If the first dog to run encounters unforeseen difficulties, the judge can decide to adjust the search test and the dog/handler team will be allowed re-run at the end of the class.

Equipment -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 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.

Fails – An incorrect call of the location of the hide, running out of time.

Calling the 'Alert/Find' When the handler thinks his/her dog has found the scented article the handler should tell the judge either verbally and/or raising their hand/arm to the judge.

Rewards - the competitor is allowed to reward their dog ONLY once they have passed through the 'marker cones' outside of the search area.

Number of dogs entered at a trial - It is at the trials manager's discretion whether to accept two entries from a competitor for entering two dogs in the **same** level at a trial.

Bitches in Season - Bitches in season are not allowed to compete at the trial or be mated at the venue.

Position of scented articles for handlers with more than one dog - The scented articles must remain in the same location for each competitor. In the event of a person having 2 dogs, in the same level, one dog will work as per draw order and the other will run last. When more than one handler has more than one dog another separate draw should take place. The previous scented



article and search object should be removed and an additional search object added and in the vehicle search a different vehicle should be used. The scented article will be located in a different position.

Entering more than one Level at a trial – A dog & handler team can only enter two levels if the team has already qualified at the lowest level that it has been entered in at a previous trial.

Unregistered Dogs - 'Unregistered Dogs' may enter Levels 1 and 2 if they have not already qualified at these levels before 1st January 2020. If the dog then becomes registered at a later date they will need to start in Level 1 again. No 'Qualifying' or 'Clean Sweep' points achieved during this 'unregistered' period will carry over.

NFC – 'Not For Competition' - Dog and handler teams can run NFC in the level that they eligible for and one level above. For example if the dog & handler team is eligible for L1 that can run NFC in both L1 and L2, if a dog & handler team has qualified at L1 they can enter both L2 & L3 NFC and so on. However the trials manager will give priority to competitors who are not running NFC.

Scented articles – It is at the Trials manager's discretion whether to accept entries from those competitors on a different odour other than 'Cloves'. If using a different scent it is the competitor's responsibility to bring 4 scented articles of the correct size and material specification. Please see below.

- To prepare Clove scented articles, place 10/12 dried cloves in a clean, empty air tight jar. Place 6/8 articles to be scented, no larger than 3 x3cm, on top of the dried cloves and leave at least 2 days prior to the competition. Shake the jar occasionally to ensure even thorough scenting of the articles.