



## Rules for 'Scentwork UK –On-Line' 'Home Alone' Novice.

### General

- 1) You may enter either both Online Trial Categories (Home Alone or Scent hider) at any Level.
- 2) You may mix and match the Categories in consecutive trials but may not enter both Categories in the same trial.
- 3) Each Category has a separate League and you will be scored in both according to which Category you enter.
- 4) After you have qualified at 10 trials in both Leagues you must move up a Level.
- 5) However, if you wish to move up before qualifying in 10 trials, you must have qualified at your present Level a minimum of 6 times and at least 3 of these must be in the Home Alone Category.
- 6) Your total number of qualifiers in any Category must be with at least three different judges. This can be in **any** combination eg. 5,4,1 or 6,2,2 etc or if moving up a Level early 4, 1,1 or 3,2,1 etc.
- 7) Once you have qualified at a higher Level you may not return to a lower Level in that Category. You may however continue at a lower Level in the remaining Category provided you have not qualified out.
- 8) It is recommended that you allow 3 days in-between trials to prevent contamination.
- 9) Items can be re-used for different trials but you must read the information on contamination beforehand. (see below)
- 10) It will be your responsibility and the scent hidiers' responsibility to keep the dog's safety in mind. Any hot appliances eg. ovens, heaters should not be used as hiding places. Also be mindful of sharp edges protruding, small gaps where dog could get stuck, items that could fall onto the dog and anything that could constitute a hazard to the dog. At all times common sense must prevail.
- 11) The competitor can work their dog on a 12ft line for the exterior search/es for safety reasons.

### Criteria for each search.

You can choose from three of the following searches:

- 1) Table & chairs and additional furniture (see below for suggestions)
- 2) Kitchen Cabinets & House Hold Items.
- 3) Kitchen Cabinets & Tables and Chairs.
- 4) Vehicle & Exterior items.
- 5) Wall and Exterior items.
- 6) Fence and Exterior items.

**Please Note:** You can do 2 interior searches and one exterior search or 2 Exterior Searches & one interior search. You cannot do **all** 3 searches indoors or **all** 3 searches outdoors.

- 1) **Tables & Chairs & additional furniture** - There will be a minimum of 5 items and can include the following; chairs, tables (coffee table acceptable), book cases, chest of drawers, dressers, cupboards, doors, radiators & storage heaters if not in use. Chairs can be arranged in either a circular pattern around a table or placed randomly throughout the search area, (see picture gallery) Two 'scented' articles will be placed on two separate items one of which must be removable. The judge may ask you to reposition some of the items and/or point at the 'scented' articles for clarification before the search starts. If the first hidden 'scented article' is found on an item that cannot be removed, the 'scented article' can be removed. If the first 'scented article' has been found on one of the removable items, that item can be removed from the search area before the search resumes.
- 2) **Kitchen Cabinets & House hold Search** – The kitchen cabinet search must include at least 8 potential hiding places and may include a door. If drawers are part of the search each draw can be counted as a hiding place. The kitchen area must be a minimum of 9ft x 9ft (3m x 3m) and contain 10 household items. (see list for suitable items under 'Instructions when hiding the scent') The 'House Hold' items should be placed approximately 18" (45cm) apart and placed throughout the kitchen area. The camera must show the cabinets/drawers as well as all the 10 household items to be searched. There will be one scented article hidden on one of the house hold items and one in the kitchen cabinets/draws or door. If the first hidden 'scented article' is found on the kitchen cabinets the 'scented article' can be removed. If the first 'scented article' has been found on one of the 'Household' items, that item can be removed from the search area before the search resumes.
- 3) **Kitchen Cabinets and Table & Chairs.** The kitchen cabinet search must include at least 8 potential hiding places and may include a door. If drawers are part of the search each drawer can be counted as a hiding place. Four chairs and one table can be arranged in the following way (see picture gallery) for practical purposes a coffee table would be more suitable. The camera must show the cabinets/draws/door as well as all 4 chairs and the table. There will be one scented article hidden on one of the chairs or the table, which must be removable, and one in the kitchen cabinets/draws or door. If the first hidden 'scented article' is found on the kitchen cabinets the 'scented article' can be removed. If the first 'scented article' has been found on a chair or table, that item can be removed from the search area before the search resumes.
- 4) **Vehicle and 'Exterior' item search** – The vehicle must be parked and the camera set up in a safe area. The camera must be positioned so that 2 sides of the vehicle and all 10 'exterior' items are in view. Place 10 'Exterior Items, (see list of suitable items to be found on the 'Instructions when hiding the scent' guide) in front of the two sides of the vehicle approximately 18" (45cm) apart. One 'scented' article will be hidden on the vehicle and another will be hidden in one of the items. The 'scented article' must not be hidden in the exhaust, petrol cap, mud flaps, tyre tread, wheel arch's or number plate of the car. Suitable hiding places can be seen in the 'picture gallery'. If the first hidden 'scented article' is found on the vehicle the 'scented article' can be removed. If the first 'scented article' has been found on one of the 'Exterior Items' that item can be removed from the search area before the search resumes.
- 5) **Wall and Exterior Search-** The wall must be at least 5m in length with at least 8 potential hiding places. (Markers must show where the potential hiding places are – 'post it' notes are ideal to use as markers) 10 'Exterior' Items must be placed at the base of the wall and

approximately 18" (45cm) apart from one another. . One 'scented' article will be hidden on the wall and another will be hidden in one of the items. If the first hidden 'scented article' is found on the wall, the 'scented article' can be removed. If the first 'scented article' has been found on one of the 'Exterior items', that item can be removed from the search area before the search resumes.

**6) Fence and- Exterior Search** - The fence must be at least 5m in length with at least 8 potential hiding places. (Markers must show where the potential hiding places are – 'post it' notes are ideal to use as markers) 10 'Exterior' Items must be placed at the base of the fence and approximately 18" (45cm) apart from one another. . One 'scented' article will be hidden on the fence and another will be hidden in one of the items. If the first hidden 'scented article' is found on the fence, the 'scented article' can be removed. If the first 'scented article' has been found on one of the 'Exterior items', that item can be removed from the search area before the search resumes.

## Marking System

2 'scented articles' per search.

### **All 6 'Finds' must be found to qualify**

The dog must remain at the source for 3 seconds to qualify.

The dog must indicate within 6"(15cm) of the 'scented' article in order to pass. In the 'Household' & 'Exterior' search the dog just has to alert on the correct item.

If the dog leaves the 'scented' article more than three times this will be a fail in that particular search.

## Marks

10 points for each 'Find'

10 marks for handling

10 bonus points.

**Bonus Points** – An additional 10 'bonus points' can be earned if none of the items are removed during all 3 searches. The handler must declare before the test if they want to remove items or whether they can remain in situ.

The searches will not be 'timed' but the search will end after 5 minutes.

	<b><i>Awarded</i></b>	<b><i>Deductions</i></b>
<b>A - 5 points (Indication)</b>	Dog precisely at source	Dog not quite at source deduct approximately 1 marks per inch. Dog leaving and then returning to the source.(see above) Dog nibbling scented article

<b>B-3 Points (Team Work)</b>	Relationship	Dog ignoring handler when attempting to direct dog back to the items to be searched. overuse of verbal corrections
<b>C-2 Points (General)</b>	Dog understanding their job/eagerness to search Systematic area coverage.	Dogs swallowing articles. trashing & fouling area dog spending a lot of time not searching (Basically not interested)

### Points awarded for 'Novice' league

1<sup>st</sup> – 10 points

2<sup>nd</sup> – 8 points

3<sup>rd</sup> – 6 points

4<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> points

C/S – 2 points

### On the Day

1. Please prepare the 3 search areas well in advanced before your time slot. Stick 'post it' notes on the wall or fence next to potential hiding places as this will help you and the judge to re-locate hiding places in case they are difficult to find again.
2. If you cannot set up 'all' 3 areas, owing the space limitations, contact the judge/TM and they will give you two time slots with a 15-30 minute interval.
3. Plan where you will position the camera for every search so that you won't get in the way and that everything can be seen. If using a tri-pod place sticky tape markers on the floor for each search. (see picture gallery) If using a chair, (instead of a Tri-Pod') set-up a chair in each search area beforehand; check the camera angle. **Note: If you have any concerns with what can or cannot be seen from your camera please contact the judge/trials manager beforehand to see what can be achieved in your own home.**
4. Be aware when filming the outside searches that if you set up the camera too far away from your modem the signal will be poor. If you are unable to get a signal, disconnect the wifi from your phone (to be found under settings) and your phone will automatically switch to 4G.
5. If there is a break in transmission the judge will ask you to do the search again.
6. Plan where you will start and remain during the search bearing in mind that it will need to be roughly 5ft (1.5m) away from the first item to be searched, standing behind the camera is ideal.

7. Send the dog out of the search area before you make a video connection with the judge. Make sure that the dog isn't able to jump up onto windows or look out through glass doors whilst you are hiding the scent as some dogs are very good at cheating!
8. Hide the 2 scents where the judge has instructed and the judge may also ask you to pretend to hide further scented articles in another couple of places in case your dog is peeking!
9. Let the judge know from which direction you will enter and start the search from.
10. Enter the search site with the dog on a leash; remove the leash at the start and for the duration of the search, ensuring that it isn't dropped in the search area.
11. The dog can be worked on a long line during the outside searches owing to safety reasons.
12. Let the judge know when you are ready and start on the judge's instructions.
13. The dog must be within 6" (15cm) of the 'scented' article on the vehicle/ wall or fence and kitchen cabinets and in the 'Exterior & Household' searches the dog must indicate on the right item.
14. The dog must remain at the source for 3 seconds to pass.
15. It is acceptable if the dog leaves the scented article and returns up to 3 times after which this will be a fail in this section. The judge will tell you if this is correct or not and the test will then end.

## Contamination

Under normal circumstances, the Trial Manager and Judge take responsibility for ensuring there is as little contamination in the search areas and on the items used as possible.

In the online trials, that responsibility will obviously fall to the 'scent hider' or competitor.

There are a few things to be mindful of when selecting items and areas to use:

1. Soft objects absorb scent and hard objects repel it.
2. Residual odour can remain on a scented object for several days.
3. Lingering odour can contaminate a search area, particularly if the area is enclosed.

It is important, therefore, to consider the objects intended for use carefully, particularly if a competitor intends to trial frequently using the same items:

- Anything soft and fluffy (eg. cuddly toys) should be rejected.
- Upholstered items (chairs etc.) will hold odour and are not recommended.
- Items that are made of fabric or sponge (umbrellas, yoga mats etc.) can be cleaned but are likely to retain some odour for longer.
- Wicker baskets and wooden objects hold scent and are difficult to decontaminate quickly.
- Hard plastic or metal items are easy to clean however, if not cleaned properly, they will also hold odour.
- Cardboard will retain not only odour but also any saliva the dog leaves on it and is virtually impossible to clean.
- Leather or faux leather luggage and handbags will retain odour but can be cleaned relatively easily. Bags made of fabric etc. will take up odour and retain it easily.

## Cleaning & Decontamination

Methods and cleaning solutions vary from item to item. Residual odour can be removed as follows:

- Steel and glass – a solution of Milton Fluid (made as per the instructions for making sterilising fluid) will clean the item without leaving any taint from the cleaning fluid. Leave the items to air dry naturally, at least overnight, to ensure complete decontamination.
- Hard plastic can be cleaned using Milton solution as above. The items should, however, be left for 24 – 48 before re-use. It is possible to decontaminate more quickly by using proprietary bleach sprays on colour fast fabrics. This will remove the odour quickly but will also taint the search item. Please ensure the item is thoroughly dried and aired before letting the dog sniff it.
- Wicker baskets and wooden objects can be cleaned with a weak solution of washing up liquid. These will need to be air dried and will not be ready for re-use for at least five days.
- Fabric and sponge items that are washable can be cleaned in the washing machine with a few drops of unscented washing liquid. Again, these should be air dried. These items are usually ready for use after approximately three days.
- Leather bags and luggage – These will retain odour for a considerable period of time. Milton solution or a weak solution of washing up liquid, as described above, can be used to clean them but the odour can still be present for up to two weeks.
- Kitchen cabinet doors can be cleaned using your usual kitchen cleaner. Leave the cabinet door open after cleaning for as long as possible to ensure no odour is trapped within the cupboard itself.
- Wooden fences and brickwork are extremely difficult areas to clean. Spray with the Milton solution and allow to air dry. It is recommended that the same part of the wall or fence is not reused for several days.
- Cardboard boxes can be re-used as a training tool to teach your dog to understand threshold but should not be reused for trials.

Lingering odour such as scent pools that have collected on the floor beneath where a hide had been placed should be left to disperse naturally. When setting up your search area, it is worth remembering that scent rises in warm air and dissipates more quickly, whereas in a cold atmosphere, the scent stays closer to the source and should be stronger. Scent also tends to pool in corners.